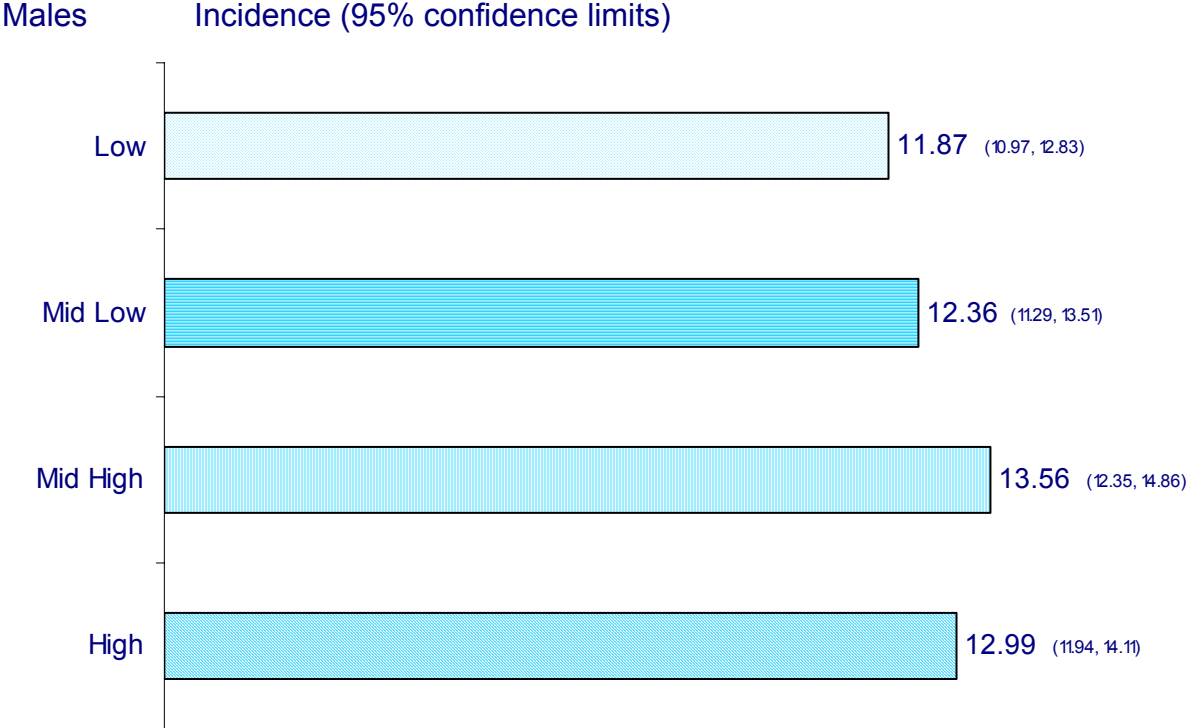


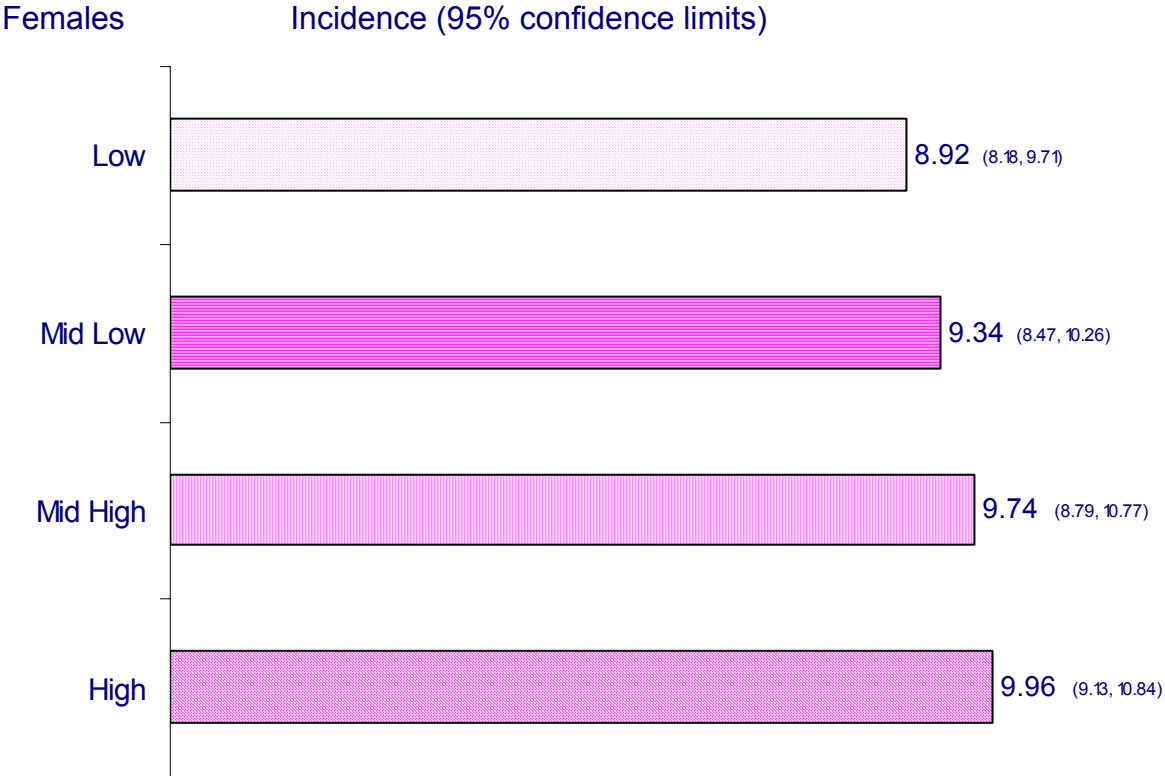
Annual incidence of cancer in South Australia in 1977-2001 by socio-economic status of place or residence per 100,000 (age-standardized to World Population)

