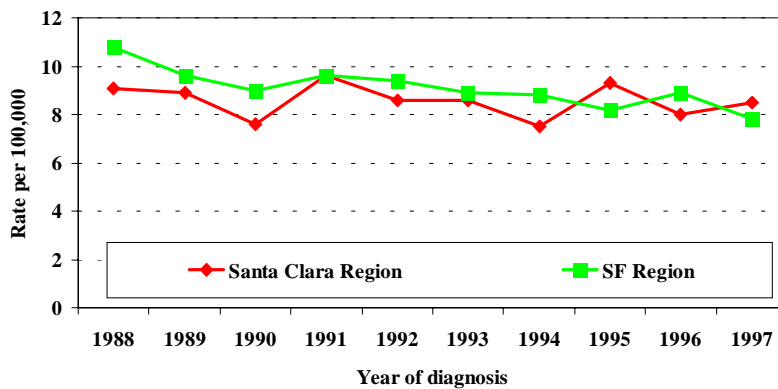




Pancreatic Cancer in the Greater Bay Area, 1988-1997

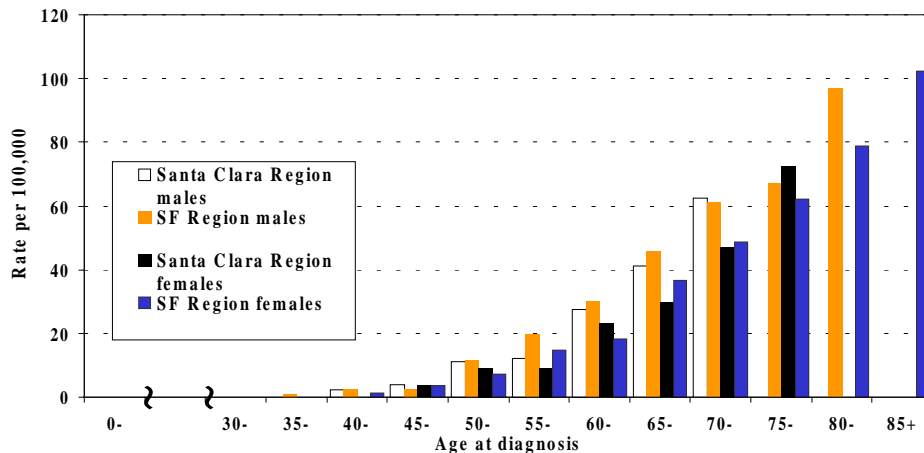
Pancreatic cancer is among the most common causes of cancer death in the United States. In the Greater Bay Area, almost 5,800 people were diagnosed with the disease during the period 1988-1997.

Figure 1. Age-adjusted incidence rates of pancreatic cancer, by year of diagnosis and region, 1988-1997



Males had slightly higher incidence rates of pancreatic cancer compared to females (data not shown). In the San Francisco Region, there was a decrease in pancreatic cancer rates from 1988 to 1997 (Figure 1, above), while in the Santa Clara Region, rates were unchanged. In the San Francisco Region, the average annual age-adjusted incidence rate of pancreatic cancer (males and females combined) was 8.5 cases per 100,000 in the period 1993-1997; the rate was not substantially different for the Santa Clara Region (8.4 per 100,000).

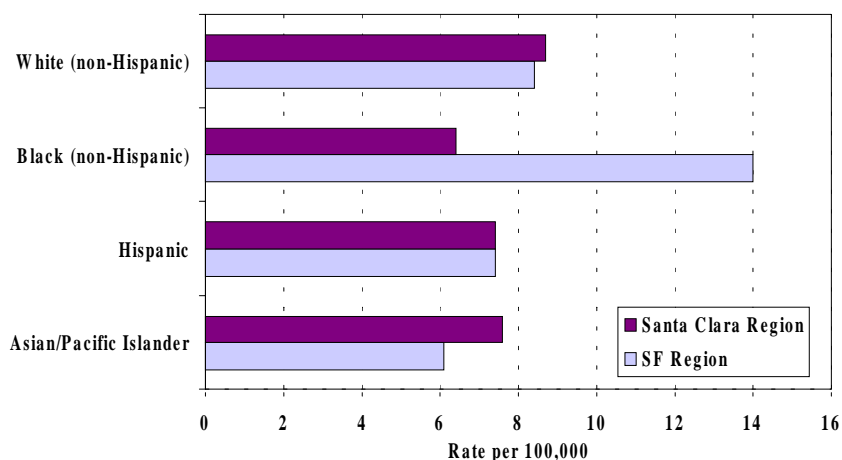
Figure 2. Average annual age-specific incidence rates of pancreatic cancer, by age, region, and sex, 1993-1997*



* Data not shown for rates based on fewer than 5 cases or for age-specific population totals less than 100,000

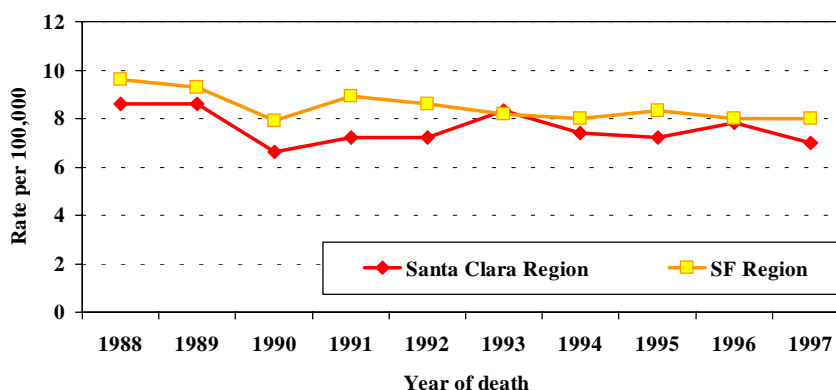
Pancreatic cancer is a disease of advancing age. Incidence rates rose steadily after age 35 (Figure 2, above).

Figure 3. Average annual age-adjusted incidence rates of pancreatic cancer, by race/ethnicity and region, 1993-1997



The rates for blacks in the San Francisco Region were more than 40% higher than rates for other racial/ethnic groups (Figure 3, above). Although the rates appear lower for blacks in the Santa Clara Region than in the San Francisco Region, these rates are based on a small number of cases and the difference may be entirely due to chance. Rates in Hispanics and Asian/Pacific Islanders were comparable.

Figure 4. Age-adjusted mortality rate from pancreatic cancer, by year of death and region, 1988-1997



Overall, pancreatic cancer mortality rates decreased slightly from 1988 to 1997 (Figure 4, above).

Technical Notes -- Because age distributions vary by population, a standard statistical procedure called “age-adjustment” was used so that we can examine differences in cancer incidence and mortality rates due to factors other than age. Rates are age-adjusted unless noted to be age-specific.

About the data -- Cancer data have been collected in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo counties since 1973, and in Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz counties since 1988, forming two parts (Regions 1 and 8) of the California Cancer Registry. These counties, referred to as the Greater Bay Area are also part of the National Cancer Institute’s Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) registry program.

The **Northern California Cancer Center**’s mission is to reduce the burden of cancer through surveillance, epidemiology, prevention research and education. Essential to this mission is collaboration with partners in cancer research, education, and the community.