

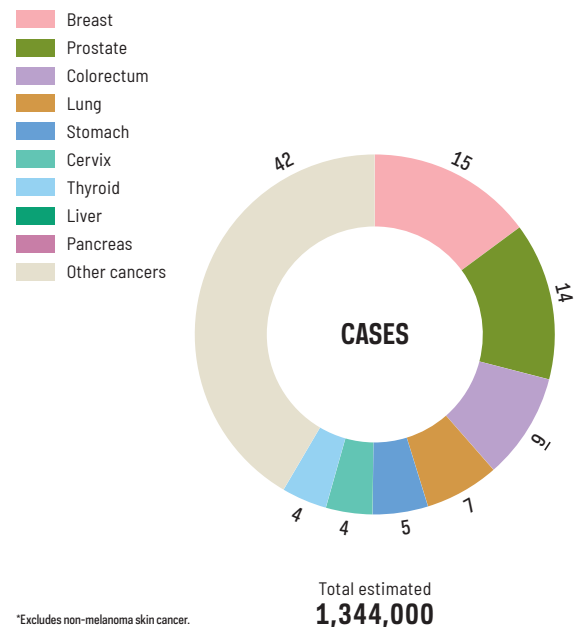
Regional Diversity

# 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, 15% of all cancer cases), prostate (190,000, 14%), colorectal (128,000, 9%), lung (90,000, 7%) and stomach cancer (67,000, 5%). Lung cancer is the leading cause of death (81,000, 12%), followed by colorectal (65,000 10%), prostate (54,000, 8%), female breast (53,000, 8%) and stomach (52,000, 8%). **FIGURE 18.1**

**FIGURE 18.1**  
Estimated number\* of new cancer cases vs. deaths and distribution (%) by type, both sexes, 2018



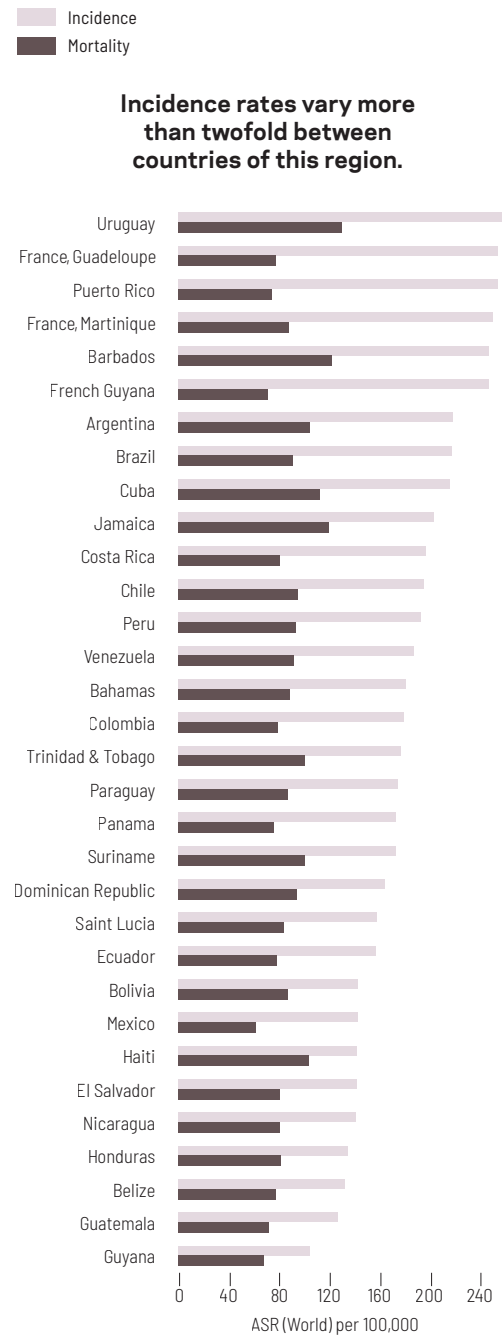
\*Excludes non-melanoma skin cancer.

