

# **Breast Cancer in Special Populations**

Panel Discussion

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# Health Disparities

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Differences in the incidence, prevalence, mortality, and burden of cancer and related adverse health conditions that exist among specific population groups

- Gender
- Age
- Ethnicity
- Education
- Income
- Social class
- Disability
- Geographic location
- Sexual orientation

Source: US National Cancer Institute

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# Standing up for Change: Health Disparities

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***“Of all forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and most inhumane.”***

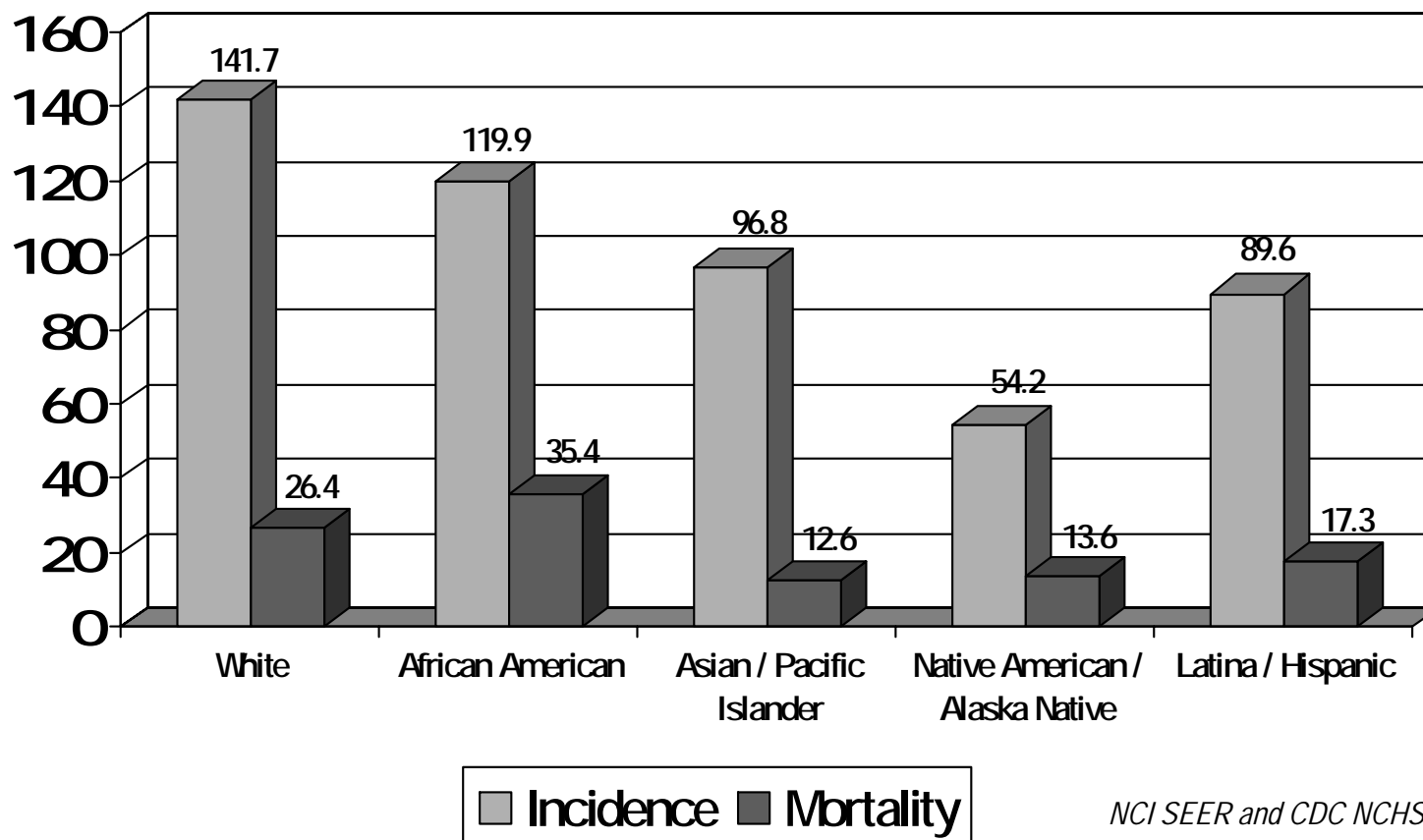
Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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# BREAST CANCER INCIDENCE & DEATH RATES

