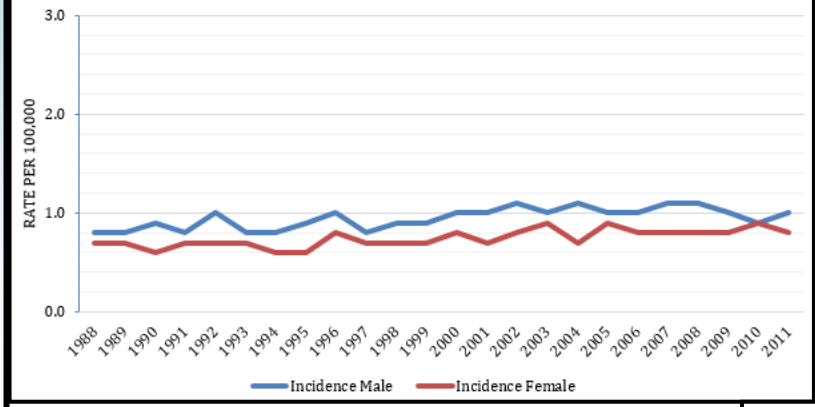
Sarcoma in California

Soft tissue and bone are the two main types of sarcomas. In this study, four types of sarcomas are included: Ewing sarcoma, osteosarcoma, rhabdomysarcoma, and synovial sarcoma. These sarcomas are more common in children and young adults , but are also still very rare compared to other childhood cancers. Due to the small number of cases for these subtypes of sarcoma, all data below are for all sarcomas combined.

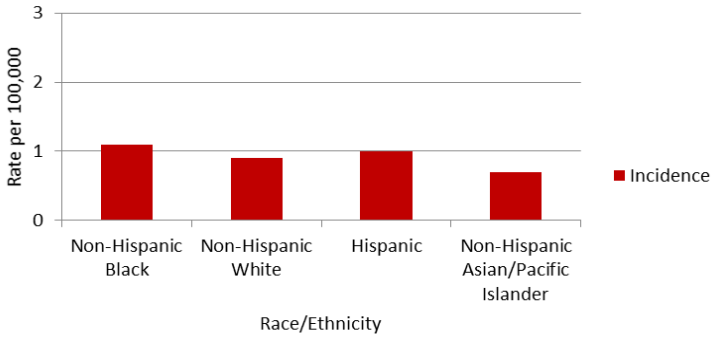
Figure 1. Age-adjusted Sarcoma incidence rates in California, 1988-2011



In both males and females, incidence rates in California have been increasing slightly at a similar rate since 1998. Mortality rates were unable to be calculated due to lack of data (See Figure 1)

Racial/ethnic incidence rate patterns in California for sarcomas are slightly different. Incidence rates from 2007-2011 were highest among non-Hispanic blacks (1.1 per 100,000), followed by Hispanics (1.0 per 100,000), non-Hispanic whites (0.9 per 100,000), and non-Hispanic Asian/Pacific Islanders (0.7 per 100,000) (See Figure 2).

Figure 2. Five-year age-adjusted Sarcoma incidence rates by race/ethnicity in California, 2007-2011



The majority of cases in California are diagnosed during the regional stage (36.9%), when the cancer has spread to regional lymph nodes. When diagnosed at the regional stage, five-year relative survival, a measure of the likelihood that a cancer patient will survive their cancer for at least five years after diagnosis, is high (63.4%). 29.9% of cases diagnosed between 2002 and 2011 were diagnosed at a localized stage – with a five -year relative survival of 79.0%. About the same percent of patients were diagnosed at the distant stage (29.2%) when the cancer has already metastasized. However, survival in this group is 19% (See Figure 3).

Figure 3. Stage distribution and five-year relative survival by stage at diagnosis for sarcoma, California, 2002-2011

Stage at Diagnosis	Stage Distribution	Five-Year Relative Survival
Localized (Confined to Primary Site)	29.9%	79.0%
Regional (Spread to Regional Lymph Nodes)	36.9%	63.4%
Distant (Metastasized to Other Organs)	29.2%	19.0%
Unknown Stage	4.0%	40.3%

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