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 263 (per 100,000) in Uruguay to 105 in Guyana, and mortality from 130 in Uruguay to 61 in Mexico. **FIGURE 18.2** The lifetime risk of being diagnosed with cancer ranges from 26% (1 in 4 persons) in Uruguay to 11% (1 in 10 persons) in Guyana. The corresponding cancer mortality risk ranges from 14% (1 in 7 persons) in Uruguay to 7% (1 in 15 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 19 in Jamaica to 1 in Martinique. While the highest prostate cancer incidence rates are seen in the Caribbean, with 189 per 100,000 in Guadeloupe, the lowest are estimated in Honduras (25). In Bolivia, the most common cause of cancer death is gallbladder cancer. **MAP 18.1**

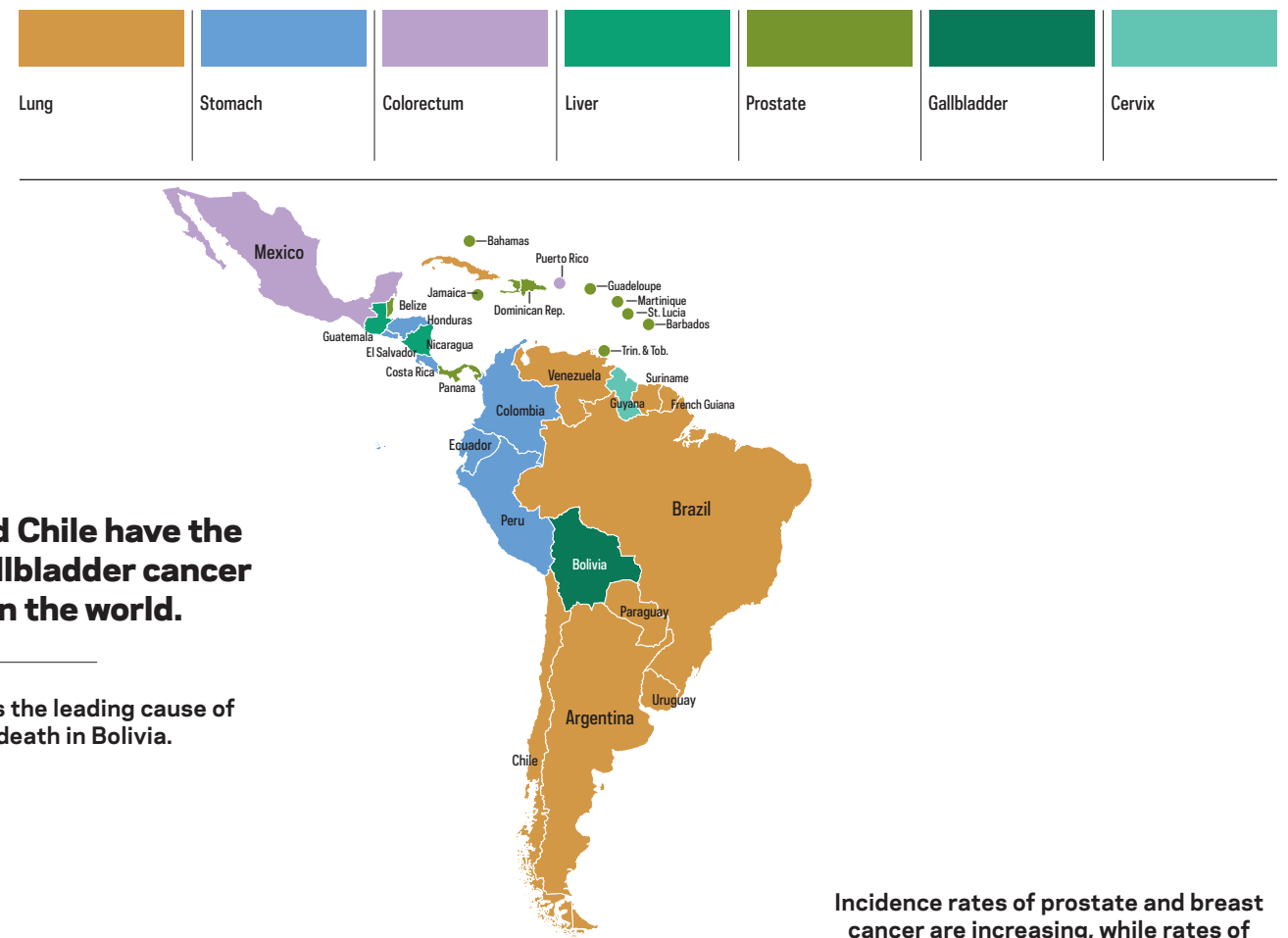
In some countries with longstanding cancer registries, there is evidence of moderate increases in all-cancer incidence rates; this is mainly due to an upwards trend in incidence rates of the most common cancer types, including female breast, colorectal and prostate cancer—coinciding with marked declines in stomach and cervical cancer. **FIGURE 18.3, 18.4** In contrast, overall cancer mortality rates are stabilizing or in decline in most countries during the most recent decade, driven by favorable

mortality trends for major cancers in the region, except colorectal 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 9 per 100,000, respectively), possibly related to specific types of indigenous ancestry.

