

REGIONAL DIVERSITY

Cancer in Latin America and the Caribbean

Prostate cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among males, while breast cancer is the leading cause among females. Lung cancer is also a major cause of cancer death among both sexes.

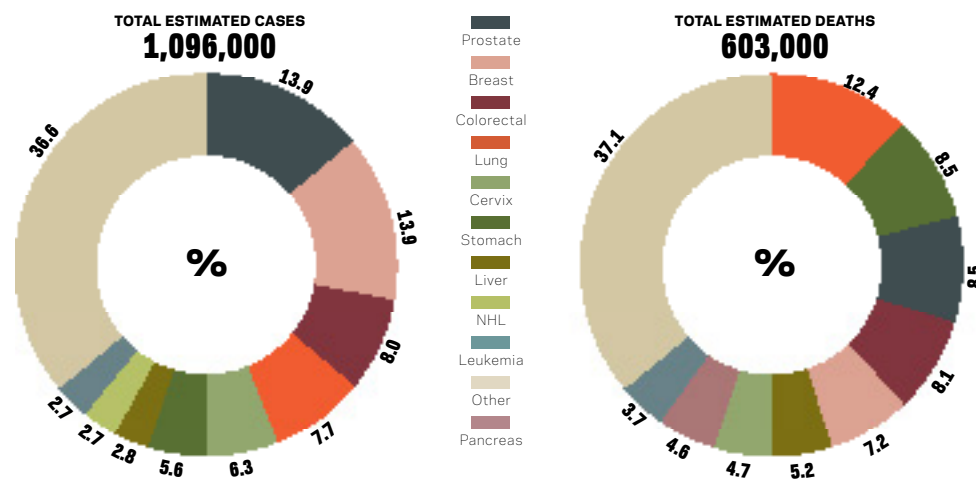
① About 1.1 million new cancer cases and 600,000 cancer deaths are estimated to occur annually in Latin America and the Caribbean. Prostate cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among males, with about 51,000 deaths annually, followed by lung cancer and stomach cancer. Among females, breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death, with about 43,000 deaths annually, followed by cervical and lung cancer.

There is considerable variation in cancer rates and trends within Latin America. For example, cervical cancer incidence rates in 2012 ranged from 11.4 cases per 100,000 population in Costa Rica to 47.7 cases per 100,000 in Bolivia, with the highest rates generally found in low-income countries.

② Cervical cancer rates are decreasing in many countries due to increased screening, while breast cancer rates are increasing due to increased prevalence of hormonally-linked factors such as delayed childbearing and lower parity, as well as lifestyle risk factors. Gallbladder cancer rates are exceptionally high in many Latin American countries, especially Chile and Bolivia, for unknown reasons. ③ Lung cancer mortality rates have begun to stabilize or decrease among males in many middle-income countries of the Americas, such as Argentina and Brazil, because of decreased smoking prevalence. Notably, lung cancer mortality rates among females continue to increase in most countries of the Americas, reflecting the lag in smoking reduction.

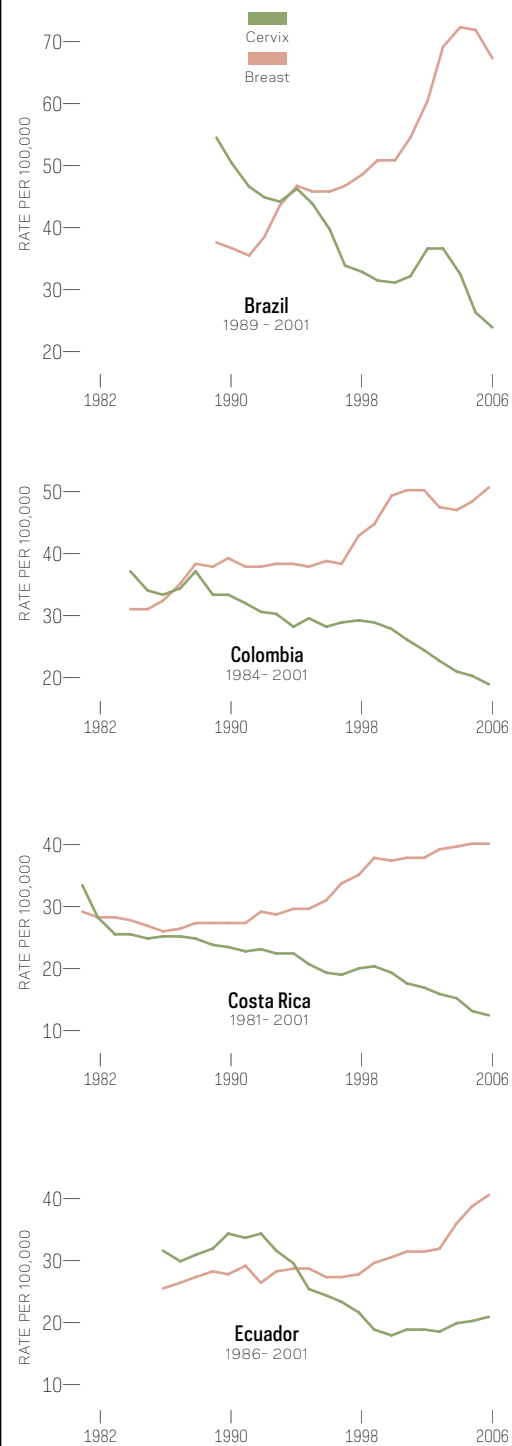
① Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death for both sexes combined.

ESTIMATED NUMBERS OF NEW CANCER CASES AND DEATHS, BOTH SEXES, 2012



② While cervical cancer rates are decreasing, breast cancer rates are increasing.

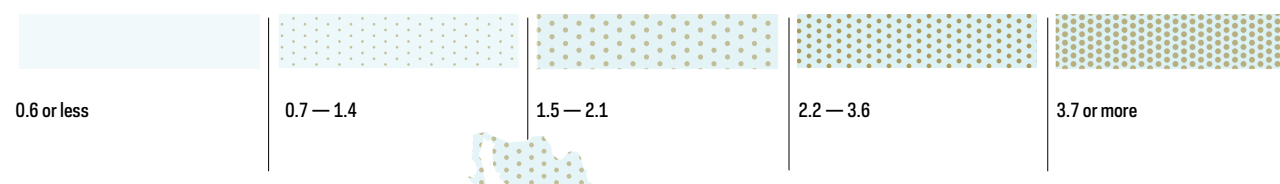
TRENDS IN CERVICAL AND FEMALE BREAST CANCER INCIDENCE, AGE-STANDARDIZED RATES* (WORLD) PER 100,000 POPULATION, ALL AGES, RATES PER 100,000, 1981-2006



*Rates have been smoothed using 3-year averages

Gallbladder cancer mortality rates in both sexes

AGE-STANDARDIZED RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION 2012



Gallbladder cancer mortality rates are high in many countries in Latin America.

Chile has the highest gallbladder cancer rates among females in the world.

③ Lung cancer mortality rates are generally decreasing or stable among males, while they continue to increase among females.

