Facts About Cancer in Latinos

National Hispanic Medical Association

1 Cancer is the leading cause of death among Hispanics/Latinos

Cancer accounts for **21%** of deaths among Latinos, whereas heart disease is the leading cause of death among non-Hispanic Whites. In 2021, there were an estimated **176,600** new cancer cases and **46,5000** cancer deaths among Hispanics.

2 Common types of cancer vary depending on gender assigned at birth...

for Hispanic cisgender women, the most common type of cancer is breast cancer. For Hispanic cis men, it's lung cancer.

3 Hispanic people are generally less likely to be diagnosed...

at an early stage of cancer, which would be when treatment is usually less intense and there are higher chances of recovery.

Patients that received targeted therapy for metastatic cancers had

2.0x+

increase in median progression-free survival and 1.5x an increase in overall cancer survival, according to a cancer study from 2015.

4 Among all racial/ethnic groups combined, 45% of cancer deaths in the United States could be prevented....

with the adoption of healthier lifestyles. Specifically, about **1 in 5 cancer cases is attributed to smoking.** A similar amount is attributable to the combination of excess body weight, alcohol, unhealthy diet, and physical activity.

Cancer caused by infectious organisms is also preventable through vaccines, behavioral changes, and treating the infection.

Source: Cancer Facts and Figures for Hispanics/Latinos 2018-2020. *American Cancer Society.*
Source: Cancer Statistics for the US Hispanic/Latino Population, 2021. *CA A cancer Journal for Clinicians, 2021*

Factors that Influence Health

National Hispanic Medical Association

Given longstanding disparities, Hispanic individuals are especially vulnerable to cancer inequalities because of disproportionate poverty, higher percentage uninsured, and other barriers to optimal health. In 2016, approximately **19%** of all Hispanics lived in poverty, compared to **9%** of white people.

Survival

- Cancer survival is described by five-year relative survival, which is how many people have survived their cancer 5 years after diagnosis, adjusted for normal life expectancy.
- The five-year relative survival of Hispanics is lower than that of non-Hispanic Whites for most types of cancer. This disparity likely reflects later stage diagnosis, a higher portion of thick tumors in Hispanics, as well as lack of follow-ups of patient vital status that are often less accurate for people of color
- Research shows that there are improved overall survival and progression-free survival rates in cancer patients who receive targeted therapy following biomarker testing.

Trends in Cancer Mortality

- Cancer death rates in the US began declining generally in 1991, but didn't decline for Hispanics until the late 1990's.
- In the 2010's, cancer death declined for Hispanic men and women more slowly than for non-Hispanic white people (**1.6% v. 1.8%** for men, and **0.9% v. 1.5%** for women).

Cancer Occurrence

- **1 in 3** Hispanics will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime; of these, **1 in 5 Hispanic males** and **1 in 6 females** will die from it, compared to **1 in 2** of whites being diagnosed and **1 in 5** dying from it.
- In 2021, there were approximately **80,200** new cancer cases among Hispanic men and **96,400** cases in Hispanic women.

Access to Healthcare

- In 2018, **26%** of Hispanic adults under 65 years old were uninsured, compared to **9%** of non-Hispanic white people.
- Hispanics are less likely to have a usual source of care as well. (**25%** v. **15%**).
- Although higher quality healthcare and public health infrastructure may be available in the US, many immigrants face barriers like having less paid time off, lower access to employer-provided health insurance and transportation, impacting overall access.

Source: Cancer Facts and Figures for Hispanics/Latinos 2018-2020. *American Cancer Society*.
Source: Cancer Statistics for the US Hispanic/Latino Population, 2021. *CA A cancer Journal for Clinicians, 2021*

Quick Facts on Biomarker Care

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Biomarkers are signals of abnormal physiological processes, medical conditions, or disease that are found in blood, tissue, and other bodily fluids. In order to determine if a patient will benefit from specific targeted therapies, doctors should test for specific biomarkers.

Biomarker Tests

- There are two types of biomarker tests: **single analyte tests** identify and measure one gene or molecule, while **multi-panel tests** does it to multiple genes or molecules, ranging from a few to several hundred.
- Multi-panel tests can yield information on multiple known biomarkers with associated **treatments**. Given that these tests examine hundreds of genes at a time, they typically also provide information on many biomarkers that are still considered experimental or investigational.
- Multi-panel tests offer immediate benefit to certain patients and allow for opportunities for **research** and future development of therapies that can target biomarkers.

Biomarker Impact on Care

- Use of precision medicine, like biomarker testing, is necessary to improving cancer outcomes. Targeted therapies are a key to unlocking the future of precision medicine but these are not possible without proper access to biomarker testing.
- Research shows that there are improved overall survival and progression-free survival rates in cancer patients who receive targeted cancer therapy following biomarker testing.*

Key Points for Doctors

- Wide-spread coverage of biomarker testing would help doctors to diagnose and treat patients more effectively and have more standardization so that results are more accurate and comparable over time.
- Biomarker testing provides opportunities beyond just targeted therapies – by creating easier access to biomarker tests, patients can be eligible for clinical trials and more research can be done to find further therapies and innovations for treating cancer.

Key Points for Patients

- Research shows that there are improved overall survival and progression-free survival rates in cancer patients who receive targeted cancer therapy following biomarker testing. If access to biomarker testing is improved, more patients can benefit from these improved survival rates.*
- Precision medicine is the future of cancer care and having access to the newest innovations in care is ideal. Currently, without insurance coverage, biomarker testing is too expensive for the average cancer patient. Insurance should cover this form of care.

*Source: Impact of Precision Medicine in Diverse Cancers: A Meta-Analysis of Phase II Clinical Trials, 2015
Genomic Profiling of Advanced Non–Small Cell Lung Cancer in Community Settings: Gaps and Opportunities, 2017