



Liver Cancer

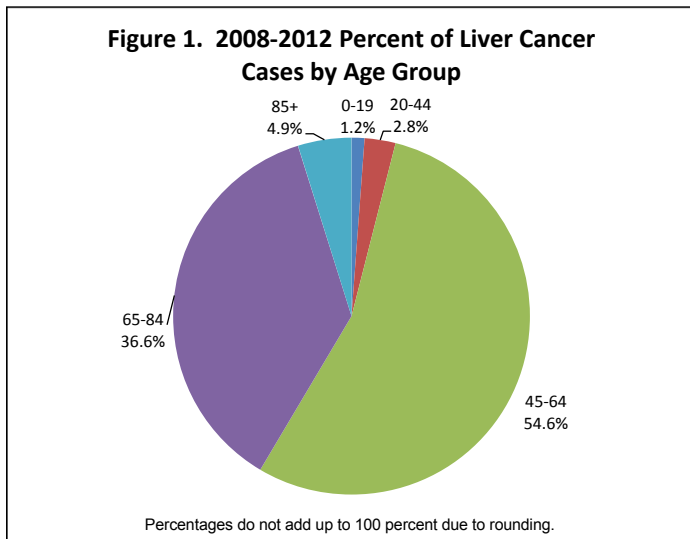
A Fact Sheet from the North Carolina Central Cancer Registry, State Center for Health Statistics

December 2015

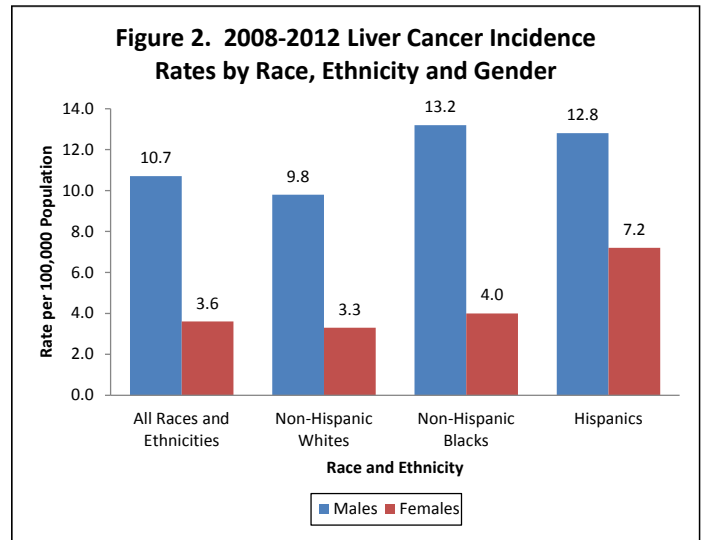
Cancer of the liver was the 14th most frequently occurring and the eighth leading cause of cancer death in North Carolina from 2008 to 2012. It is anticipated that 830 people (600 males and 230 females) in North Carolina will be diagnosed with and 690 people (482 males and 208 females) will die of liver cancer in 2015.

Incidence

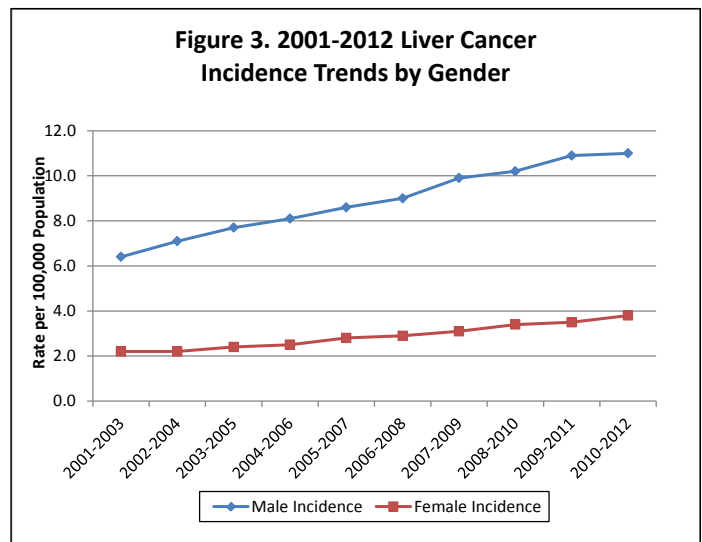
The percentage of cases of liver cancer from 2008 to 2012 is displayed by age group in Figure 1. More than half of liver cancer cases were diagnosed in people ages 45 to 64.



