Statistics

NON-HODGKIN LYMPHOMA

South Australian 2005 Figures	Males	Females	Total
Number of cases	187	186	373
Number of deaths	82	57	139
Incidence/100,000 (ASR* Aust 2001 Population)	23.0	19.0	20.9
Mortality/100,000 (ASR* Aust 2001 Population)	9.9	5.1	7.3
Risk of developing non Hodgkin Lymphoma (by age 75 yrs.)	1 in 59	1 in 73	1 in 65

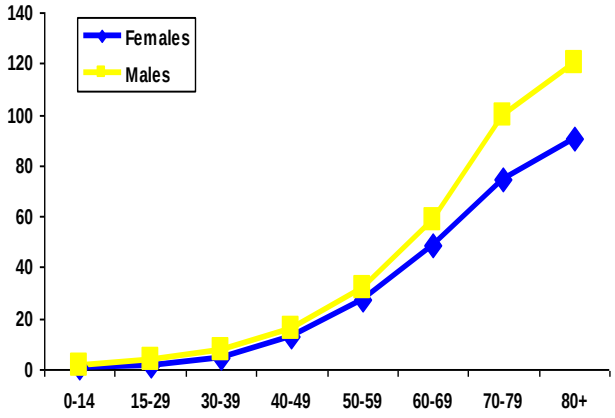
* ASR – Age Standardised Rate

PATTERNS IN INCIDENCE AND MORTALITY

Age

The incidence of non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) increases with increasing age. The highest incidence is among people aged 80 years and over.

Age specific NHL incidence
(Annual average rate/100,000, SA 1995-2005)



Gender

Males are slightly more likely than females to be diagnosed with lymphoma in South Australia. This pattern has been observed in other populations.

Country of birth

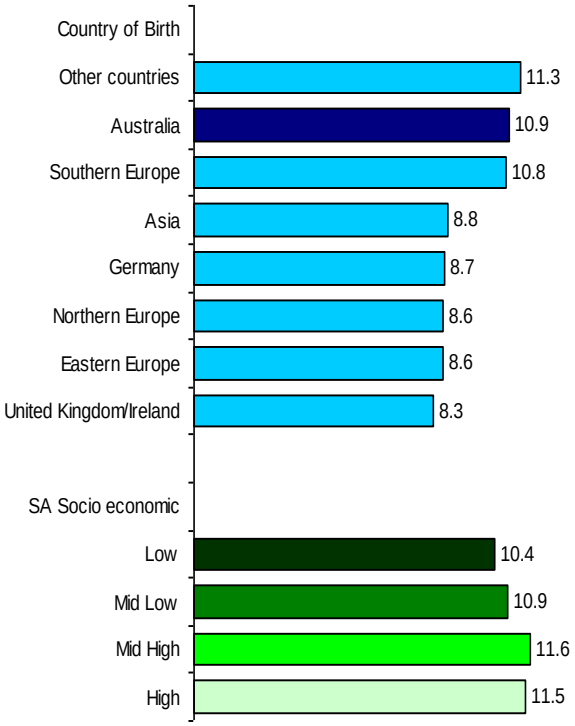
Within South Australia, the incidence of these cancers was almost 20% lower among the overseas born than Australian born during 1977-2000. Residents born in Eastern Europe and the United Kingdom/Ireland contributed to lower rates in the overseas born.

SES/region

Although an upper socio-economic gradient was suggested for these cancers in South Australia in 1977-2001, the difference could have been due to chance.

Meanwhile, Adelaide had an incidence about 12% higher than in country regions in 1977-2001. In particular, low rates were suggested for the Far North and Flinders ranges.

NHL incidence by country of birth and SES

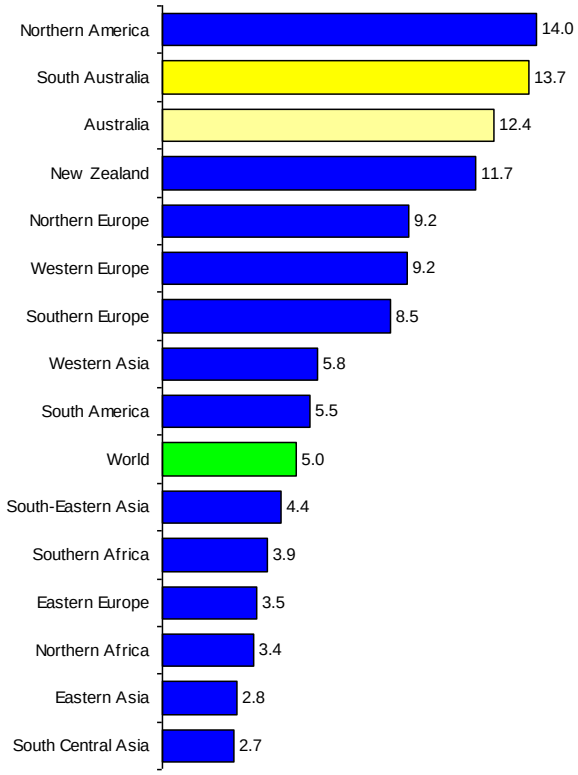


(Annual rate/100,000 – SA 1977-2001 – ASR World Pop.)

