

# Cancer Incidence Trends among Laotians in the United States, 1990-2008\*

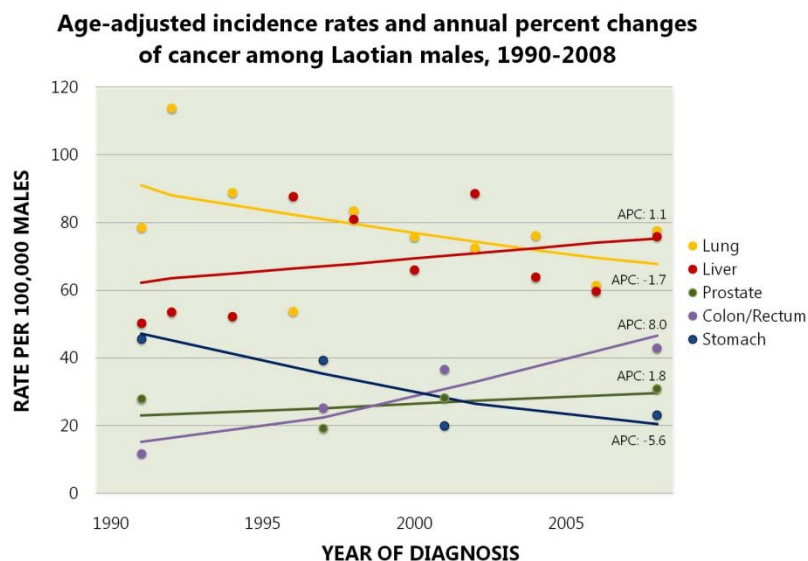


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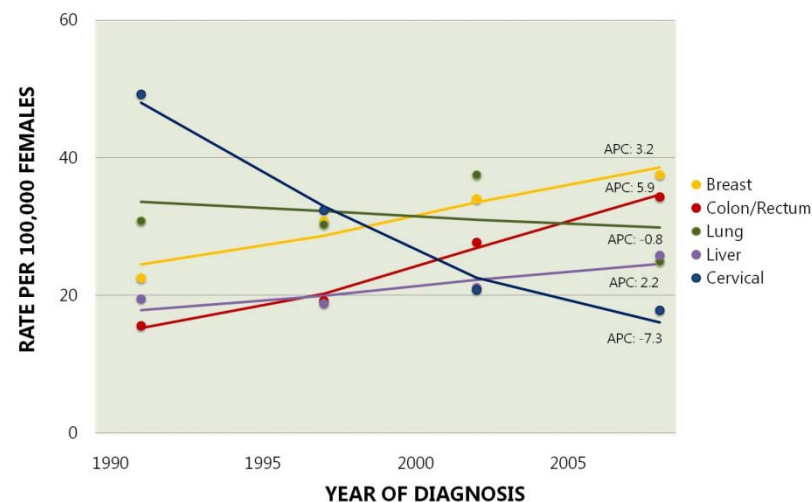
By the year 2010, Laotians made up 1.3 percent of the Asian American population living in the United States. From 2000 to 2010, their population size increased by 17 percent. (US Census 2010) The largest communities live in west coast regions of California, Washington and Oregon. As a group, they have experienced unique changes in cancer occurrence over the nineteen year period, from 1990 to 2008.

**Laotian Males.** Among this group, the five most commonly diagnosed cancers were lung, liver, prostate, colon/rectum and stomach. Between 1990 and 2008, liver cancer rates increased by 1.1 percent each year, while lung cancer decreased annually by 1.7 percent, becoming the second most common cancer diagnosis from 2004 onward. Prostate cancer was the third most commonly diagnosed cancer, increasing steadily by 1.8 percent each year, while cancer of the colon/rectum increased dramatically by 8.0 percent each year. In contrast, stomach cancer rates plunged by 5.6 percent each year.



**Laotian Females.** Among this group, the five most commonly diagnosed cancers were breast, colon/rectum, lung, liver and cervix. In the early nineties breast cancer was the third most diagnosed cancer; however, annual rates increased by 3.2 percent, making it the most common cancer by the late nineties. Rates of cancer of the colon/rectum increased dramatically by 5.9 percent each year, while liver cancer increased steadily by 2.2 percent each year. Annual lung cancer rates decreased by 0.8 percent, while cervical cancer diagnoses plunged by 7.3 percent each year.

Age-adjusted incidence rates and annual percent changes of cancer among Laotian 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](#); [cervical cancer vaccinations and 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 43% of the U.S. Laotian 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](http://www.cpic.org) or email us at [data.release@cpic.org](mailto:data.release@cpic.org).