

Cancer survival in Europe: data as tools for action



Action Against Cancer
European Partnership 2009-2013

Munich, Germany, 24 October 2009

World Cancer Declaration

UICC, Geneva, August 2008

11 goals for 2020, including:

- There will be major improvements in cancer survival rates in all countries

Progress to be monitored every two years

www.uicc.org/wcd/wcd2008.pdf, 31 August 2008

Making progress against cancer

Causes of cancer

Trends in incidence, survival, mortality

Future projections

Setting priorities

Effective strategies for cancer control

Population-based cancer registry

Attempts to record information on all new cases of cancer in a defined population

Person: habitual resident

Place: defined territory

Time: continuous



Basic measures in epidemiology

Incidence rate

Patients per 100,000 population per year

Mortality rate

Deaths per 100,000 per year

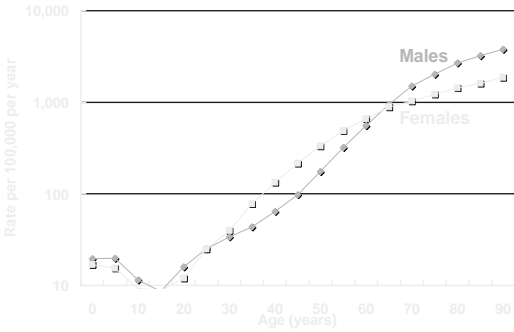
Prevalence

Number of persons with cancer (survivors)

Survival

Probability (percentage) at 1, 5, 10 ... years

Cancer incidence, England & Wales, 1991



Cancer in Europe, 2006

	New cases	Deaths
Europe	3,200,000	1,700,000
EU-25	2,300,000	1,200,000

Over 7 million cancer survivors

WHO data bank 2009 and Ferlay et al., 2007

Cancer in Europe by the year 2020 Year-on-year growth from 2002

	New cases	Increase
No change	3,300,000	+ 20 %
1% rise	4,000,000	+ 40 %
2% rise	4,800,000	+ 70 %

Bray, 2008

NEW HOPE OF CURE FOR ALL CANCERS

Doctors find key to halting tumours

Daily Express
1 Sep 2008, page 1

MILLIONS of cancer sufferers were given fresh hope last night after a breakthrough in research... By Sarah Westcott... reaching implications. Experts have been trying for more than a decade to develop anti-cancer drugs that can target the tumour's growth on its own...



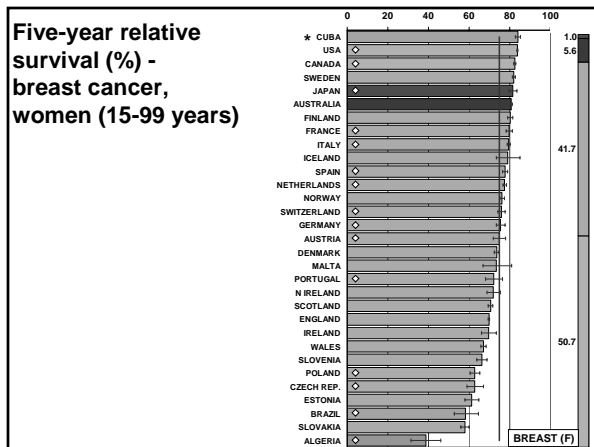
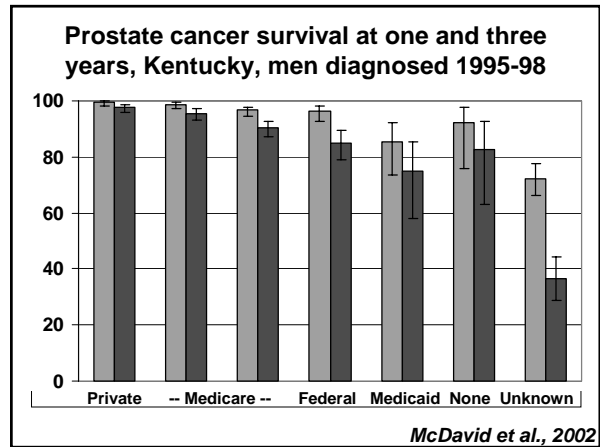
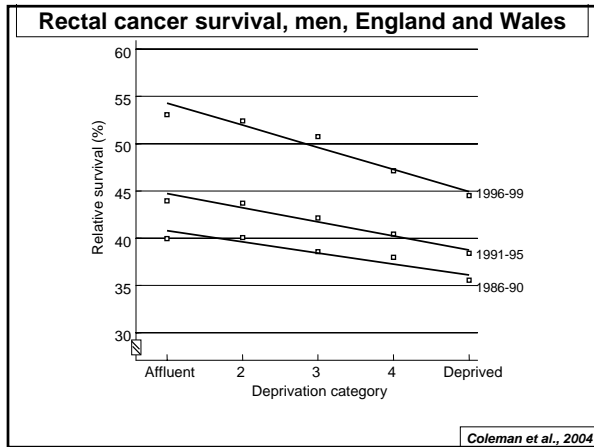
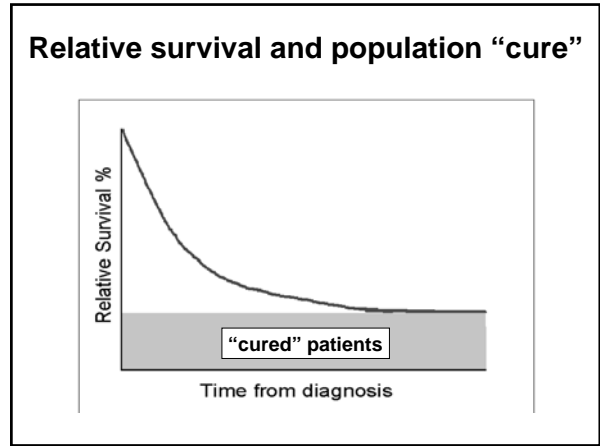
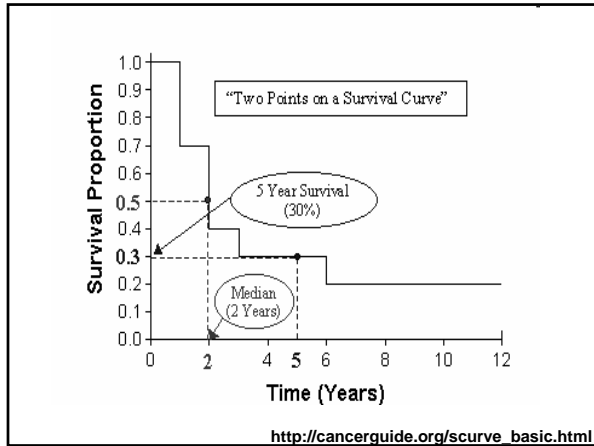
Steve Dunn's cancer guide

