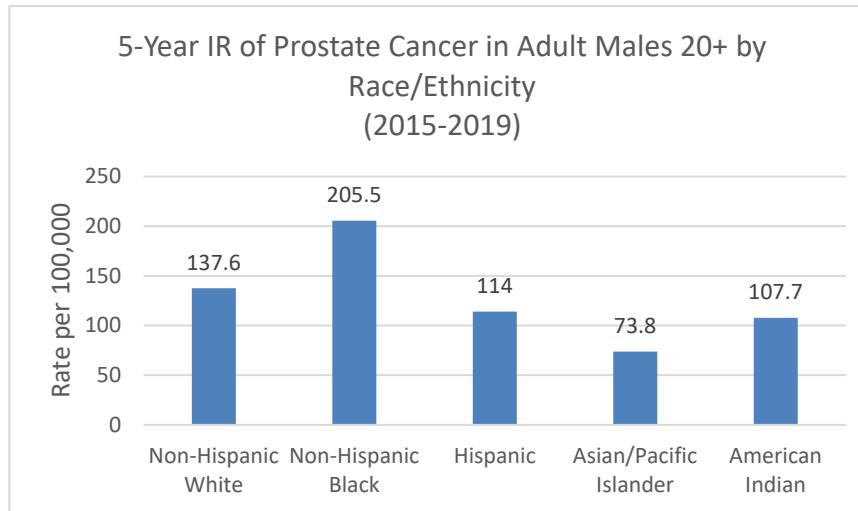


Dear Doctor:

Thank you for your efforts to provide cancer data in fulfillment of California's statewide cancer reporting mandate. The data that you and your colleagues provide are essential for accurately assessing the cancer burden within our state. We write to make an express appeal that you help us regarding a subset of these data for which completeness and data integrity are at risk: patient reported race data.

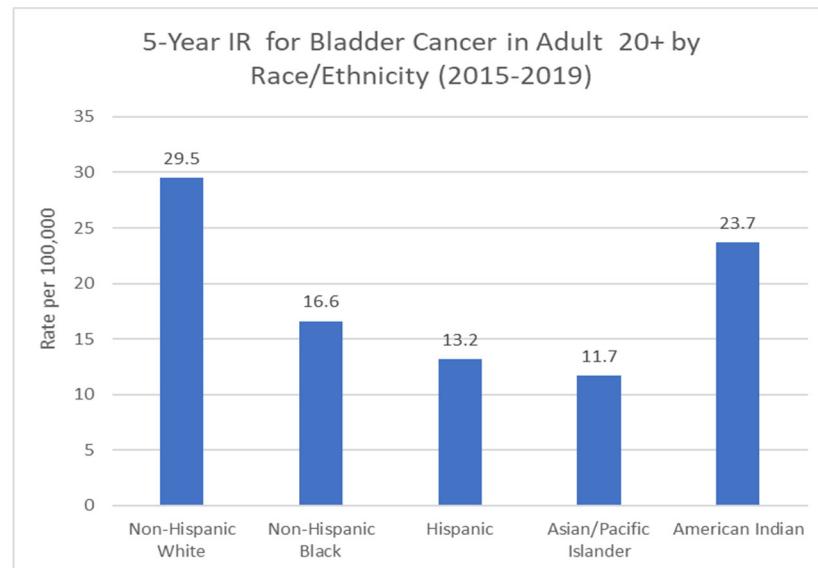
As we assess the cancer burden, not only do we need to identify all cancer cases, we need to associate cases with patterns and trends that affect communities and different groups identified by common demographic factors including age, sex, gender, race, and ethnicity. Race data have proven extremely important to understanding disparities in cancer occurrence, cancer care and outcomes, survivorship and other attributes of disease among the different racial groups as well as to identifying high need communities for prevention and care. Such information is key to informing resource allocation for prevention and intervention programs as well as in advancing research to further understand disparities, including factors leading to disparities.

We appeal to you for the submission of race data with your cases so that our cancer registration and surveillance efforts can be as complete and accurate as possible. The graphs below illustrate the priority of race data, showing distinct differences in cancer morbidity and mortality among racial groups.



Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 US Std Population (19 age groups - Census P25-1130) standard.

- Non-Hispanic black had the highest incidence of prostate cancer among all race groups (205.5 per 100,000) in CRGC regions during 2015 – 2019
- Asian/Pacific Islanders had the lowest incidence of prostate cancer among all race groups (73.8 per 100,000) in CRGC regions during 2015 – 2019



Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 US Std Population (19 age groups - Census P25-1130) standard.

- Non-Hispanic Whites had the highest incidence of bladder cancer among all race groups (29.5 per 100,000) in CRGC regions during the years of 2015 – 2019.
- American Indians had the second highest incidence of bladder cancer (23.7 per 100,000) during the same time period.
- Asian/Pacific Islanders had the lowest incidence of bladder cancer among all race groups (11.7 per 100,000) in CRGC regions during the years of 2015 – 2019.

The reporting of race data is fully consistent with confidentiality and privacy standards associated with public health surveillance and disease reporting under HIPAA regulations. Should you or your colleagues have any confusion, we are available to explain the authority of the Cancer Registry to receive and curate these data among other demographic data that pertain to individual, confidential cancer case records.

We thank you for your consideration of this appeal for concerted attention to reporting race data with associated reportable cancer cases and welcome your partnership in our ambition to lessen the cancer burden in California.

Sincerely,



Alain Monnereau, MD, PhD.
Principal Investigator / Research Program Director
Cancer Registry of Greater California