**FIGURE 18.2**  
All cancer sites combined incidence and mortality rates in Latin America and the Caribbean, both sexes, all ages, 2018



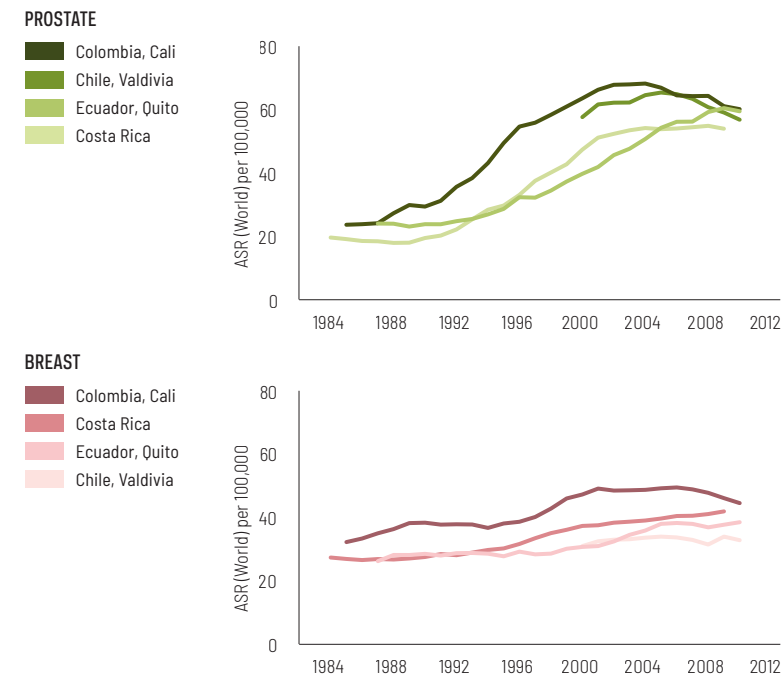
**MAP 18.1**  
Leading cause of cancer death in Latin America and the Caribbean, both sexes, 2018



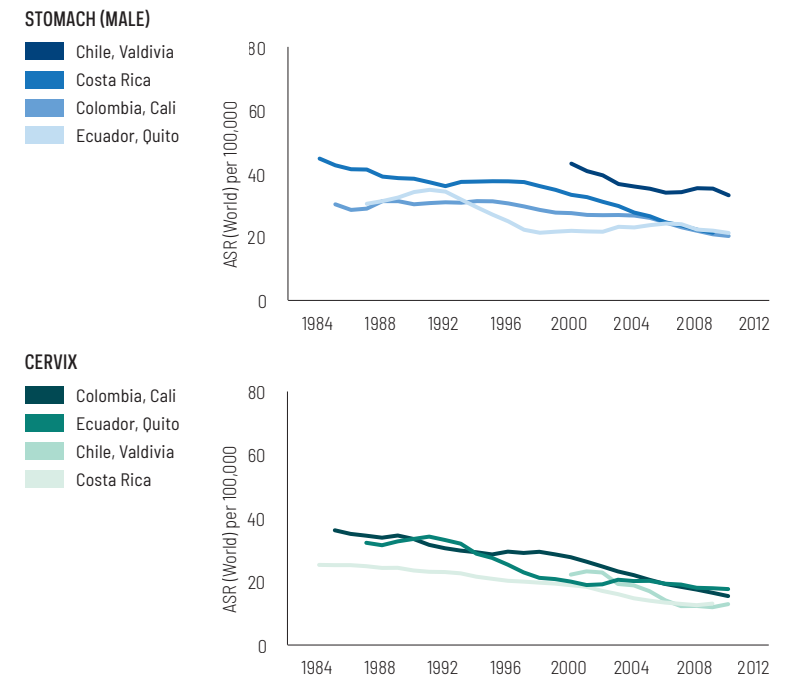
**Bolivia and Chile have the highest gallbladder cancer rates in the world.**

**Gallbladder is the leading cause of cancer death in Bolivia.**

**FIGURE 18.3**  
Incidence trends in selected countries in Latin America, prostate and breast cancer, all ages, 1982-2012



**FIGURE 18.4**  
Incidence trends in selected countries in Latin America, stomach and cervical cancer, all ages, 1982-2012



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