

Cancer Incidence Trends among Samoans in the United States, 1990-2008*



CANCER PREVENTION INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

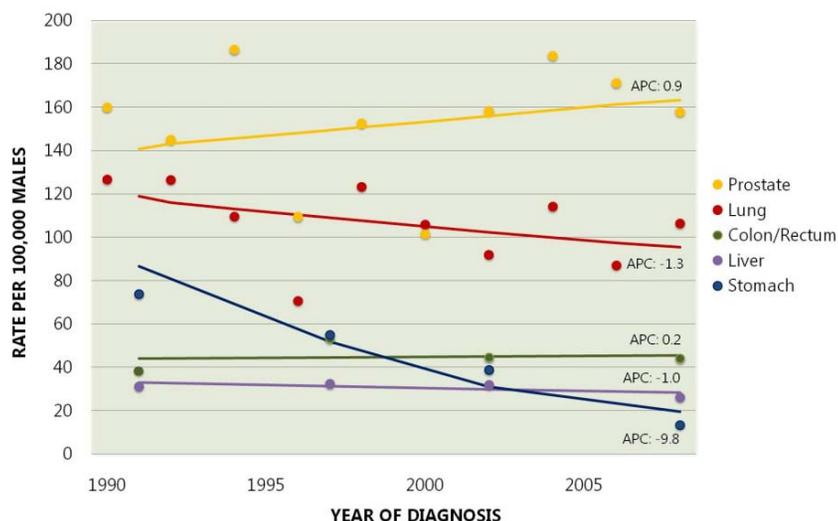
Preventing Cancer. Promoting Life.

Samoan Americans are a Polynesian ethnic group from American Samoa, an unincorporated territory of the United States. By 2010, Samoa was the second largest detailed Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander group after Hawaiians, with the largest groups living in American Samoa, California and Hawaii. (US Census 2011) As a group, they have experienced unique changes in cancer occurrence over the nineteen year period, from 1990 to 2008.

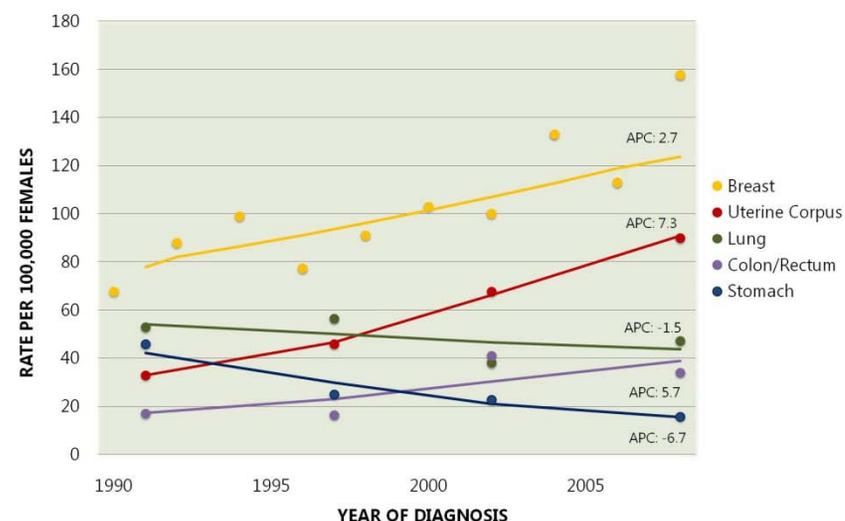
Samoan Males. Among this group, the five most commonly diagnosed cancers were prostate, lung, colon/rectum, liver and stomach. Between 1990 and 2008, prostate cancer increased steadily by 0.9 percent each year, while annual rates of lung and liver cancer decreased by 1.3 percent and 1.0 percent, respectively. In contrast, stomach cancer diagnoses plunged dramatically by 9.8 percent, while cancer of the colon/rectum remained stable over the nineteen year period.

Samoan Females. Among this group, the five most commonly diagnosed cancers were breast, uterine corpus, lung, colon/rectum and stomach. Rates of breast cancer rose by 2.7 percent each year, while rates of cancers of uterine corpus and colon/rectum increased dramatically each year by 7.3 percent and 5.7 percent, respectively. In contrast, lung cancer decreased by 1.5 percent annually, while stomach cancer decreased by 6.7 percent each year.

Age-adjusted incidence rates and annual percent changes of cancer among Samoan males, 1990-2008



Age-adjusted incidence rates and annual percent changes of cancer among Samoan females, 1990-2008



Prevention and Early Detection

The risk of many of these cancers can be reduced through healthy lifestyle modifications, early detection and vaccinations. More information on cancer prevention and early detection can be found in the following resources:

- The National Cancer Institute: [Cancer Prevention](#)
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [breast cancer screening](#); [colon/rectum cancer screening](#); [lung cancer screening](#) and [prostate cancer screening](#).

Note: The incidence rates for this report were calculated based on data from the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Result (SEER) Program of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census. The rates are based on geographic regions that cover 57% of the U.S. Samoan population, and they are adjusted to the 2000 U.S. population standard.

★ This fact sheet is based on findings from the Journal of the National Cancer Institute 2013 publication "Cancer incidence trends among Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders in the United States, 1990-2008." For access to the original scientific publication, please see our website www.cpic.org or email us at data.release@cpic.org.