CANCER AWARENESS IN ILLINOIS

STOMACH CANCER

NOVEMBER 2024

November is Stomach Cancer Awareness Month. In Illinois, in 2021, there were 1,127 new cases of stomach cancer, including 715 males and 412 females. The incidence rate for stomach cancer was 5.0 per 100,000 females and 10.1 per 100,000 males. In Illinois, in 2021, 445 people died from stomach cancer, including 280 males and 165 females.

The risk factors for stomach cancer are:

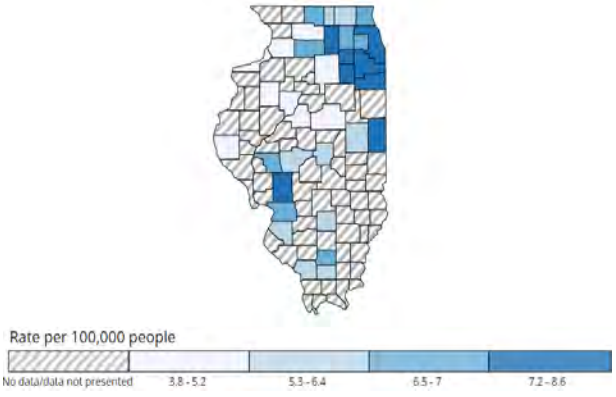
- H. pylori infection
- Smoking
- Drinking alcohol
- Previous stomach surgery
- Being overweight or obese
- Genetic disorders

SCREENING GUIDELINES

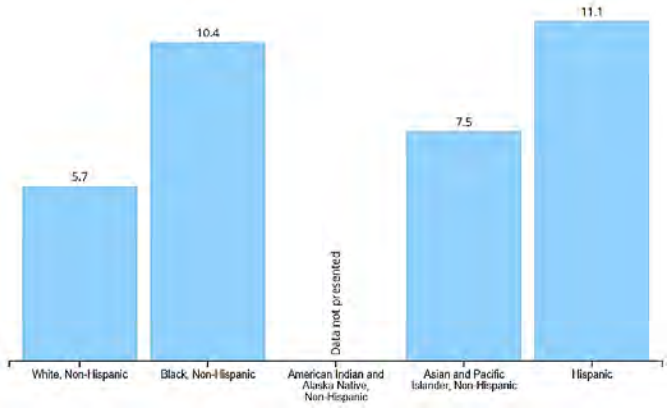
Screening can help detect stomach cancer early when treatment works best. Currently, widely recommended screening guidelines do not exist for stomach cancer. Screening options for stomach cancer include an upper endoscopy, barium swallow, CT scan, and biomarker testing.

INCIDENCE RATES

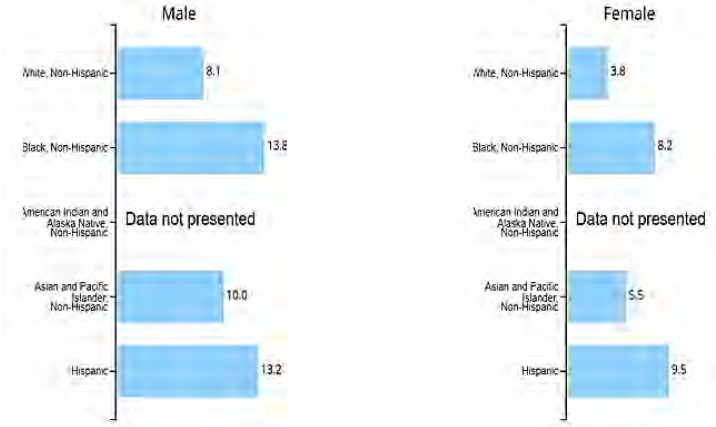
Rate of stomach cancer incidence by Illinois county, all ages, all races, and ethnicities, 2017-2021.



Rate of new cancers of stomach cancer in Illinois, by race and ethnicity, 2017-2021.



