

International Agency for Research on Cancer

 IACR
International Association of Cancer Registries



Cancer Incidence in Five Continents Vol. X



**Edited by D. Forman, F. Bray, D.H. Brewster,
C. Gombe Mbalawa, B. Kohler, M. Piñeros,
E. Steliarova-Foucher, R. Swaminathan and J. Ferlay**

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Cancer Incidence in Five Continents

Volume X

INTERNATIONAL AGENCY FOR RESEARCH ON CANCER

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) was established in 1965 by the World Health Assembly, as an independently financed organization within the framework of the World Health Organization (WHO). The headquarters of the Agency are in Lyon, France.

The Agency conducts a programme of research concentrating particularly on the epidemiology of cancer and the study of potential carcinogens in the human environment. Its epidemiological studies are supplemented by studies of the mechanisms of carcinogenesis carried out in the Agency's laboratories in Lyon. The promotion of collaborative research among scientists worldwide is a strong feature of the Agency's activities. The Agency also conducts a programme for the education and training of personnel for cancer research.

The publications of the Agency are intended to contribute to the dissemination of authoritative information on various aspects of cancer research. Information about IARC publications and how to order them is available online at <http://publications.iarc.fr/>.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CANCER REGISTRIES

The International Association of Cancer Registries (IACR) was created following the Ninth International Cancer Congress, held in Tokyo, Japan, in 1966. The Association is a voluntary nongovernmental organization in official relations with WHO, representing the scientific and professional interests of cancer registries, with members interested in the development of cancer registration and its application to studies of well-defined populations.

There are currently more than 700 member registries in IACR, along with an elected executive board. Since 1973, IARC has provided the secretariat for the Association with the primary functions of organizing meetings and coordinating scientific studies. Information about the Association, including membership, activities, and publications, is available online at <http://www.iacr.com.fr/>.

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Contents

Foreword	ix	Chile	
Editors	xi	Region of Antofagasta	162
Contributors	xiii	Bío Bío Province	164
		Valdivia	166
Maps	1	Colombia	
Chapter 1. Introduction		Bucaramanga	168
<i>D Forman, DH Brewster, B Kohler,</i>		Cali	170
<i>M Piñeros</i>	23	Manizales	172
Chapter 2. Registration techniques		Pasto	174
<i>D Forman, C Gombe Mbalawa,</i>		Costa Rica	176
<i>B Kohler, R Swaminathan</i>	37	Cuba, Villa Clara	178
Chapter 3. Classification and coding		Ecuador	
<i>J Ferlay</i>	68	Cuenca	180
Chapter 4. Histological groups		Quito	182
<i>J Ferlay, B Rous</i>	79	France, Martinique	184
Chapter 5. Data comparability and quality		Jamaica, Kingston and St Andrew	186
<i>F Bray, B Kohler, J Ferlay</i>	89	USA, Puerto Rico	188
Chapter 6. Data processing		Uruguay	190
<i>J Ferlay, E Steliarova-Foucher,</i>		North America	
<i>S Antoni, Eric Masuyer</i>	107	Canada	192
Chapter 7. Age standardization		Alberta	194
<i>F Bray, J Ferlay</i>	112	British Columbia	196
Chapter 8. Data availability		Manitoba	198
and presentation		New Brunswick	200
<i>E Steliarova-Foucher, J Ferlay,</i>		Newfoundland and Labrador	202
<i>D Forman, M Piñeros, B Kohler</i>	116	Northwest Territories	204
		Nova Scotia	206
THE NARRATIVES		Ontario	208
Africa		Prince Edward Island	210
Algeria, Sétif	126	Quebec	212
Egypt, Gharbiah	128	Saskatchewan	214
Libya, Benghazi	130	Yukon	216
Malawi, Blantyre	132	United States of America	
South Africa, PROMEC	134	NPCR	218
Tunisia, North	136	SEER	226
Uganda, Kyadondo County	138	Alabama	240
Zimbabwe, Harare: African	140	Alaska	246
Central and South America		Arizona	250
Argentina		Arkansas	258
Bahía Blanca	142	California	264
Córdoba	144	California, Los Angeles County	272
Mendoza	146	California, San Francisco Bay Area	286
Tierra del Fuego	148	Colorado	296
Brazil		Connecticut	302
Aracaju	150	Delaware	308
Belo Horizonte	152	Florida	314
Cuiabá	154	Georgia	320
Fortaleza	156	Georgia, Atlanta	326
Goiânia	158	Idaho	332
São Paulo	160	Illinois	334
		Indiana	340
		Iowa	346
		Kentucky	348
		Louisiana	350
		Louisiana, New Orleans	356
		Maine	362
		Massachusetts	364

