

PROSTATE CANCER IN CALIFORNIA

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed among men in California and the US. In 2013, approximately 22,000 California men were diagnosed, and approximately 3,000 died, from this cancer. Incidence and mortality are highest in black men, followed by Non-Hispanic white, Hispanic and Asian men (Figure 1)

Figure 1

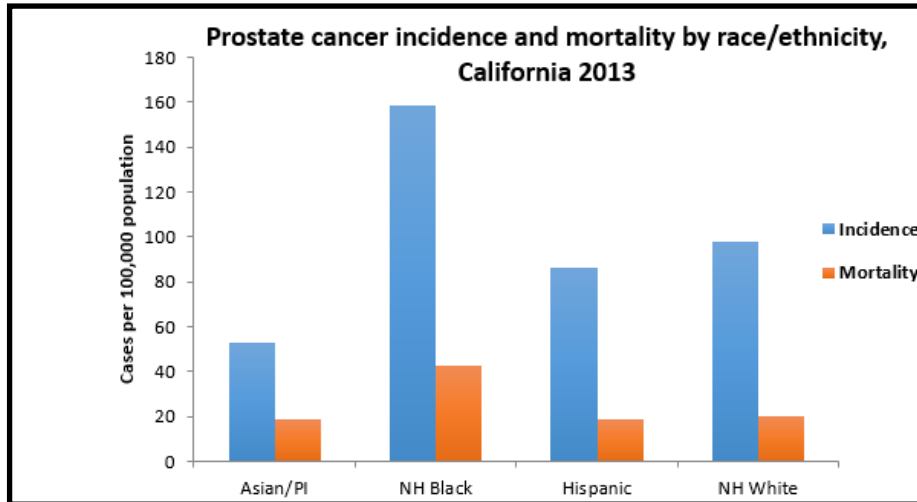
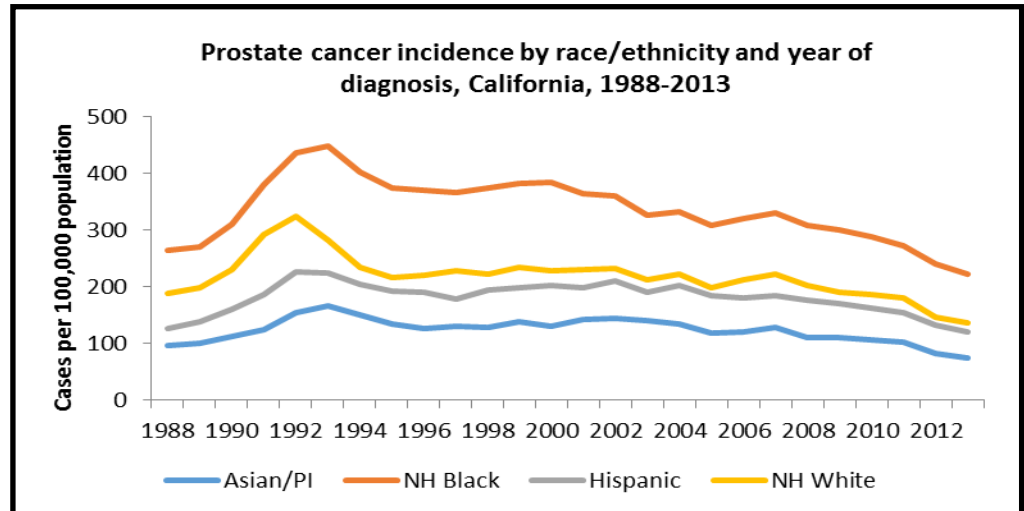


Figure 2

Prostate cancer incidence has declined steadily in California since 2002 (Figure 2), and mortality has declined since 1988 among all groups. This is likely the result of improved treatment and screening.



Prostate cancer screening by testing the levels of prostate-specific antigen in the blood has been shown to help detect this cancer early, but questions persist about whether the benefits of this testing outweigh the risk. In 2008 and again in 2012, the United States Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF) published recommendations against routine screening. Since publication of these revised guidelines, PSA screening has declined dramatically. Currently researchers at the Cancer Registry of Greater California, in collaboration with prostate cancer specialists at the UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center, are investigating whether changes in prostate screening are leading to changes in the detection of prostate cancer.

