

Chapter 7

Cancer of the Esophagus



Cancer of the Esophagus

Incidence and Mortality by Sex and Year

West Virginia Residents 1993 – 2001

Year	Male				Female				Total			
	New Cases	Incid. Rate	Deaths	Mort. Rate	New Cases	Incid. Rate	Deaths	Mort. Rate	New Cases	Incid. Rate	Deaths	Mort. Rate
1993	69	7.9	63	7.4	19	1.5	13	1.1	88	4.3	76	3.8
1994	73	8.0	69	7.6	23	1.8	26	2.1	96	4.6	95	4.5
1995	68	7.8	66	7.3	18	1.4	11	0.8	86	4.1	77	3.7
1996	60	6.8	52	5.8	26	2.1	20	1.6	86	4.2	72	3.5
1997	81	9.1	65	7.5	26	2.1	24	2.0	107	5.1	89	4.3
1998	86	9.5	71	8.0	23	1.9	12	0.9	109	5.2	83	4.0
1999	73	8.1	77	8.5	25	2.1	25	2.1	98	4.7	102	4.8
2000	93	10.0	65	7.0	16	1.2	16	1.3	109	5.1	81	3.8
2001	80	8.6	70	7.7	31	2.5	19	1.6	111	5.2	89	4.3

Number of new cases excludes in situ cases.

Rates are per 100,000 West Virginia residents and are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population.

Table 7.1

Overview

- Esophageal cancer most commonly occurs in men. For 1997-2001, this cancer was diagnosed over four times more often among men than among women (age-adjusted incidence rate of 9.1 per 100,000 West Virginia men and 2.0 per 100,000 West Virginia women) (Figures 1.3 and 1.4).
- For both men and women in West Virginia, invasive disease rarely occurred before age 45. Thereafter, incidence rates increased with increasing age (Figure 7.3).
- More than half (51%) of the cancers of the esophagus diagnosed between 1997 and 2001 had spread regionally or distantly at diagnosis (Figure 7.4). Although somewhat improved surgical approaches are available, prognosis at these stages remains relatively poor.
- For 1997-2001, cancer of the esophagus was the seventh leading cause of cancer-related mortality among West Virginia men (Figure 1.3).
- State-specific age-adjusted cancer mortality rates from 1996-2000 suggest that West Virginia mortality from esophageal cancer was slightly below national mortality for this disease (Appendix B).

Risk Factors

- Alcohol and tobacco use have been implicated as risk factors for this disease.
- Although not fully elucidated, there is some suggestion that caustic or other injury to the esophageal mucosa (e.g. lye ingestion) may be associated with development of malignancy.

Prevention

- Avoiding abuse of alcohol and tobacco is the best way to reduce the risk of esophageal cancer. The risk of esophageal cancer increases by 18 times in people who drink more than about 13 ounces of alcohol a day for years. If this same person smokes at least one to two packs of cigarettes a day, the risk of esophageal cancer increases 44 times (ACS, 2003a).

