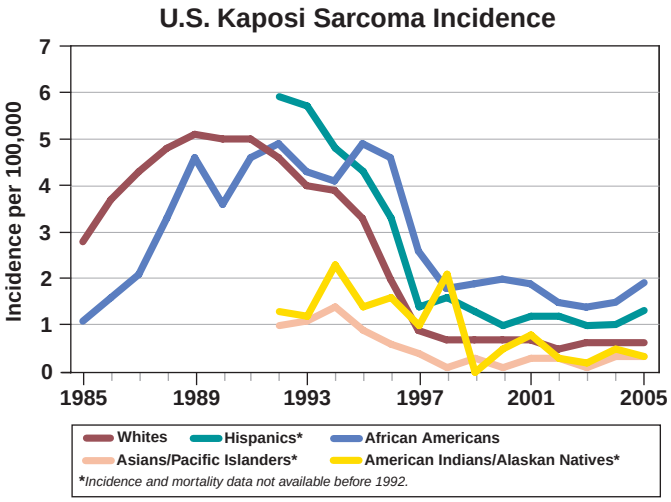
A Snapshot of Kaposi Sarcoma

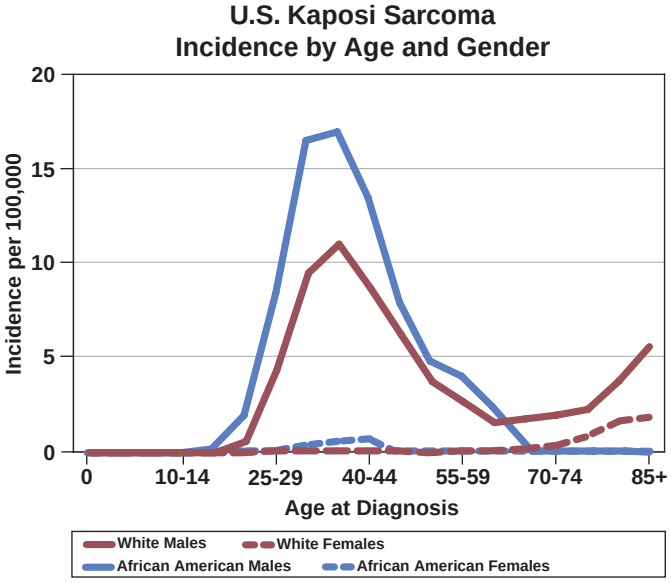
Incidence Rate Trends

Kaposi sarcoma (KS) is a soft-tissue sarcoma that affects the skin, oral cavity, esophagus, and anal canal. "Classic" KS is rare and is found mainly in older men of Mediterranean or Jewish heritage. Immunosuppressed individuals are also at increased risk for KS. The incidence of KS rose sharply in the 1980s with the emergence of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), and it is now the most common tumor associated with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Scientists have identified a virus, called Kaposi sarcoma-associated herpesvirus (KSHV), that is believed to cause KS in immunocompromised individuals.

The incidence of KS rose dramatically between the mid-1980s and early 1990s as the AIDS epidemic grew. Incidence dropped equally dramatically between the mid-1990s and 2000 and has remained relatively stable since then. Men are much more likely to develop KS than women, particularly between the ages of 25 and 59. Since 2000, the incidence has been highest in African Americans and lowest in Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Source for incidence data: Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program and the National Center for Health Statistics. Additional statistics and charts are available at http://seer.cancer.gov/.



