

Cancer Incidence Trends among Chinese in the United States, 1990-2008*



CANCER PREVENTION INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

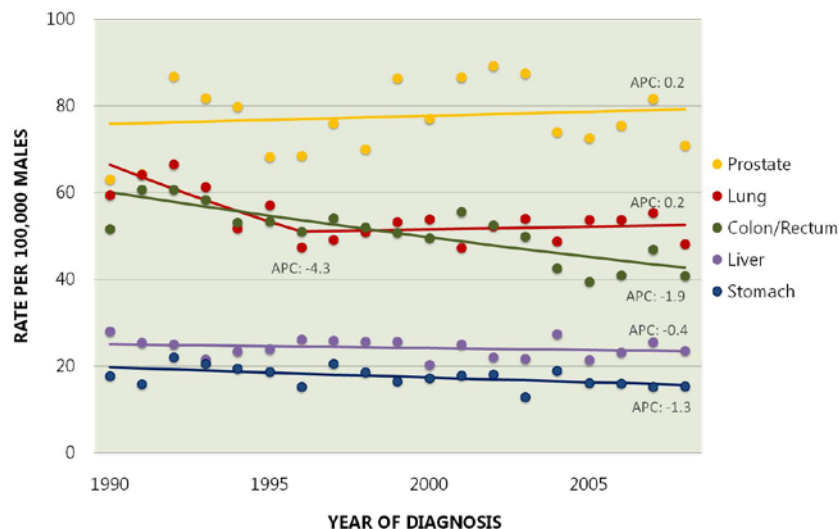
Preventing Cancer. Promoting Life.

Chinese Americans have a rich cultural history in the United States, with one of the oldest Asian immigration histories, dating back to the mid-1800's. (Takaki 1989) As of 2010, Chinese Americans were the largest Asian ethnic group in the U.S., making up 27 percent of the entire Asian American population, the majority of whom live in California. (US Census 2010) As a group, they have experienced unique changes in cancer occurrence over the nineteen year period, from 1990 to 2008.

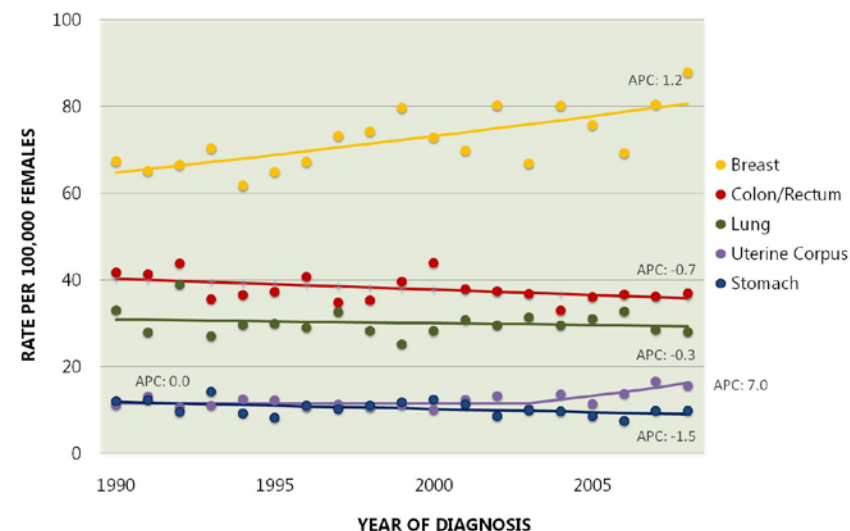
Chinese Males. Among this group, the five most commonly diagnosed cancers were prostate, lung, colon/rectum, liver, and stomach. Between 1990 and 2008, prostate cancer, the most common cancer diagnosis, increased by 0.2 percent each year. Lung cancer rates plunged by 4.3 percent from 1990 to 1995 and stabilized from 1996 onward. Cancers of colon/rectum and stomach also decreased, while liver cancer remained stable. There was a 1.9 percent decrease in diagnoses of colorectal cancer, and a 1.3 percent annual decline in stomach cancer.

Chinese Females. Among this group, the five most commonly diagnosed cancers were breast, colon/rectum, lung, uterine corpus, and stomach. From 1990 to 2008, Chinese females experienced annual increases in both cancers of the breast and uterine corpus, and decreases in the remaining three most diagnosed cancers. While breast cancer was diagnosed most often, with a yearly 1.2 percent increase, cancer of the uterine corpus rose dramatically by 7.0 percent per year from 2003 to 2008. Cancers of the colon/rectum and stomach decreased each year by 0.7 percent and 1.5 percent, respectively, while lung cancer remained stable

Age-adjusted incidence rates and annual percent changes of cancer among Chinese males, 1990-2008



Age-adjusted incidence rates and annual percent changes of cancer among Chinese females, 1990-2008



Prevention and Early Detection

The risk of many of these cancers can be reduced through healthy lifestyle modifications, early detection and vaccinations. More information on cancer prevention and early detection can be found in the following resources:

- The National Cancer Institute: [Cancer Prevention](#)
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [breast cancer screening](#); [colon/rectum cancer screening](#); [liver cancer vaccination](#); [lung cancer screening](#) and [prostate cancer screening](#).

Note: The incidence rates for this report were calculated based on data from the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Result (SEER) Program of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census. The rates are based on geographic regions that cover 50% of the U.S. Chinese population, and they are adjusted to the 2000 U.S. population standard.

★ This fact sheet is based on findings from the Journal of the National Cancer Institute 2013 publication "Cancer incidence trends among Asian American populations in the United States, 1990-2008." For access to the original scientific publication, please see our website www.cpic.org or email us at data.release@cpic.org.