Rate of new cancers of stomach cancer in Illinois, by sex and race and ethnicity, 2017-2021

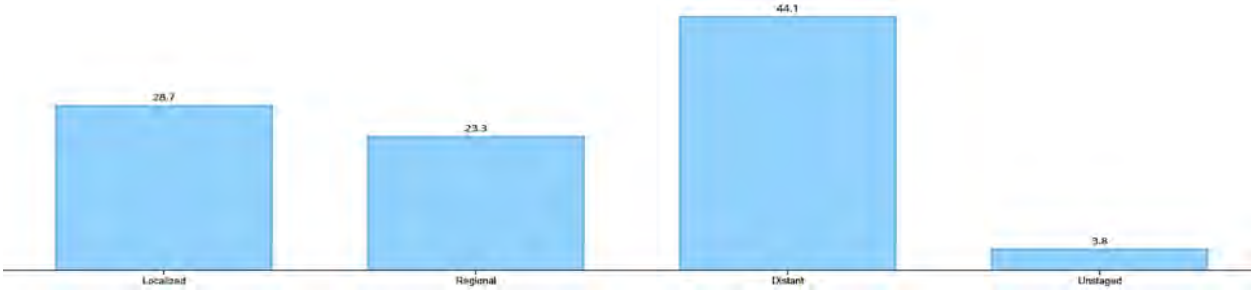


Source - U.S. Cancer Statistics Working Group. U.S. Cancer Statistics Data Visualizations Tool, based on 2022 submission data (1999-2021): U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Cancer Institute; https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/dataviz, released in June 2024.

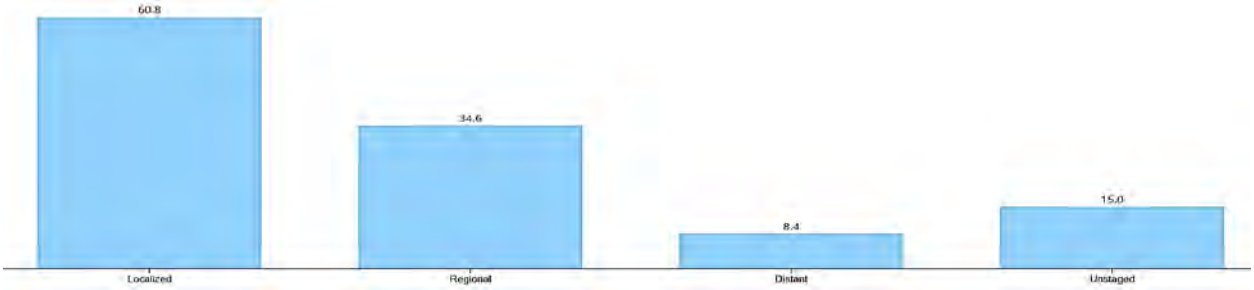
LATE-STAGE DIAGNOSIS

The following chart shows the distribution of new stomach cancer diagnoses by stage and five-year survival percentage by stage. Late stage is defined as regional or distant stage diagnoses. The summary stage characterizes invasive cancers as localized, regional, or distant. Localized cancer is confined to the primary site, regional cancer has spread directly beyond the primary site (regional extension) or to regional lymph nodes, and distant cancer has spread to other organs (distant extension) or remote lymph nodes (U.S. Cancer Statistics Data Visualizations, 2024). Some cancers are unstaged or the stage is unknown or unspecified.

Stage distribution (%) of new stomach cancer cases, all ages, all races and ethnicities, Illinois, 2017-2021.

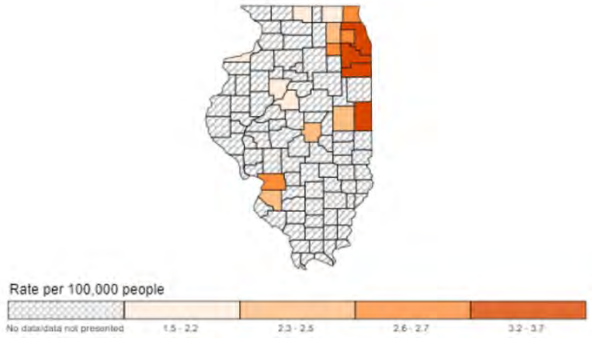


Five-year relative survival (%) by stage of stomach cancer cases, all ages, all races and ethnicities, Illinois, 2017-2021.

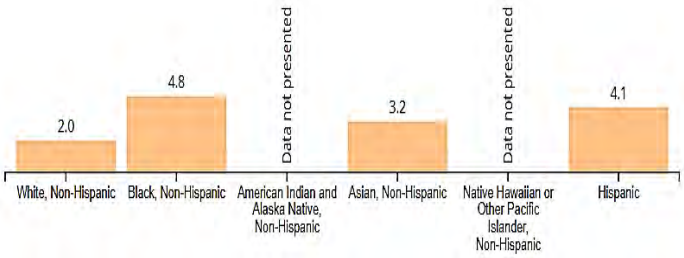


MORTALITY RATES

Rate of stomach cancer mortality by Illinois county for all ages, races, and ethnicities, 2018-2022.



