

# INFLUENCE OF DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS AND PLACE OF RESIDENCE ON CANCER PATIENTS SURVIVAL INEQUALITIES IN LITHUANIA

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**Background and Aims:** Health disparities exist according to an individual's place of residence and demographic characteristics. We evaluated the influence of demographic characteristics and place of residence on cancer patient's survival in Lithuania.

**Methods:** In the study group were used individual cancer registry records of patients who were diagnosed with stomach, colorectal, lung, breast and prostate cancers in the period 1998-2002. Survival rates were obtained through the Kaplan-Meier estimation method and compared using the log-rank test. Adverse influences on survival were investigated using Cox proportional hazards models.

**Results:** Survival outcomes of patients with cancer in Lithuania were associated with demographic characteristics and place of residence. Better survival was associated with female sex, younger age of patients and urban residence. Highest mortality risk was found for rural residents and for patients 65 years and older.

**Conclusions:** The findings suggest that patients who live in rural areas and are elderly have poorer chances of survival from stomach, colorectal, lung, breast or prostate cancer. High-risk patients from rural areas and elderly patients may benefit from better coordination of care.