per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population

1997 - 2001



NCI SEER and CDC NCHS, 2004

Susan Shinagawa

# BREAST CANCER INCIDENCE & MORTALITY : US

Rates and Trends by Race and Ethnicity, 1992-1999

	WHITE	BLACK	AM INDIAN/ ALASKA NATIVE	ASIAN AM & PACIFIC ISLANDER	HISPANIC/ LATINA
Incidence Rate*	137.0	120.7	59.4	93.4	82.6
Trend EAPC (%)	1.0	0.3	-1.2	3.4	0.5
Mortality Rate*	29.3	37.3	14.8	13.1	17.5
Trend EAPC (%)	-2.7	-0.7	0.5	-0.5	-1.8

\*Rates are per 100,000

EAPC = Estimated Annual % Change

SEER Cancer Statistics Review 1973-1999/ Susan Shinagawa

# Mammogram Statistics

% of Women over the age of 40 Having a Mammogram within the Past 2 Years		
	<u>1990</u>	<u>2003</u>
All	51.7	69.5
White	52.2	70.1
African American	46.4	70.4
American Indian/Alaskan Native	43.2	63.1
Asian	46.0	57.6
Hispanic/Latina	45.2	65.0
Poor	38.8	55.4
Non-poor	59.2	74.3

# American Indians and Alaska Natives

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- # Over 560 federally recognized tribes and over 100 state recognized tribes
- # Each has its own unique culture and thus the great diversity within American Indian and Alaska Native communities
- # American Indians and Alaska Natives are among the poorest populations in the US
- # There are 217 native languages spoken today and most do not include a word for "cancer".

# American Indians and Alaska Natives

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- The types of cancer vary significantly by geographic region with some unusual patterns (e.g., colon and lung cancer among Alaska Natives, lung, cervical, breast, and prostate cancer among Northern Plains tribes, stomach and gallbladder cancer among Southwestern tribes).
- Alaska Natives are among the racial groups which have the highest mortality rates for "all cancers combined" in comparison with all other racial groups.
- American Indians and Alaska Natives continue to have the poorest survival from "all cancers combined" than any other racial group.
- No single national database for cancer data for American Indians. Multiple errors and limitations typically result in under-counting the number of cancer cases and deaths.

# American Indians and Alaska Natives

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- # Although the breast cancer mortality rates for most American Indians is lower than those for white, African American, and Hispanic women, the rate of death due to the disease has risen since the 1970s in selected areas of the United States.
- # The 5-year breast cancer survival rate for American Indian women is lower than that of other ethnic and racial groups in the U.S.
- # Lack of access to and use of early-detection services may be a major contributor to the poor breast cancer survival rate among Native Americans.



# Asian Americans

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- As an aggregated group, Asian American women are diagnosed with cancer at more advanced stages, as compared to U.S. Caucasian women.
- Only 48.5% of Asian American women age 50 and older had either a mammogram or clinical breast exam within the previous 2 years, the lowest screening rate for all U.S. women.
- Barriers to screening, as well as diagnosis, treatment and support for breast cancer, include societal/institutional, medical/provider and community/sociocultural barriers.

Courtesy of Susan Matsuko Shinagawa

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# Asian Americans

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- Breast cancer rates in U.S. Asian women are 60% higher than those found in the women's native countries.

*(Ziegler RG , et al. 1993)*

- Asian immigrant women living in the U.S. for as little as ten years have an 80% higher risk of breast cancer than their new Asian immigrant counterparts.