Cancer of the Esophagus

Incidence Rates*, Age-Adjusted

West Virginia Residents 1993 – 2001, U.S. Residents 1993 – 2000

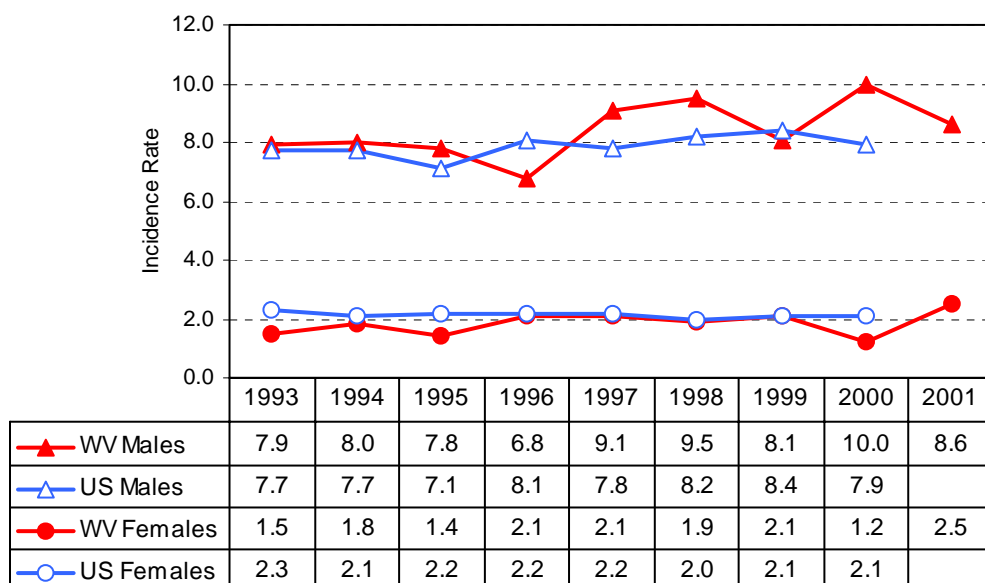


Figure 7.1

*Rates are per 100,000 and are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population.
U.S. rates are from SEER (Ries et al., 2003).

Cancer of the Esophagus

Mortality Rates*, Age-Adjusted

West Virginia Residents 1993 – 2001, U.S. Residents 1993 – 2000

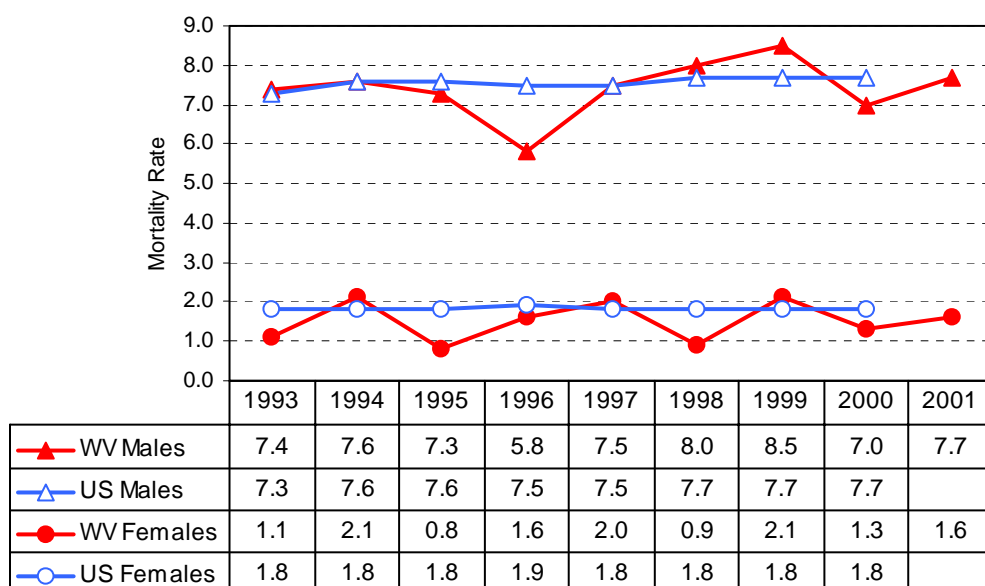


Figure 7.2

*Rates are per 100,000 and are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population.
U.S. rates are from SEER (Ries et al., 2003).