Rate of new stomach cancer deaths in Illinois, by race and ethnicity, 2018-2022.

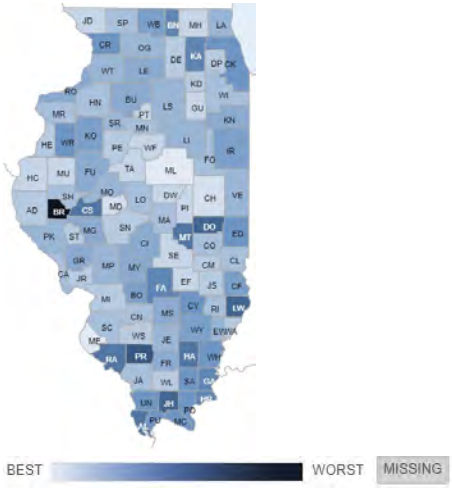


Source - U.S. Cancer Statistics Working Group. U.S. Cancer Statistics Data Visualizations Tool, based on 2022 submission data (1999-2021): U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Cancer Institute; https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/dataviz, released in June 2024.

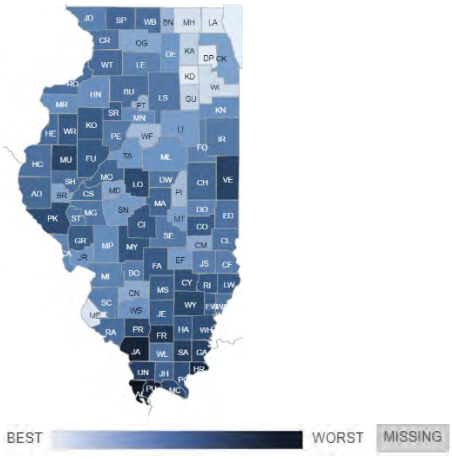
GROUPS AT HIGHEST RISK

Even though anyone can develop stomach cancer, Hispanic individuals have the highest incidence rates compared to other groups. The incidence rate for Hispanic individuals is 11.1 per 100,000. However, Black non-Hispanic individuals have the highest mortality rates. Stomach cancer incidence rates tend to be associated with socioeconomic status and income status. Both can negatively impact late-stage diagnosis and survival rates.

In Illinois, 90% of adults (age 25 or older) had a high school degree or equivalent, such as a GED. This ranged from 80% to 96% of adults across counties in the state.



In Illinois, the median household income was $76,700. Half of all households had an annual income below this amount, and half had annual incomes above it. Median household income ranged from $41,400 to $102,500 across counties in the state.



Source – https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/illinois?year=2024

SUGGESTED POLICY, SYSTEM, AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE STRATEGIES

- Increase support for non-profit health care organizations and deliver comprehensive care to uninsured, underinsured, and vulnerable patients regardless of ability to pay, often called community health centers (CHCs).
- Open clinics earlier, close later, and offer appointments during lunch hours or weekends.
- Provide outreach and support to assist those whose employers do not offer affordable coverage, who are self-employed or unemployed.
- Provide basic skills (e.g., reading, math, writing, English language, or soft skills) and industry-specific training with other supports; also called occupationally contextualized basic education programs.
- Provide career and technical education (CTE) as an integrated part of an academic curriculum for students, especially those at risk of dropping out of high school, also called vocational training.

CLINICAL TRIALS

Clinical trials are research studies for doctors to find new ways to improve treatments and the quality of life for people with certain diseases. Researchers design cancer clinical trials to test new ways to treat cancer, find and diagnose cancer, prevent cancer, and manage symptoms of cancer and side effects from its treatment.

- National Cancer Institute: https://ccr.cancer.gov/clinical-trials/all?query=stomach+cancer
- National Library of Medicine: https://www.clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=Stomach%20Cancer

RESOURCES

- American Cancer Society: https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/stomach-cancer.html
- Mayo Clinic: https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/stomach-cancer/symptoms-causes/syc-20352438
- National Cancer Institute: https://www.cancer.gov/types/stomach

CONTINUING EDUCATION

- CDC: https://www.train.org/cdctrain/search?query=stomach%20cancer
- Medscape CME and Education: https://search.medscape.com/search/?q=%22stomach%20cancer%22&plr=edu&page=1
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network: https://education.nccn.org/course-catalog-list?f%5B0%5D=field_course_category%3A7

IDPH acknowledges the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for supporting the Illinois staff and the printing and distribution of the monograph under cooperative agreement NU58DP007162 awarded to Illinois. The monography's contents are solely the authors' responsibility and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC.