

**KAPOSI'S
SARCOMA**

Kaposi's sarcoma is a soft tissue sarcoma that was rarely diagnosed in the United States before the AIDS epidemic. It occurs primarily on the skin but may also be found in other parts of the body such as the oral cavity, esophagus, and anal canal. A small number of cases occur in organs such as the lung and stomach. Rates reported here are for all cases of Kaposi's sarcoma, regardless of the site or organ in

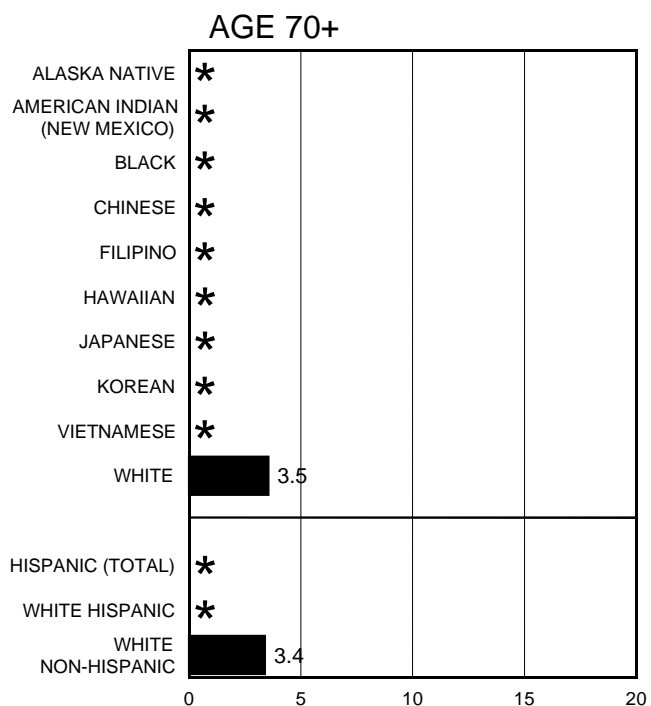
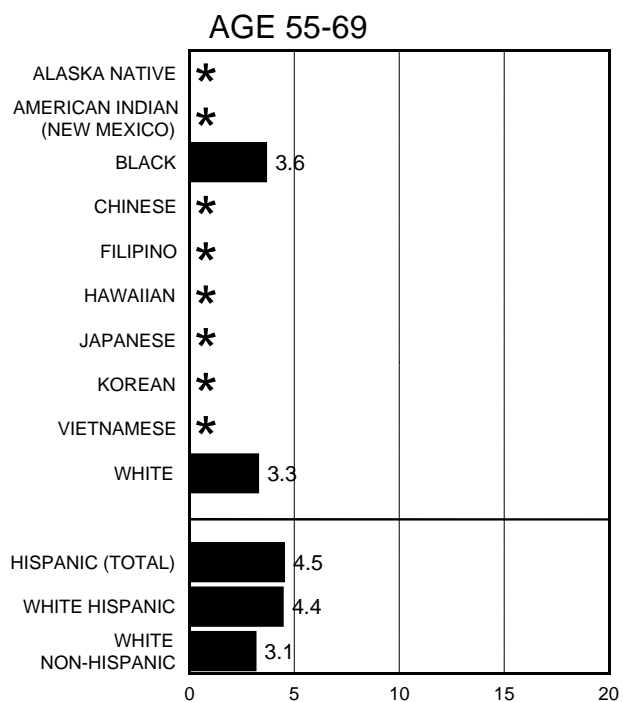
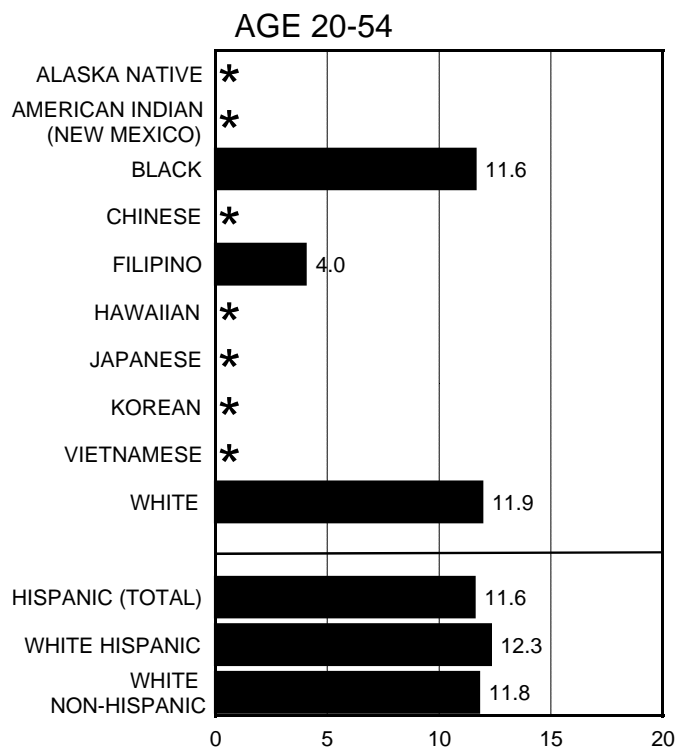
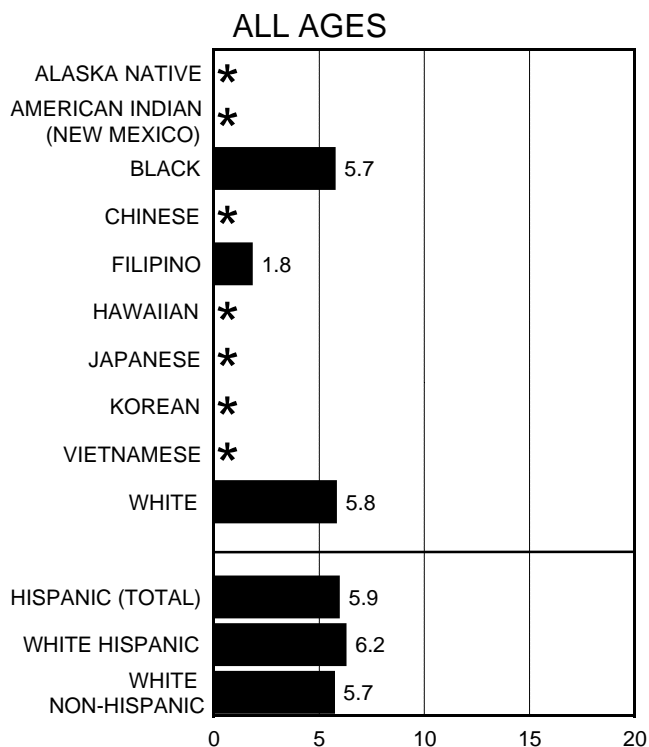
which the disease arose. Patients with multiple skin lesions are reported only once. Mortality data for this cancer are not separately identifiable through current conventional mortality coding practices.

Age-adjusted incidence rates are calculated only for white, black, and Hispanic populations and for Filipino men due to small numbers of cases in other groups. Rates among white, black and Hispanic men are essentially equal, 5.7 to 5.9 per 100,000, while the rate among Filipino men is lower, at 1.8. Rates among women are negligible, 0.3 or less, and are not shown. Incidence rates for Kaposi's sarcoma are highest in the youngest age group (20-54 years), are considerably lower in 55-69 year age group and remain low in the 70 year and older age group.

In the age group 20-54 years, Kaposi's sarcoma is most frequently diagnosed among persons who test positive for the human immunovirus (HIV). In fact, Kaposi's sarcoma is currently such a widely recognized part of the AIDS sequelae that the incidence may be under reported because skin lesions are easily recognizable to the naked eye, may not be biopsied for pathologic confirmation, and therefore, may not be reported to a cancer registry. Before the AIDS epidemic, Kaposi's sarcoma was most commonly diagnosed in older white men of eastern European and middle eastern origin.

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SEER INCIDENCE Rates Among Men by Age at Diagnosis, 1988-1992



NOTE: Rates are per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to 1970 U.S. standard; * = rate not calculated when fewer than 25 cases.