Incidence and mortality rates for all cancers combined (except non-melanoma skin) reveal the extent of variation between countries, with incidence rates varying (in both sexes) from 155 (per 100,000) in Uruguay to 205 in Guyana, and mortality from 150 in Uruguay to 86 in Mexico. The lifetime risk of being diagnosed with cancer ranges from 26% (1 in 4 persons) in Uruguay to 42% (1 in 2 persons) in Guyana. The corresponding cancer mortality risk ranges from 14% (1 in 7 persons) in Uruguay to 17% (1 in 6 persons) in Mexico. There are marked variations in the incidence and mortality rates of specific cancers across countries: for example, cervical cancer varies six-fold for incidence, from 39 per 100,000 in Bolivia to 7 in Guadeloupe, and a striking 15-fold for mortality, from 23 in Jamaica to 3 in Martinique. While the highest prostate cancer incidence rates are seen in the Caribbean, with 100 per 100,000 in Guadeloupe, the lowest are estimated in Honduras (21). In Bolivia, the most common cause of cancer death is gallbladder cancer (19). In some countries with longstanding cancer registries, there is evidence of modest increases in all-cancer incidence rates; this is mainly due to an upwards trend in incidence rates of the most common cancer types, including female breast, colorectal and prostate cancer—coinciding with marked declines in stomach and cervical cancer. In contrast, overall cancer mortality rates are declining or in decline in most countries during the more recent decade, driven by favorable mortality trends for major cancers in the region, except cervical cancer, for which rates are rising in many countries. While lung cancer mortality rates in men are decreasing in many countries, they are still increasing in women. Bolivia and Chile exhibit the highest incidence rates of gallbladder cancer worldwide (14 and 12 per 100,000, respectively), possibly related to specific types of indigenous ancestry.

**FIGURE 18.3**
Incidence trends in selected countries in Latin America, stomach and cervical cancer, all ages, 1972-2012

**FIGURE 18.4**
Incidence trends in selected countries in Latin America, prostate and breast cancer, all ages, 1972-2012

**FIGURE 18.5**
Incidence rates vary more than twofold between countries of this region.

**FIGURE 18.6**
Infection-related cancers including stomach, cervix, and liver still rank among the leading cancers in this region.

**FIGURE 18.7**
Estimated number* of new cancer cases vs. deaths and distribution (%) by type, both sexes, 2018

**FIGURE 18.8**
Regional Diversity

**FIGURE 18.9**
Latin America & the Caribbean

Prostate, breast, and colorectal cancer are the main cancers in the region.

About 1.3 million new cancer cases and 666,000 cancer deaths were estimated to have occurred in 2018 in Latin America and the Caribbean. The five most common cancers in 2018 were female breast (200,000 new cases, 16% of all cancer cases), prostate (190,000, 14%), colorectal (128,000, 9%), lung (90,000, 7%) and stomach cancer (81,000, 12%), followed by colorectal (200,000 new cases, 15% of all cancer cases), and colorectal cancer are increasing, while rates of stomach and cervical cancer, both related to infection, are decreasing.

Incidence rates of prostate and breast cancer are increasing, while rates of stomach and cervical cancer, both related to infection, are decreasing.

Bolivia and Chile have the highest gallbladder cancer rates in the world.

**ASR (World) per 100,000**