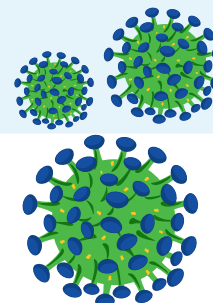


Cancer Burden Among People Living with HIV

Individuals living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) have a higher risk of developing certain cancers. The higher risk is attributed to HIV infection, which weakens the immune system, as well as the greater prevalence of certain risk factors (e.g., smoking) among this population.

- HIV-infected individuals have a significantly elevated risk of Kaposi sarcoma (KS), non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL), and cervical cancer. These are referred to as AIDS-defining cancers because they are linked to and/or worsened by HIV-associated immunosuppression.
- HIV-infected individuals also have an elevated risk for certain other cancers, such as anal, liver, and lung cancer. These are considered non-AIDS-defining cancers.



Since the introduction of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) for treatment of HIV in 1996, the epidemiology of HIV-associated cancers has evolved substantially.

- For example, prior to HAART (1991-1995), HIV-infected people had a 2,800-fold higher risk for KS compared to the general population. Since HAART (2000-2010) there has been steady decline in incidence of KS; however, rates remain 800-fold higher than in the general population.
- Decline in mortality among HIV-infected individuals since the introduction of HAART has resulted in the growth and aging of this population. In 1996, 2.5 percent of people with AIDS in the U.S. were ≥ 60 years old compared to 15.4 percent in 2013.



Because cancer risk increases with age, the burden of cancer in HIV-infected people has also increased.

- While the incidence of AIDS-defining cancers is declining because of better management of disease through HAART, incidence of non-AIDS-defining cancers, those with high prevalence among people with HIV (e.g., anal or lung cancer) as well as those that are common in the general population (e.g., breast or prostate cancer), is increasing.
- An estimated 134,986 years of life were lost to cancers during 2006-2015 among individuals living with HIV.

As the population living with HIV continues to grow and age, the burden of cancers, particularly non-AIDS-defining cancers, will continue to rise. **It is estimated that in 2030, the most common cancers among HIV-infected population will be prostate, lung, and liver cancer.** It is imperative that public health experts focus on improving cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment for this population.