GLOBAL COMPARISONS

The incidence of these cancers is high in South Australia by international standards, exceeding rates reported for Africa, Asia, Europe, Central and South America, the United Kingdom/Ireland, and New Zealand. The reason for the relatively high rates is not known.

NHL incidence rate by regions of the world

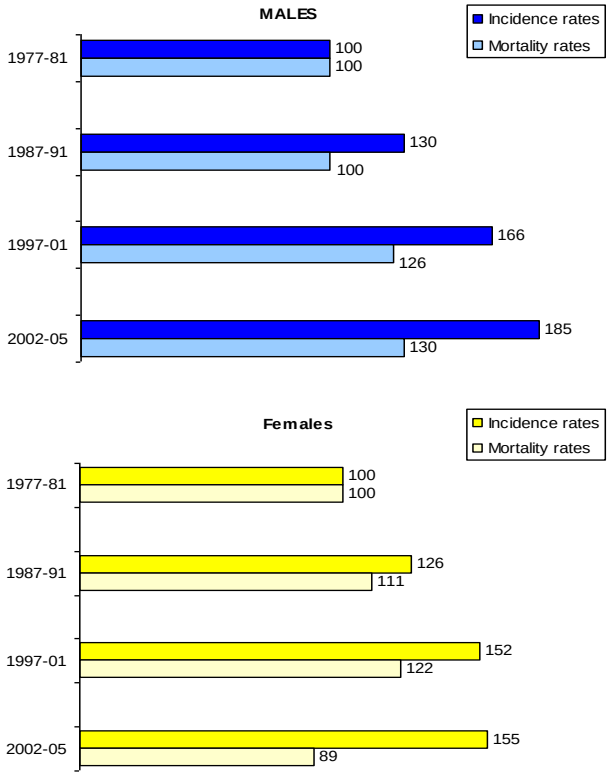


(Rate/100,000 ASR World Pop. Globocan 2002)

TRENDS

Incidence rates have increased by about 70% between 1977-81 and 2002-2005, mostly due to increases for diffuse non Hodgkin's lymphomas. Mortality rates for males have also increased but to a lesser extent than incidence, due to improvements in case survival. There is a suggestion that mortality rates have decreased for females in the most recent period (2002-2005). Increases in incidence have been reported for many western populations. HIV infection has contributed, plus immunosuppression associated with organ transplantation. These factors would explain only a small part of the overall increase, however, and a major research effort is underway to explain the remainder.

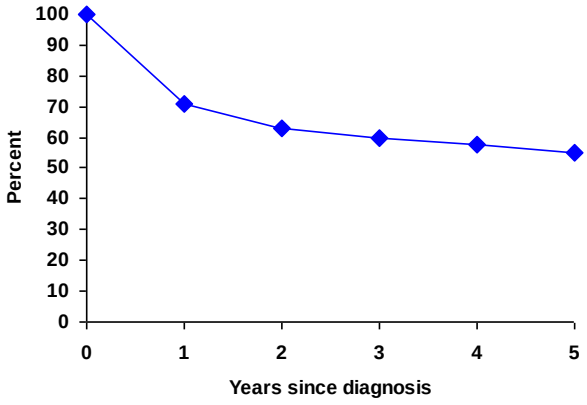
Trends in NHL incidence and mortality in SA (Rates for 1977-81 set at '100')



SURVIVAL

The proportion of South Australians diagnosed with non Hodgkin lymphoma who survived five years from diagnosis increased from 40% for the period 1977-1981, to 55% for the period 1977-2003.

Survival from NHL (SA, 1997-2003)



RISK FACTORS

The causes of non Hodgkin's lymphomas are not known. A malfunctioning immune system may be involved, as a result of HIV infection, or exposure to chemotherapy or drugs designed to suppress the rejection of organ transplants. It is also suspected that lymphocyte damage from certain viral infections may play a part (eg, infection with Human T-Cell Lymphotrophic Virus (HTLV-1) and potentially the Epstein-Barr Virus).