



Understanding Liver Cancer

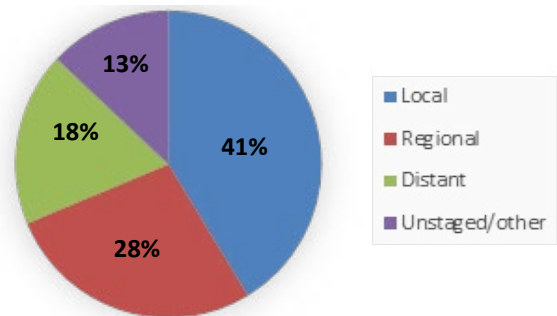
- Liver cancer as a primary cancer is also known as hepatic cancer; it starts in the liver rather than migrating from another organ or part of the body.
- Most liver cancers are secondary or metastatic, meaning it started elsewhere in the body.
- The liver, which is located below the right lung and under the rib cage, is one of the largest organs of the human body.
- All vertebrates (animals with a spinal column) have a liver. Some animals without spinal columns can also have it.
- Primary liver cancer cases account for only 2% of cancers in the U.S., but it counts for half of all cancers in some undeveloped countries.
- In the U.S., primary liver cancer strikes twice as many people at an average age of 67.



Key Facts

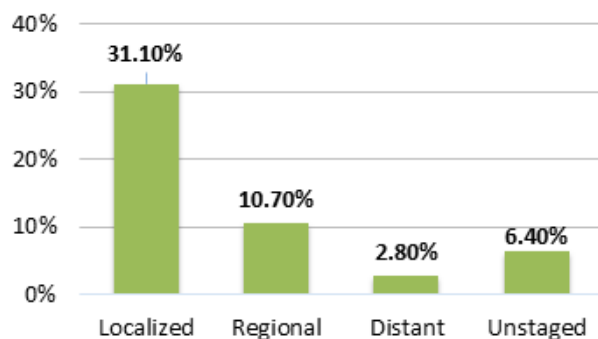
- **Number of New Cases and Deaths nationwide⁴**
The number of new cases of liver and intrahepatic bile duct cancer was 8.6 per 100,000 people per year. The number of deaths was 6.3 per 100,000 people per year. These rates are age-adjusted and based on 2010-2014 cases and deaths.
- **Number of New Cases and Deaths in Virginia⁵**
The number of new cases of liver and intrahepatic bile duct cancer was 6.5 per 100,000 people per year. The number of deaths was 5.6 per 100,000 people per year. These rates are age-adjusted and based on 2010-2014 cases and deaths.
- **Lifetime Risk of Developing Cancer⁴**
Approximately 1% of men and women will be diagnosed with liver and intrahepatic bile duct cancer at some point during their lifetime, based on 2012-2014 data.

Percentage of Liver Cancer by Stage, Virginia 2010-2014



Data source: Virginia Cancer Registry 2010-2014

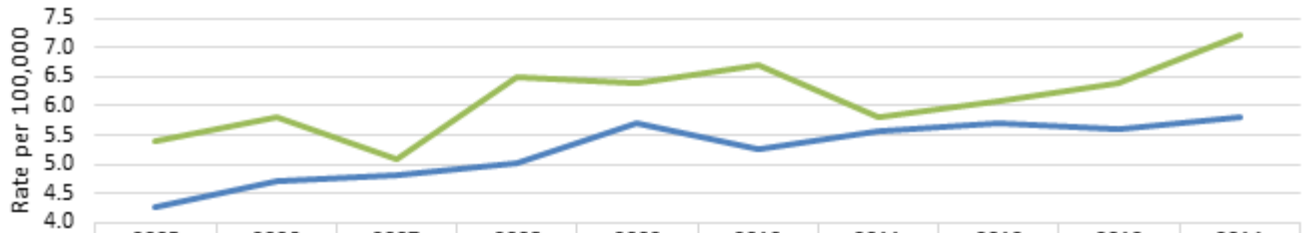
Percentage of 5-year Relative Survival, U.S.



Data source: SEER 18 2007-2013, All Races, Both Sexes by SEER Summary Stage 2000



Liver Cancer Incidence and Mortality Rate, All Sex, Virginia



	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Incidence	5.4	5.8	5.1	6.5	6.4	6.7	5.8	6.1	6.4	7.2
Mortality	4.3	4.7	4.8	5.0	5.7	5.3	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.8

Data source: Incidence, Virginia Cancer Registry; Mortality, Virginia Vital Records, 2005-2014

Frequently Asked Questions

What are some of the main risk factors for liver cancer in the United States?

Heavy alcohol use, obesity, anabolic steroid use, chronic (long-term) infection with hepatitis B virus (HBV) or hepatitis C virus (HCV) are some of the main risk factors for liver cancer.

Is liver cancer hereditary?

People with hereditary hemochromatosis absorb too much iron from their food. The iron settles in tissues throughout the body, including the liver. If enough iron builds up in the liver, it can lead to cirrhosis and liver cancer.

Why is liver cancer more prevalent in other parts of the world?

Worldwide, the most common risk factor for liver cancer is chronic (long-term) infection with hepatitis B virus (HBV) or hepatitis C virus (HCV). These infections lead to cirrhosis of the liver and are responsible for making liver cancer the most common cancer in many parts of the world.

Putting a Face on Liver Cancer

Although it is always a tragedy when someone dies from any kind of cancer, below are some of the notable people we recently lost to liver cancer.

Percy Sledge | Motown Superstar | November 25, 1940 - April 14, 2015

Gregg Allman | The Allman Brothers Band | December 8, 1947 - May 27, 2017

David Bowie | Rock Singer | January 8, 1947 - January 10, 2016

References

1. cancer.org/cancer/liver-cancer/about/what-is-key-statistics.html
2. medicalnewstoday.com/articulos/172408.php
3. webmd.com/cancer/understanding-liver-cancer-basic-information?print=true
4. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Deaths_from_liver_cancer
8. US data: https://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/livibd.html
9. VA Rate (Incidence): Virginia Cancer Registry. Based on combined 2010-2014 data. VA Rate (Mortality): VDH Division of Health Statistics. Based on combined 2010-2014 dat. Both rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population.