

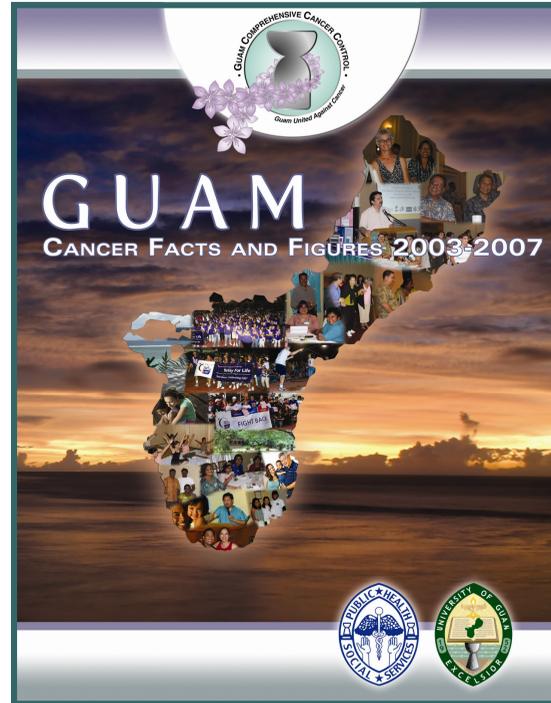
Guam Cancer Facts and Figures 2003—2007

"Helping to Address Guam's Cancer Burden."

GUAM COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CONTROL COALITION

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM CANCER RESEARCH CENTER

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES (DPHSS)



A Summary of Guam's Cancer Incidence and Mortality

"Helping to address Guam's cancer burden"

Buenas yan Håfa Adai!

Accurate and comprehensive data is fundamental to any effective cancer control and prevention program. The collaborative efforts of the Guam Cancer Registry under the University of Guam (UOG), the Guam Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition, and the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) have resulted in this publication, which presents the most current data regarding cancer on Guam. This is a short summary of the full report.

Cancer is clearly a public health priority on our island. Our people have some of the highest rates of certain cancers when compared to the US and its Territories. The data presented in this publication reveal patterns and trends in cancer incidence and mortality, and provide a baseline against which to judge progress in the future. The information will also prove essential to those working in cancer control and prevention, whether it be in the areas of policy and advocacy, health promotion and prevention,

clinical service delivery, support services for cancer patients, or health care financing.

The partnership between the Guam Cancer Registry team, UOG, DPHSS and the various stakeholders that comprise the Guam Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition will continue as we pool resources and expertise to address the urgent need to reduce the burden from cancer on our island. This publication represents one of many first steps in the fight against cancer, upon which we will build future efforts, using data to guide policy and program decisions in a strategic approach to cancer control and prevention.



i tasi (the ocean)...The beauty and serenity of the ocean is reflected in the scenic photo of East Agana Bay, Guam. [Francis Garrido, photographer]

Si Yu'os Ma'ase!

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES (DPHSS)

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Cancer at a Glance— 2003 through 2007

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Guam as well as the U.S. While the U.S. cancer incidence and mortality rates are steadily declining, the opposite holds true in Guam. Cancer accounts for nearly 1 in every 5 deaths in Guam. Over the past ten years, there has been an increase in new cases of cancer diagnosed, and deaths.



The latte stone is an ancient symbol of Chamorro culture.

Comparing the five-year period 1998-2002 with 2003-2007, cancer deaths increased 10%, and new cancer cases diagnosed increased 19%. From 2003-2007, 1,580 Guam residents were diagnosed with cancer, and 720 died of this disease. On average, every year approximately 316 people were told by their doctor they had cancer, and 144 died. That's one person every two to three days.

Who Gets Cancer

AGE: Cancer knows no bounds when it comes to age. It has afflicted our children, adolescents, and young-, middle-aged, and elderly adults, but not all equally. It is Guam's middle-aged and elderly adults (55+ years and older) who have borne the brunt of cancer as it tends to strike more people as they age, and 66% of all cancers were diagnosed in this age group. Only a small percent (2%) of all cancers were diagnosed in Guam's children under the age of 15 years, but the toll in potential years of life lost is high.

SEX: When comparing the overall cancer burden among men and women, Guam men accounted for 56% of all new cases diagnosed, and 61% of deaths. The men also have a high age-adjusted mortality rate, 1.7 times greater than the women's rate. Leading cancers diagnosed in men were cancer of the prostate, lung & bronchus, colon & rectum, and liver. For women, it was cancer of the breast, lung & bronchus, colon & rectum, and uterus. The leading site of cancer deaths for both sexes was cancer of the lung & bronchus; the second for men was prostate, and for women, breast. The third for both sexes

was cancer of the colon & rectum.

RACE/ETHNICITY: When comparing race and ethnicity, Micronesians had the highest cancer incidence rate [598.3] (the number per 100,000 population), followed by Caucasians [531.2], Asians [408.1], Chamorros [395.7], and Filipinos [218.6]. All five of the ethnic group's nasopharyngeal cancer incidence rates **exceeded** the U.S. rate [0.6], with Chamorros having the highest rate [8.6]. The U.S. incidence rate was also exceeded by four of the five ethnic group's rates (except Filipinos) for cancer of the liver, lung & bronchus, and cervix.

Leading Cancers

Four cancer sites (lung & bronchus, prostate, breast, and colon & rectum) accounted for 55% of Guam's cancer incidence and 56% of cancer deaths. Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma and leukemia were the leading cancers diagnosed in children under the age of 15.



Taotao-ta (Our people)

Cancer in Children and Youth

When reviewing cancer across all ages, can-

cer in children is relatively uncommon with 2% of all cancers occurring before the age of 15. Twenty-four children (ages 0-14) were diagnosed with cancer, and 7 died from the disease. Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma and leukemia were the leading cancers diagnosed in children under the age of 15.

Cancer in adolescents and young adults (ages 15-24) is also relatively low at 1% of all cancers diagnosed. Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma, cancer of the thyroid, bones & joints, and leukemia were the leading cancers, and accounted for 70% of cancers diagnosed for this age group. Twenty young people (ages 15-24) were diagnosed with cancer, and 3 died.

To Get a Copy of the Full Report, contact:

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