

Cancer hits less whites, says study

WASHINGTON (AP) — Non-whites suffer a proportionately higher death rate from cancer than whites, and certain cancers strike some races with greater frequency than other races, a major study says.

The study released Wednesday also shows that the occurrence of different cancers among non-whites varies throughout the nation, as was found for whites in a similar study released in 1975.

The new study is a companion to one on whites and another released in 1974 that looked at the country's cancer mortality by county. All the studies are based on death certificate figures for 35 types of cancer compiled by the National Center for Health Statistics from 1950 through 1969.

The latest report written by National Cancer Institute scientists said the geographical studies bolsters medical theories that a relationship exists between environmental factors and cancer risks.

The reasons for the varying rates and distribution of cancer are unknown, but the geographical differences should spur investigators to look for local factors that may contribute to the disease, the scientists said.

The nonwhite study of more than a half million deaths included blacks, American Indians, Chinese and Japanese, with blacks forming 92 per cent of the group.

Death rates higher for males

Cancer mortality rates per 100,000 population was higher for males of all races than females, the study said. Over-all death rates from the cancers surveyed were 189 per 100,000 for black and Chinese males, 174 for whites, 158 for Japanese, and 100 for Indians.

For females, blacks had a cancer death rate of 142 per 100,000, compared to 130 deaths for whites, 109 for Indians, 91 for Chinese and 83 for Japanese.

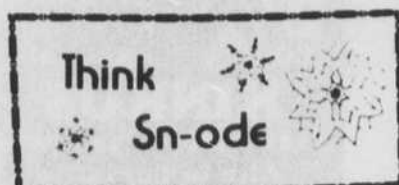
Compared to other racial groups, blacks have proportionately higher rates for cancers of the mouth and throat, esophagus, stomach, pancreas, larynx, lung, bladder, cervix and a kind of bone marrow cancer called multiple myeloma.

Whites have higher mortality rates than blacks for cancer of the colon and rectum, breast, ovary, testes, kidney, skin, brain and lymph system, as well as leukemia.

The report said Indians appear more prone to cancer of the bile system than other groups. They also suffer from high rates of cancers of the nose, throat, testes, cervix, kidney and female thyroid.

Chinese have particularly high rates of nose cancers as well as elevated incidences of malignancies in the esophagus, lung, thyroid, large bowel and liver.

Unlike Chinese, the Japanese had average or below rates of all cancers except for those of the stomach, the study said.



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