

Incidence rates for nonmalignant tumors, which disproportionately affect women and Black people, are slowly increasing, likely due to improvements in case finding and increased awareness. For example, incidence rates for meningioma, which accounts for 54% of all nonmalignant cases in the U.S., increased

by 0.9% annually among adults from 2008 to 2017. Though 5-year relative survival for all nonmalignant tumors remains high (92%), patients often experience debilitating long-term effects from their tumor and/or its treatment.

The report also found persisting disparities among children. For example, mortality rates are the same in White and Black children despite lower incidence in Black children, reflecting lower 5-year survival (70% versus 79%, respectively). The largest Black-White disparities for children diagnosed during 2009 to 2015 were for diffuse astrocytomas (75% versus 86%, respectively) and embryonal tumors (59% versus 67%).

“Although the molecular understanding of how brain cancers differ from each other is advancing rapidly, we continue to know little about why these tumors develop in the first place. To facilitate greater understanding, it critical to have access to timely, comprehensive data on occurrence,” said Miller. “This is particularly important to understand the causes of sex, age, and racial/ethnic differences, especially for rarer subtypes and among understudied populations.”

The report also noted differences in incidence by sex:

- Malignant brain tumor incidence rates were higher in males (8.3 cases per 100,000) compared to females (6.0).
- Conversely, incidence rates for nonmalignant tumors were higher in females (20.3) compared to males (12.8).
- For malignant tumors, sex differences were largest among ages 45 years or older, among whom rates in females were 30% lower than those in males.
- For nonmalignant tumors, sex differences peaked in ages 25-29 years, among whom rates in females were >2-fold those in males (10.2 versus 4.7 per 100,000), a pattern driven by high pituitary adenoma rates in females in this age group.

Article (<https://acsjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.3322/caac.21693>): Miller KD, Ostrom QT, Kruchko C, Patil N, Tihan T, Cioffi G, Fuchs HE, Waite K, Jemal A, Siegel RL, Barnholtz-Sloan JS. Brain and Other Central Nervous System Tumor Statistics, 2021. *CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians*. doi: 10.3322.caac.21693.

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