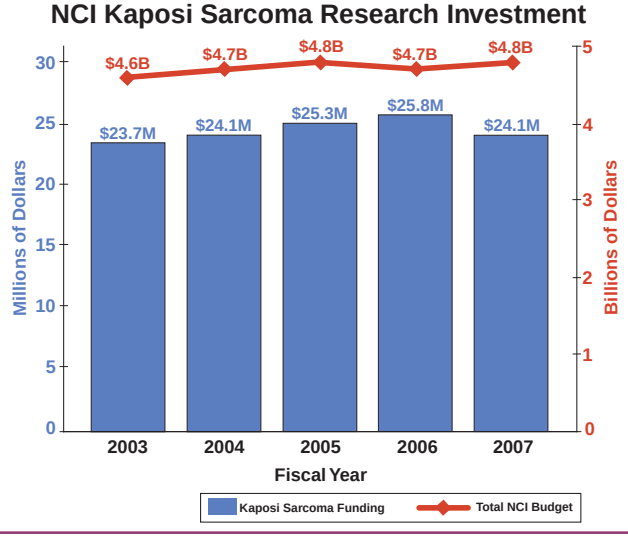


Trends in NCI Funding for Kaposi Sarcoma Research

The National Cancer Institute's (NCI's) investment[1] in KS research increased slightly from $23.7 million in fiscal year 2003 to $24.1 million in fiscal year 2007.

Source: NCI Office of Budget and Finance (http://obf.cancer.gov/).

[1]The estimated NCI investment is based on funding associated with a broad range of peer-reviewed scientific activities. For additional information on research planning and budgeting at the National Institutes of Health, see http://www.nih.gov/about/.

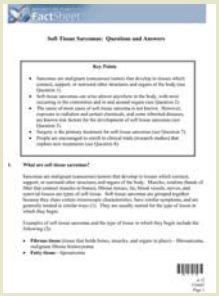


Developed by NCI's Office of Science Planning and Assessment (OSPA) with assistance from SAIC. Snapshots can be found online at: http://planning.cancer.gov/disease/snapshots.shtml.

Examples of NCI Activities Relevant to Kaposi Sarcoma

- NCI is supporting research on **Malignancies in AIDS and Acquired Immune Suppression**. This research is addressing the biological basis of development and progression of cancer in the context of HIV infection and AIDS. http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/pa-07-173.html
- The **AIDS Malignancy Consortium** includes 14 clinical trials sites and their affiliates. These sites are enhancing therapeutic options for patients with AIDS-associated malignancies. http://pub.emmes.com/study/amc/public/index.htm
- The **AIDS Malignancy Program** supports preclinical and clinical studies on the treatment of cancer in HIV-positive and immunocompromised people. http://cancer.gov/dctd/aids
- The **Sarcoma Progress Review Group (PRG)**, a panel of experts and patient advocates, assessed the state of the science and identified future research priorities for all types of sarcoma, including KS. http://planning.cancer.gov/pdfprgreports/2004sarcoma.pdf
- **NCI's Infections and Immunoepidemiology Branch** conducts high-impact epidemiologic research on infectious agents and cancer, including KS and other HIV/AIDS-associated malignancies. Projects include linkages of population-based AIDS and cancer registration data covering nearly half of the U.S. AIDS population and estimates of the magnitude and types of cancer among people with HIV/AIDS in India. http://dceg.cancer.gov/veb

Questions and Answers on Soft Tissue Sarcoma



For additional information on suspected risk factors, possible causes, and NCI research studies in soft tissue sarcoma (including Kaposi sarcoma), see NCI's Fact Sheet on Soft Tissue Sarcoma.

http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/Sites-Types/soft-tissue-sarcoma

Information specialists can also answer your questions about cancer at 1-800-4-CANCER.

- The **AIDS Virus Studies Program** supports studies on the role of HIV and related viruses in the development of AIDS-associated cancers. http://dcb.nci.nih.gov//branchdetail.cfm?branch=35
- The **Center of Excellence in HIV/AIDS and Cancer Virology** facilitates and communicates advances in antiviral and immunologic approaches for preventing and treating HIV infection, AIDS-related malignancies, and cancer-associated viral diseases. http://ccr.ncifcrf.gov/initiatives/CEHIV/
- The **AIDS-Related Cancers Home Page** provides up-to-date information on treatment options for AIDS-related cancers such as KS. http://cancer.gov/cancerinfo/types/AIDS

Selected Advances in Kaposi Sarcoma Research

- After highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) became available in 1996, the incidence of KS per 100,000 person-years declined. http://dceg.cancer.gov/newsletter/Linkage0308.html#article12
- Researchers identified the mechanism by which KSHV regulates the network of blood vessels to promote KS development. http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17287278
- The KSHV proteins K3 and K5 suppress two types of immunity; this allows the virus to avoid attacks by the body's immune system. http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17166914