Kidney cancer, stage IV, 1989, aged 32

"I found the right information, asked the right questions, and enrolled in the right trial, and it saved my life."

Died 2002 from meningitis (not cancer)

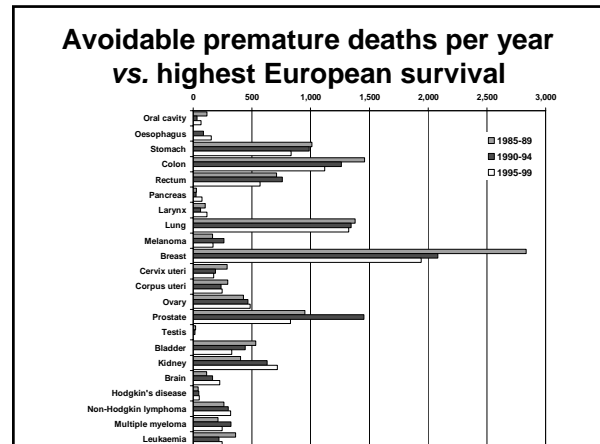
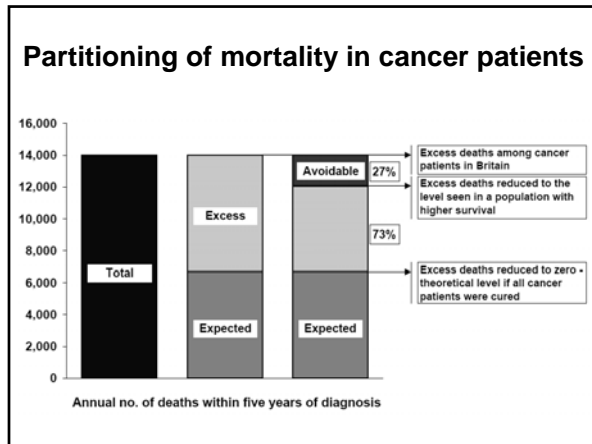
<http://cancerguide.org/index.html>



Avoidable deaths in Britain vs. Europe

How many cancer-related deaths within five years of diagnosis would be expected *not* to occur, if survival in Britain were the same as in other European countries?

Has this avoidable premature mortality changed over time?



Tobacco as a cause of lung cancer - some reflections

“Scientists and physicians cannot be content with discoveries until their beneficial or protective outcome for the population has been fully realized.

... the scientific and medical community must become more proactive in public health matters.”

(Ernst Wynder, 1997)

Variations in cancer outcome

- Public education about cancer symptoms
- Extent of disease at diagnosis
- Changes in disease as diagnosed today
- Screening
- Equality of access to optimal treatment
- Implementation of best practice
- Organisation of treatment services
- Human and financial resources

Need for better cancer surveillance

“Improved cancer registration with increased population coverage at member state level is an essential component for evidence-based decision making within the European Commission.”

Ferlay et al., 2007

Epidemiology – basis of public health

“... philosophers have merely interpreted the world ... ; the point ... is to change it.”

Epidemiologists have often interpreted public health; the *point* is to improve it.

Karl Marx, 1888 (comment written 1845)