Michigan	370	Sikkim State	554
Michigan, Detroit	376	Trivandrum	556
Mississippi	382	Islamic Republic of Iran,	
Missouri	384	Golestan Province	558
Montana	390	Israel	560
Nebraska	394	Japan	
New Hampshire	400	Aichi Prefecture	566
New Jersey	402	Fukui Prefecture	568
New Mexico	408	Hiroshima	570
New York State	414	Miyagi Prefecture	572
North Carolina	420	Nagasaki Prefecture	574
North Dakota	428	Niigata Prefecture	576
Ohio	430	Osaka Prefecture	578
Oklahoma	436	Saga Prefecture	580
Oregon	442	Republic of Korea	582
Pennsylvania	448	Busan	584
Rhode Island	454	Daegu	586
South Carolina	460	Daejeon	588
South Dakota	466	Gwangju	590
Tennessee	468	Incheon	592
Texas	474	Jeju	594
Utah	480	Seoul	596
Vermont	482	Ulsan	598
Virginia	484	Kuwait	600
Washington State	490	Malaysia, Penang	606
Washington, Seattle	492	Philippines	
West Virginia	494	Manila	612
Wisconsin	496	Rizal	614
Wyoming	502	Qatar: Qatari	616
		Saudi Arabia, Riyadh: Saudi	618
		Singapore	620
		Thailand	
		Bangkok	626
		Chiang Mai	628
		Chonburi	630
		Khon Kaen	632
		Lampang	634
		Songkhla	636
		Turkey	
		Antalya	638
		Edirne	640
		İzmir	642
		Trabzon	644

Asia

Bahrain: Bahraini	504
China	
Beijing City	506
Cixian County	508
Haining County	510
Harbin City, Nangang District	512
Hong Kong	514
Jiashan County	516
Jiaxing City	518
Macao	520
Qidong County	522
Shanghai City	524
Wuhan City	526
Yangcheng County	528
Yanting County	530
Zhongshan City	532
India	
Bangalore	534
Barshi, Paranda, and Bhum	536
Bhopal	538
Chennai	540
Dindigul, Ambilikkai	542
Karunagappally	544
Mizoram	546
Mumbai	548
New Delhi	550
Poona	552

Europe

Austria	646
Tyrol	648
Vorarlberg	650
Belarus	652
Belgium	654
Bulgaria	656
Croatia	658
Cyprus	660
Czech Republic	662
Denmark	664
Estonia	666
Finland	668

