Cancer Incidence and Mortality in Rural Pennsylvania: 2004-08
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PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES

• Pennsylvania had the 8th highest cancer incidence rate of all states in the US
• Purpose: To examine cancer in rural Pennsylvania and to identify disparities in cancer incidence and mortality in these counties compared to rural counties within the United States.

METHODS

• Data from NAACCR* were used to calculate age-adjusted rates (and 99% confidence intervals) for incidence of and mortality from common cancers from 2004-2008.
• Cancers of focus included:
  • All cancers combined
  • Breast
  • Colorectal
  • Lung
  • Prostate
  • Urinary Bladder.
• Analysis limited to white non-Hispanics†
  • North American Association of Central Cancer Registries
  † To control for possible confounding by race and ethnicity.

RESULTS

• Compared to residents of rural US counties, mortality was higher for breast cancer among rural Pennsylvania women, but lower for all sites combined among men and lung cancer among men and women.
• While incidence rates were higher for all cancer sites combined, colorectal, bladder and prostate, mortality was not elevated for these sites.

CONCLUSIONS

• The significantly elevated breast cancer mortality among rural Pennsylvania women suggests improved access to screening and or treatment is needed in these communities.
• Although lung cancer incidence and mortality rates were lower than in rural US counties, lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer death in rural Pennsylvania.

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