*(Ziegler RG, et al. 1993)*

- U.S. Asian women have higher rates of pre-menopausal breast cancer than U.S. Caucasian women.

*(Meng L, et al. 1997)*

Courtesy of Susan Matsuko Shinagawa

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# Hispanics/Latinos

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- # By the year 2000 Hispanics/Latinos numbered about 32.5 million and comprised 11.8% of the population. By 2050, Hispanics/Latinos will represent almost a quarter of the country's population (98.2 million).
- # Hispanics/Latinos can be White, African American, Asian or Pacific Islander, or Native American.
- # While Hispanics/Latinos represent about 12% of the population, they make up 25% of the Nation's uninsured.
- # Only 38% of Hispanic/Latina women age 40 and older have regular screening mammograms.
- # Hispanic/Latina women have lower rates of breast cancer than White women or Black women – yet breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in this population.

# Rural Poor Americans

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- Rural residents tend to be older, poorer, less educated, and are more likely to be uninsured than their urban counterparts. The ACS estimates that the cancer survival rate of poor individuals is 10 to 15 percent lower than those of other Americans.
- The Appalachian region has a higher mortality rate for all cancers than the US rate (178.6 compared to 171.4)
- Women in three Appalachian counties have experienced breast cancer mortality rates more than 33% higher than the national rate; in seven counties the mortality rate significantly exceeds the national rate.
- In Calhoun County, West Virginia, breast cancer incidence is approximately 21% lower than the US rate; breast cancer mortality is over 79% higher than the US rate.

# Native Hawaiians/ Pacific Islanders

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- # Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders of Polynesian, Micronesian and Melanesian ancestry constituted approximately 0.1 percent (399,000) of the total US population in 2000. This small subgroup is comprised of more than 25 diverse groups with variations in historical backgrounds, languages, and cultural traditions.
- # Native Hawaiians have the third highest breast cancer mortality rate in the nation and the highest breast cancer mortality rate in the state of Hawaii.
- # Marshallese Islander females have higher breast and cervical cancer rates that are 5 and 75 fold, respectively, compared to overall US rates.

# Li Study, 2003

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- ✦ African Americans, Native Americans, and Hispanic whites were more likely to be diagnosed with tumors that were more advanced than were non-Hispanic whites and Asian/Pacific Islanders.
- ✦ Japanese women were 30% less likely to be diagnosed with late-stage breast cancer while women of Filipino, Hawaiian, Indian/Pakistani, Mexican, South and Central American, and Puerto Rican descent were 20% to 260% more likely to be diagnosed with late-stage breast cancer when compared to non-Hispanic white women.
- ✦ Puerto Rican women fared the worst, as they were 50% more likely to receive substandard, inappropriate treatment for breast cancer.
- ✦ African American women were 40% more likely to undergo initial treatment that was below national standards as compared to non-Hispanic whites.
- ✦ Japanese and Chinese women had better survival rates after breast cancer while Hawaiian and Mexican women had 30% poorer survival rates when compared to non-Hispanic whites.
- ✦ African American, Native American, and Hispanic white women faced a 10% to 70% greater risk of dying after a breast cancer diagnosis as compared to non-Hispanic whites.

# From the WHI

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- Racial/ethnic differences in breast cancer incidence and outcome were examined in 156,570 *postmenopausal* women participating in the Women's Health Initiative (WHI) [emphasis added]
- “*Conclusion:* Differences in breast cancer incidence rates between most racial/ethnic groups were largely explained by risk factor distribution except in African Americans. However, breast cancers in African American women more commonly had characteristics of poor prognosis, which may contribute to their increased mortality after diagnosis.”

# Barriers & Successes

Religion/culture  
Stigma of breast cancer  
Poverty  
Access

Education  
Resources  
Standards



# The Goal

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A  
World  
Without  
Breast  
Cancer...  
*For Everyone*

