analysis of tumor registry data. If cancer cells are present only in the layer of cells where they developed and have not spread, the stage is in situ. If cancer cells have penetrated the original layer of tissue, the cancer is invasive and categorized as local, regional, or distant stage. (For a description of the summary stage categories, see the footnotes in the table on page 17, Five-year Relative Survival Rates (%) by Stage at Diagnosis, 2001-2007.) As the molecular properties of cancer have become better understood, prognostic models and treatment plans for some cancer sites (e.g., breast) have incorporated the tumor’s biological markers and genetic features in addition to stage.

What Are the Costs of Cancer?
The National Institutes of Health (NIH) estimates that the overall costs of cancer in 2007 were $226.8 billion: $103.8 billion for direct medical costs (total of all health expenditures) and $123.0 billion for indirect mortality costs (cost of lost productivity due to premature death). PLEASE NOTE: These estimates are not comparable to those published in previous years because as of 2011, the NIH is using a different data source: the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. The MEPS estimates are based on more current, nationally representative data and are used extensively in scientific publications. As a result, direct and indirect costs will no longer be projected to the current year, and estimates of indirect morbidity costs have been discontinued. For more information, please visit nhlbi.nih.gov/about/factpdf.htm.

Lack of health insurance and other barriers prevents many Americans from receiving optimal health care. According to the US Census Bureau, almost 51 million Americans were uninsured in 2009; almost one-third of Hispanics (32%) and one in 10 children (17 years of age and younger) had no health insurance coverage. Uninsured patients and those from ethnic minorities are substantially more likely to be diagnosed with cancer at a later stage, when treatment can be more extensive and more costly. For more information on the relationship between health insurance and cancer, see Cancer Facts & Figures 2008, Special Section, available online at cancer.org/statistics.

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**Age-adjusted Cancer Death Rates,* Females by Site, US, 1930-2008**

*Per 100,000, age adjusted to the 2000 US standard population. † Uterus cancer death rates are for uterine cervix and uterine corpus combined.

**Note:** Due to changes in ICD coding, numerator information has changed over time. Rates for cancer of the lung and bronchus, colon and rectum, and ovary are affected by these coding changes.


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