France			
Bas-Rhin	670		
Calvados	672		
Doubs	674		
Haut-Rhin	676		
Hérault	678		
Isère	680		
Loire-Atlantique	682		
Manche	684		
Somme	686		
Tarn	688		
Vendée	690		
Germany			
Brandenburg	692		
Bremen	694		
Free State of Saxony	696		
Hamburg	698		
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	700		
Munich	702		
North Rhine-Westphalia	704		
Saarland	706		
Schleswig-Holstein	708		
Iceland	710		
Ireland	712		
Italy			
Biella	714		
Brescia	716		
Catania and Messina	718		
Catanzaro	720		
Como	722		
Ferrara	724		
Florence and Prato	726		
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	728		
Genoa	730		
Latina	732		
Lecco	734		
Lombardy, South	736		
Mantua	738		
Milan	740		
Modena	742		
Naples	744		
Nuoro	746		
Palermo	748		
Parma	750		
Ragusa	752		
Reggio Emilia	754		
Romagna	756		
Salerno	758		
Sassari	760		
Sondrio	762		
South Tyrol	764		
Syracuse	766		
Trapani	768		
Trento	770		
Turin	772		
Umbria	774		
Varese	776		
Veneto	778		
Latvia		780	
Lithuania		782	
Malta		784	
The Netherlands		786	
Eindhoven		788	
Norway		790	
Poland			
Cracow		792	
Kielce		794	
Lower Silesia		796	
Podkarpackie		798	
Portugal, Azores		800	
Russian Federation, Saint Petersburg		802	
Serbia, Central		804	
Slovakia		806	
Slovenia		808	
Spain			
Albacete		810	
Asturias		812	
Basque Country		814	
Canary Islands		816	
Ciudad Real		818	
Cuenca		820	
Girona		822	
Granada		824	
La Rioja		826	
Mallorca		828	
Murcia		830	
Navarra		832	
Tarragona		834	
Sweden		836	
Switzerland			
Basel		838	
Geneva		840	
Graubünden and Glarus		842	
Neuchâtel		844	
St Gall-Appenzell		846	
Ticino		848	
Valais		850	
Vaud		852	
Zurich		854	
Ukraine		856	
United Kingdom			
England		858	
England, East of England Region		860	
England, North Western		862	
England, Northern and Yorkshire		864	
England, Oxford Region		866	
England, South and Western Regions		868	
England, Thames		870	
England, Trent		872	
England, West Midlands		874	
Northern Ireland		876	
Scotland		878	
Wales		880	

Oceania

Australia	
Australian Capital Territory	882
New South Wales	884
Northern Territory	886
Queensland	892
South Australia	894
Tasmania	896
Victoria	898
Western Australia	900
New Zealand	902
USA, Hawaii	908

THE TABLES

Age-standardized and cumulative incidence rates and standard errors	917
Indices of data quality	1253
Errors in Volume IX	1365

Foreword

National cancer control planning must still depend too often on unreliable estimates of cancer burden: estimates based on incomplete data, old data, or in some cases no data at all. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) is committed to supporting and strengthening cancer registries, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, to address this gap. In this context, the cancer registries included in *Cancer Incidence in Five Continents (CI5)* collectively illustrate, perhaps better than anywhere else, the full value of establishing and sustaining high-quality population-based cancer registration. Inclusion in the CI5 series has long been considered an international quality standard for cancer registries around the world. Lack of inclusion should not detract, however, from the remarkable efforts and progress being made by the cancer registries not (yet) included in the series. Rather, this volume should provide encouragement and inspiration, as a testament to what can be achieved and how.

It is good news that the value of cancer registration is increasingly being recognized by policy-makers, not least because of the emphasis on cancer along with other noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) at the highest political level. Furthermore, WHO Member States have agreed to measure “cancer incidence, by type of cancer, per 100 000 population” as an indicator in the NCD Global Monitoring Framework. The ability to analyse cancer trends over time enables better planning for changing patterns of cancer at the national level. This is another advantage that the high-quality cancer registries in CI5 bring to cancer control planning. Additional modelling, for example of the proportion of cancers attributable to various causes or the potential benefits of interventions to reduce cancer burden, requires a foundation of reliable cancer registry data, and such requirements will only increase.

Cancer registrars are a remarkable breed. In my current post I have had the privilege of visiting several cancer registries around the world and without fail I am struck by the passion, tenacity, dedication, and determination of those who believe in the value of their work. In turn, I have been able to prioritize this area of work at the Agency, so that we may contribute our own part to the provision of reliable global cancer statistics.

Work on CI5 was one of the first activities undertaken by the Agency when it was founded nearly 50 years ago, and the series is a good example of the collaborative work that continues to characterize IARC’s approach today. Each volume is created in collaboration with individual cancer registries, and also with the valued and vital collaboration of the International Association of Cancer Registries (IACR). CI5 Volume X differs from its predecessors in several ways, and among these changes is the increase in the number of registries and populations included. Despite positive signs, however, this volume also illustrates once again just how far we still have left to go in increasing the coverage of populations, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. And this sets us our challenge: to see Volume XI burgeoning with new registries, joining those already well established. In achieving this goal, we will have provided a vital resource to global efforts to tackle the cancer problem and ultimately to see the number of registries go up while the rates they report go down.

Dr Christopher P. Wild
Director, IARC