Cancer of the Esophagus

Incidence Rates*, Age-Specific
West Virginia Residents 1997 – 2001

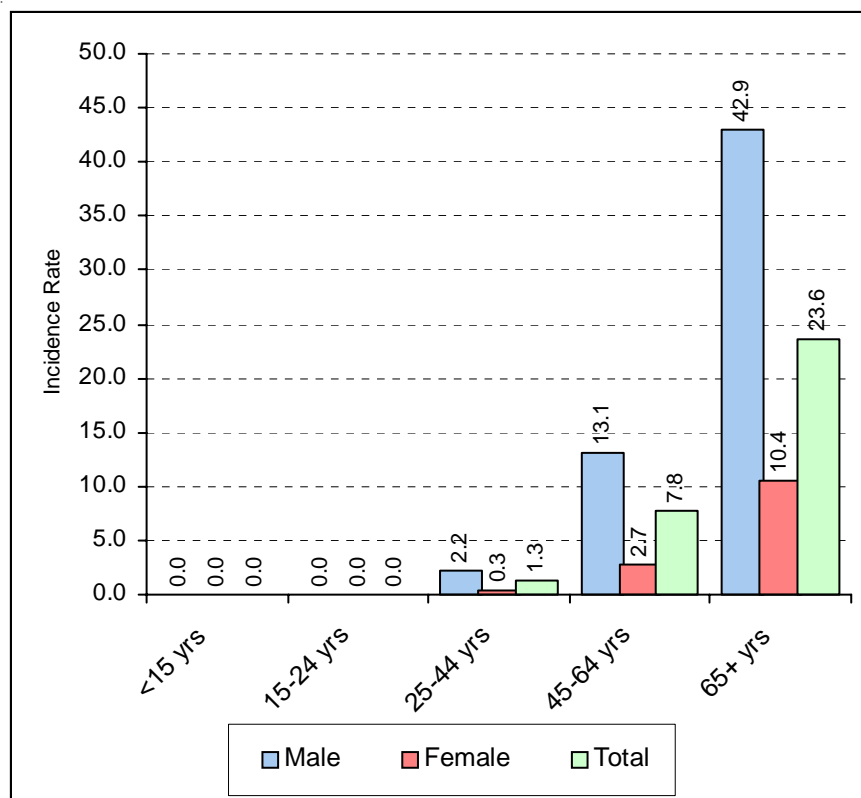


Figure 7.3

*Five-year average annual rate per 100,000 West Virginia residents

Cancer of the Esophagus

Most Frequent Histologies
West Virginia Residents 1997 – 2001

ICD-O Code	Histology	% of Invasive Cases
814	Adenocarcinoma	52.6
807	Squamous Cell Carcinoma	30.1
801	Carcinoma	5.8
800	Malignant Neoplasm	2.8
848	Mucinous Adenocarcinoma	2.8
849	Signet Ring Cell Carcinoma	2.2
856	Adenosquamous Carcinoma	1.5

Table 7.2

Cancer of the Esophagus

Stage of Disease at Diagnosis
West Virginia Residents 1997 – 2001

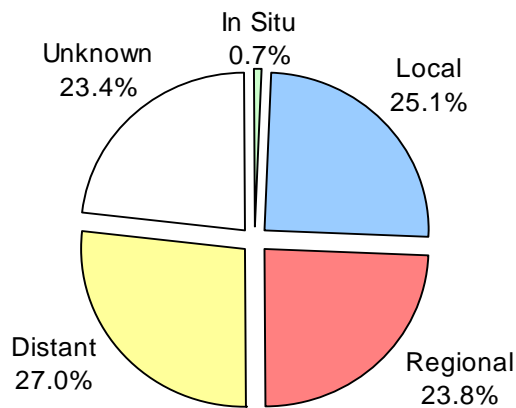
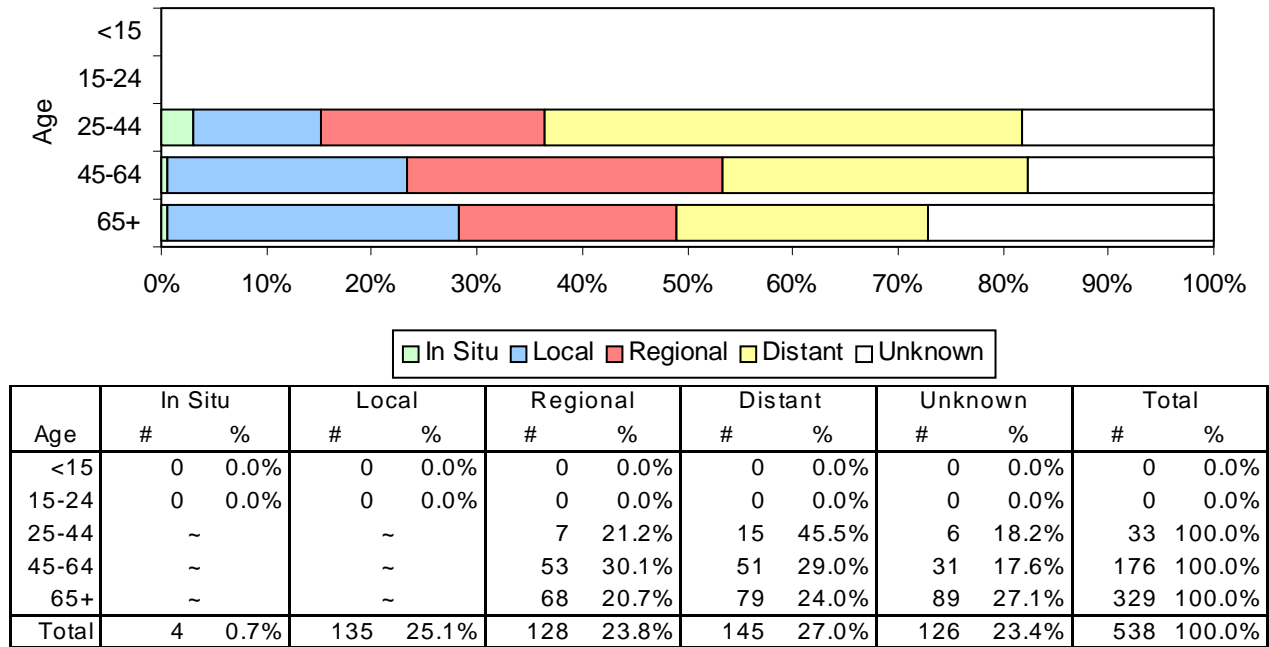