Between 2008 and 2012, the age-adjusted incidence rate for liver cancer in North Carolina was 6.8 per 100,000 persons per year. In general, men were more likely to be diagnosed with liver cancer than women (Figure 2).

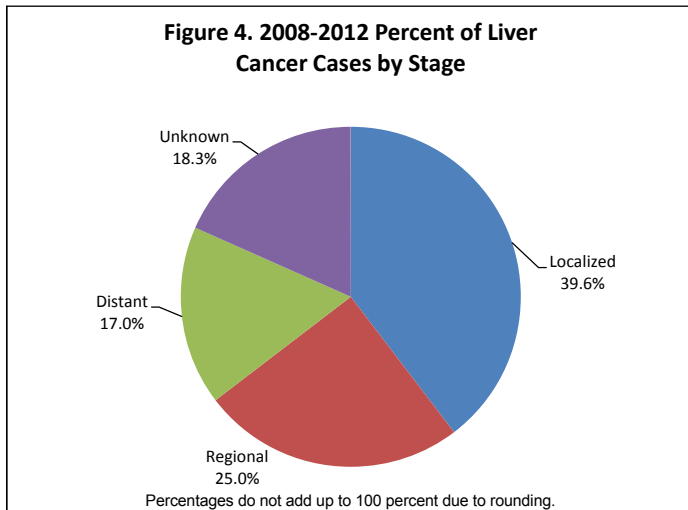


From 2001 to 2012, liver cancer incidence rates have increased for men and women (Figure 3).

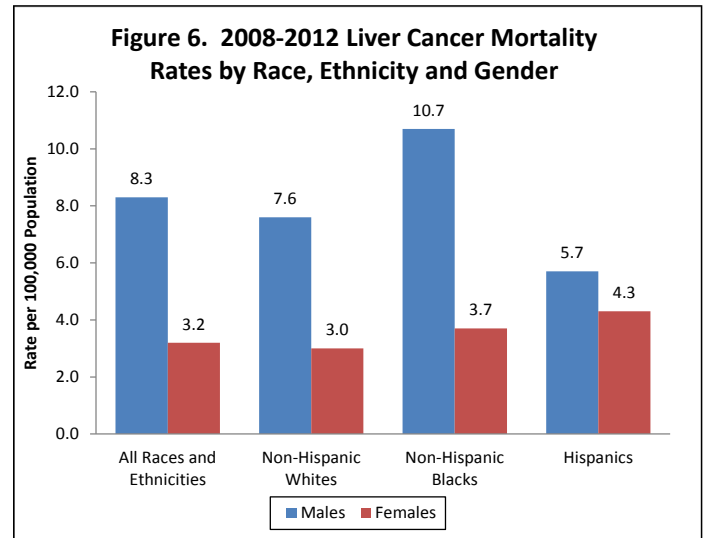


Stage at Diagnosis*

Figure 4 shows the stage distribution of liver cancer cases diagnosed between 2008 and 2012. About 40 percent of liver cancer cases were diagnosed at the localized stage.