Cancer site: **Non-Hodgkin's lymphomas**



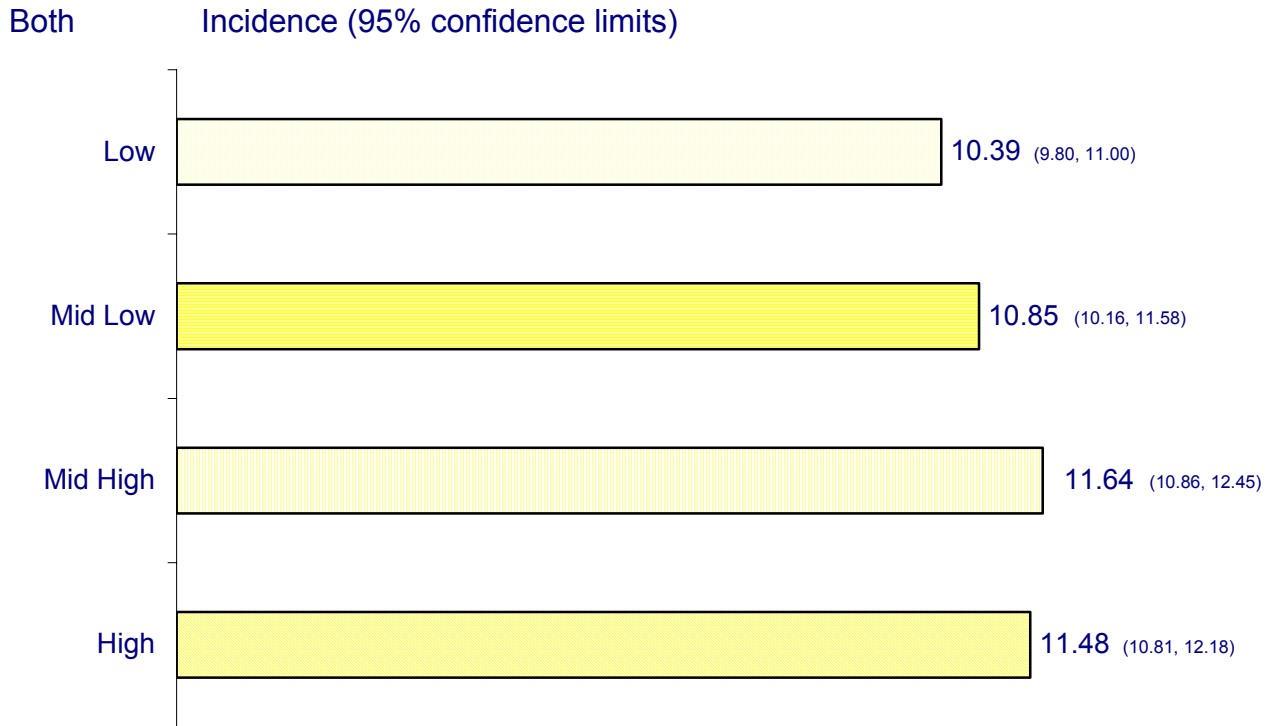
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NON-HODGKIN'S LYMPHOMA

- The incidence of these cancers was high in South Australia by international standards in 1993-97, exceeding rates reported for Africa, Asia, Europe, Central and South America, the United Kingdom/Ireland, and New Zealand.
- 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.
- **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 was generally so in country regions in 1977-2001. In particular, low rates were suggested for the Far North and Flinders ranges.
- Incidence rates increased by about 58% between 1977-81 and 1997-2001, mostly due to increases for diffuse lymphomas. Despite this, mortality rates did not increase, due to improvements in case survival. 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.
- 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 Lymphotropic Virus (HTLV-1) and potentially the Epstein-Barr Virus).