Figure 7.4

Cancer of the Esophagus

Stage of Disease at Diagnosis by Age

West Virginia Residents 1997 – 2001



~ Suppressed due to small cell size

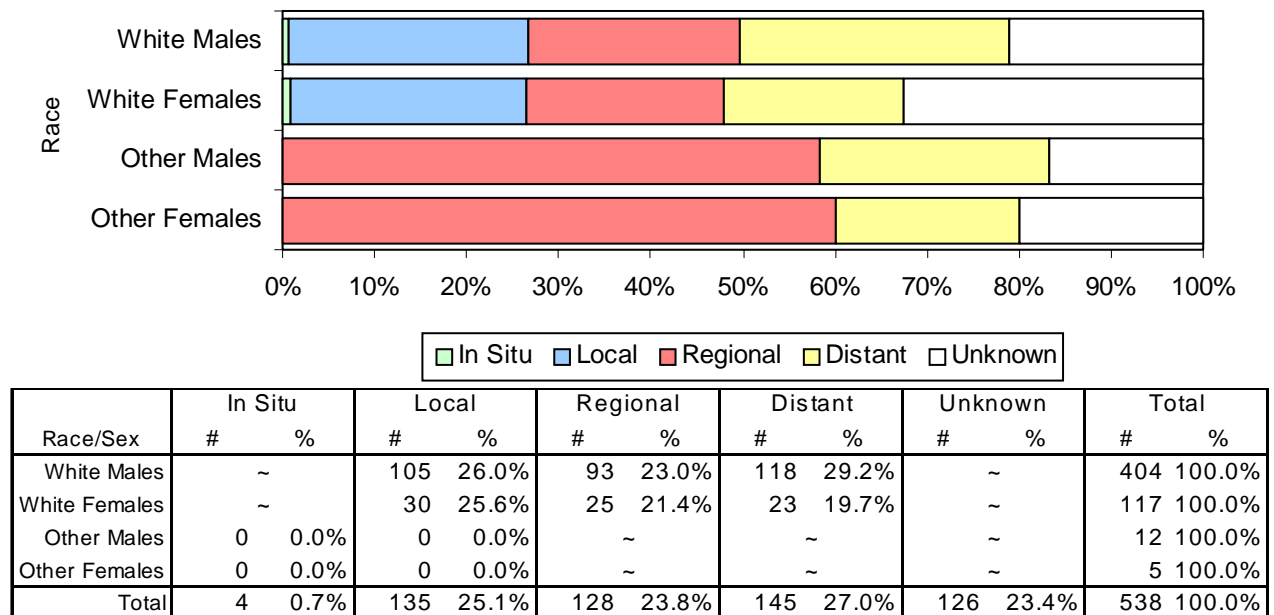
Total may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Figure 7.5

Cancer of the Esophagus

Stage of Disease at Diagnosis by Race and Sex

West Virginia Residents 1997 – 2001



~ Suppressed due to small cell size

Total may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Figure 7.6