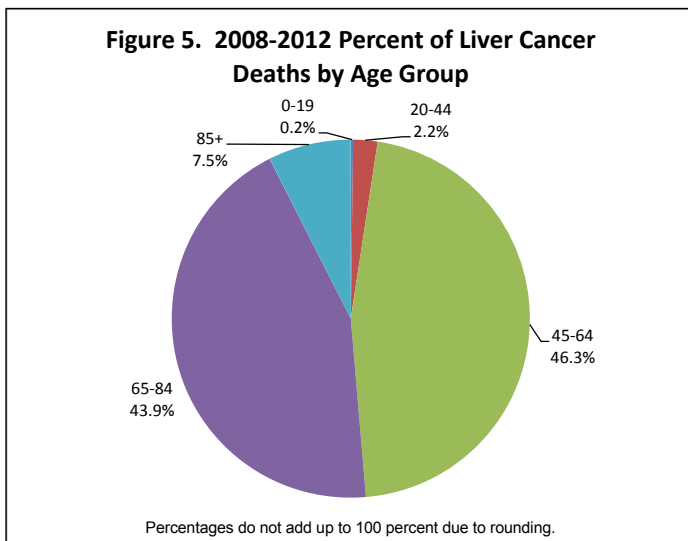


The age-adjusted mortality rate of liver cancer in North Carolina from 2008 to 2012 was 5.5 per 100,000 persons per year (Figure 6). In general, men were more likely to die from liver cancer than women.

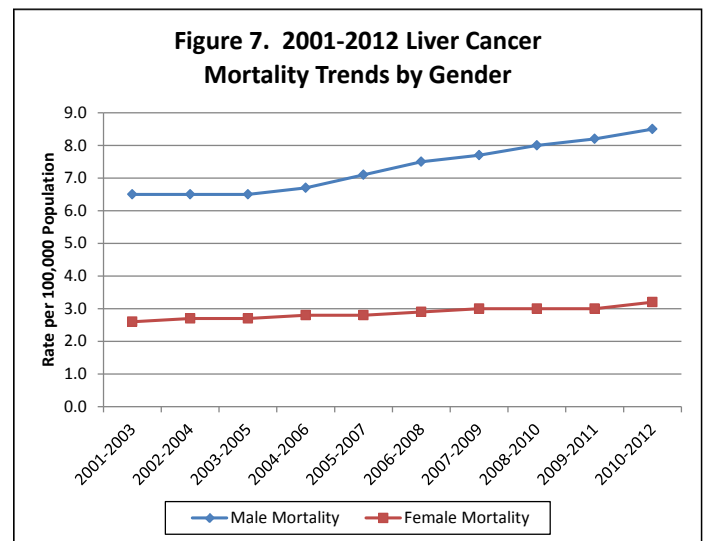


Mortality

Between 2008 and 2012, the percentage of liver cancer deaths is displayed by age group in Figure 5. More than 90 percent of deaths occurred in people ages 45 to 84.



From 2001 to 2012, liver cancer mortality rates have increased for men and have slightly increased for women (Figure 7).



Data Sources and Methods

Data on North Carolina cases were obtained from the North Carolina Central Cancer Registry (CCR). Hospitals are the primary source of data. The CCR supplements hospital data with reports from physicians who diagnose cases in a non-hospital setting. The CCR also collects data from pathology laboratories and freestanding treatment centers. Data on cancer deaths were obtained from Statistical Services in the State Center for Health Statistics. Population data from the National Center for Health Statistics were used in the denominators of the rates, which are expressed per 100,000 persons. Rates were age-adjusted using the 2000 United States Census data. To examine trends, three-year overlapping rates were used to improve stability over time. Stage at diagnosis was defined according to Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Summary Stage guidelines as *in situ*, localized, regional, distant and unknown/NA. For further information about the North Carolina CCR, please visit www.schs.state.nc.us/units/ccr.

* According to the National Cancer Institute (NCI), "many cancer registries, such as NCI's Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program (SEER), use summary staging. This system is used for all types of cancer. It groups cancer cases into five main categories: **In situ**—Abnormal cells are present only in the layer of cells in which they developed. **Localized**—Cancer is limited to the organ in which it began, without evidence of spread. **Regional**—Cancer has spread beyond the primary site to nearby lymph nodes or organs and tissues. **Distant**—Cancer has spread from the primary site to distant organs or distant lymph nodes. **Unknown**—There is not enough information to determine the stage." Additional information on staging can be found at www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/detection/staging.