

# Ovarian Cancer Awareness

Ovarian cancer is the fifth leading cause of cancer death among women in the United States and has the highest mortality rate of all cancers of the female reproductive system. The median age at diagnosis is 63 years. A woman's lifetime risk of developing ovarian cancer is 1 in 72, and her risk of dying from ovarian cancer is 1 in 95. While ovarian cancer is fairly rare and incidence rates have been slowly dropping for the past 20 years, ovarian cancer mortality rates are still much higher than other cancers that affect women. The prognosis for survival from ovarian cancer largely depends on the extent of disease at diagnosis (See Table 1).

In 2013, the American Cancer Society predicts that 22,240 American women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer and that 14,030 American women will

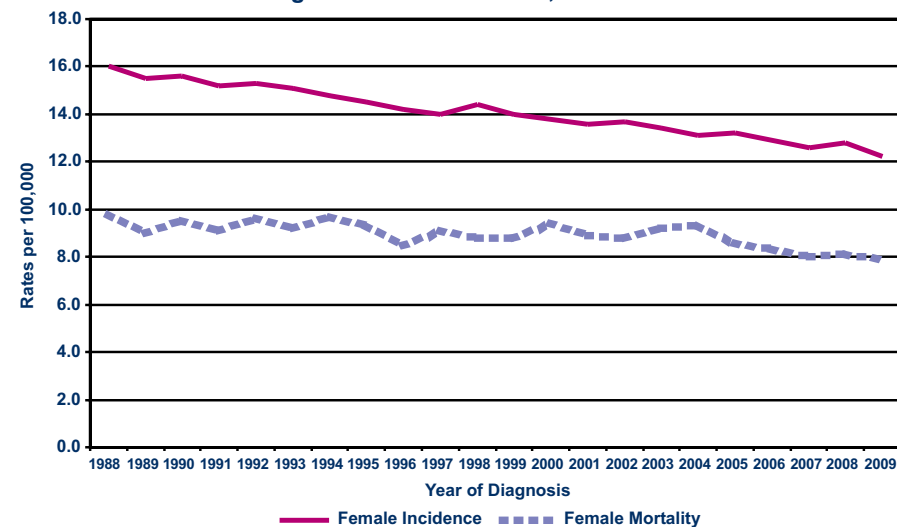
die from this disease. Of these, 2,275 diagnoses and 1,545 deaths are expected in California.

Incidence rates of ovarian cancer declined by an average of 1.1 percent per year among California women over the time period of 1988 to 2009.

The mortality rate among California women has been decreasing since 1988, with an average decline of 2.8 percent per year from 2005 to 2009 (see Figure 1).

Ovarian cancer incidence (I) and mortality (M) rates are highest among

Figure 1: Age-Adjusted Ovarian Cancer Incidence and Mortality Rates Among Females in California, 1988-2009

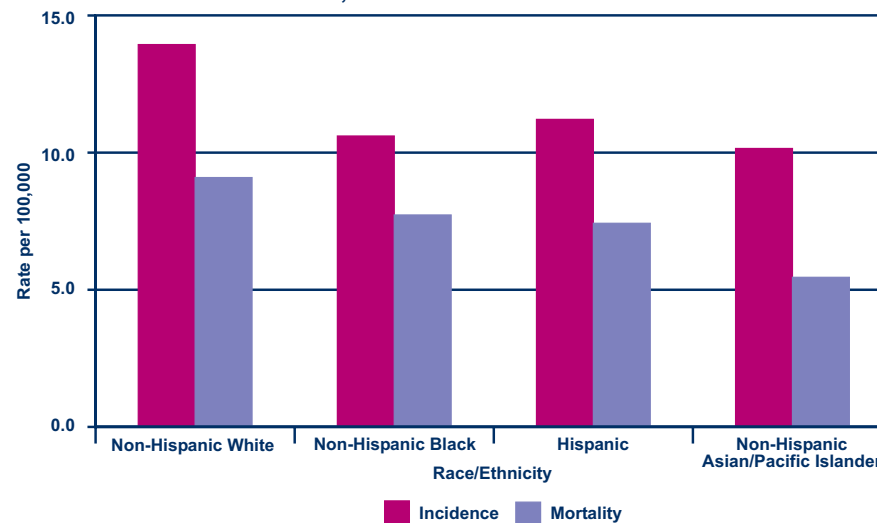


Prepared by the Cancer Registry of Greater California  
Source: California Cancer Registry

non-Hispanic whites (I=13.9 per 100,000; M=9.1 per 100,000), followed by Hispanics (I=11.2 per 100,000; M=7.4 per 100,000), then non-Hispanic blacks (I=10.6 per 100,000; M=7.8 per 100,000), and are lowest among non-Hispanic Asians/Pacific Islanders (I=10.2 per 100,000; M=5.4 per 100,000) (See Figure 2).

In California from 2000 through 2009, the majority of ovarian cancer patients were diagnosed at the distant stage (61.5 percent), with only 16.6 percent diagnosed at the regional stage, and 14.8 percent diagnosed at the localized stage. Five-year relative survival, a measure of the likelihood of surviving a specified cancer five years past diagnosis, is 92.4 percent for the localized stage and declines as stage of diagnosis advances. Five-year relative survival is 29.8 percent for those diagnosed at the distant stage (See Table 1).

Figure 2: Five-Year Age-Adjusted Ovarian Cancer Incidence and Mortality Rates by Race/Ethnicity Among Females in California, 2005-2009



Prepared by the Cancer Registry of Greater California  
Source: California Cancer Registry

Table 1: Stage Distribution and Five-Year Relative Survival by Stage at Diagnosis for Ovarian Cancer, California, 2000-2009

Stage at Diagnosis	Stage Distribution	Five-Year Relative Survival
Localized (Confined to Primary Site)	14.8%	92.4%
Regional (Spread to Regional Lymph Nodes)	16.6%	75.7%
Distant (Metastasized to Other Organs)	61.5%	29.8%
Unknown Stage	7.2%	16.5%

Source: California Cancer Registry  
Prepared by the Cancer Registry of Greater California.