

Multiple Myeloma in Minnesota

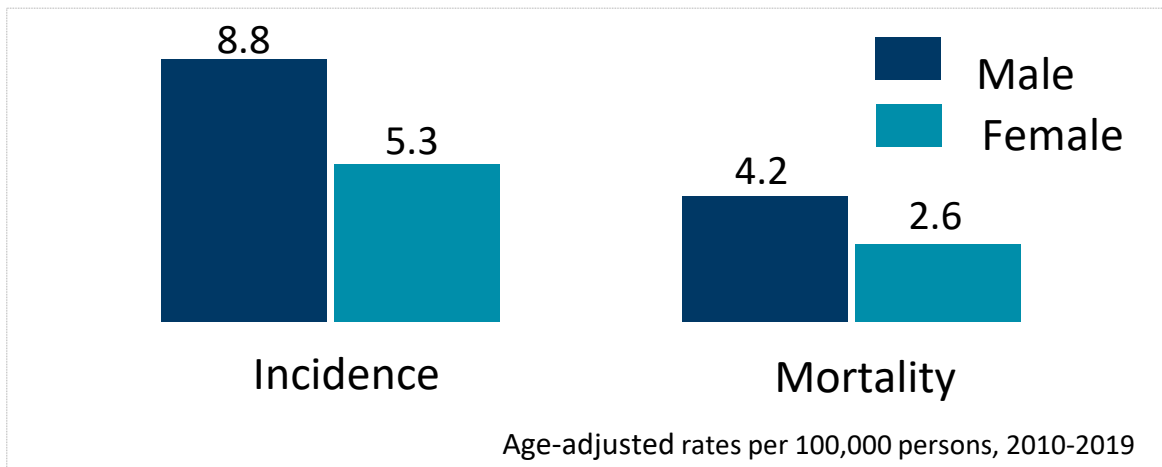
FACT SHEET

Multiple myeloma (myeloma) is a rare blood cancer involving white blood cells called plasma cells. Plasma cells are found in the bone marrow. These cells make antibodies and are an important part of the immune system. When plasma cells grow out of control, they can form tumors in bones. The disease is called multiple myeloma because the disease often involves multiple sites at the time of diagnosis. Myeloma is the fifteenth most common cancer diagnosis in Minnesota and the fourteenth most common cause of death from cancer.

Quick facts

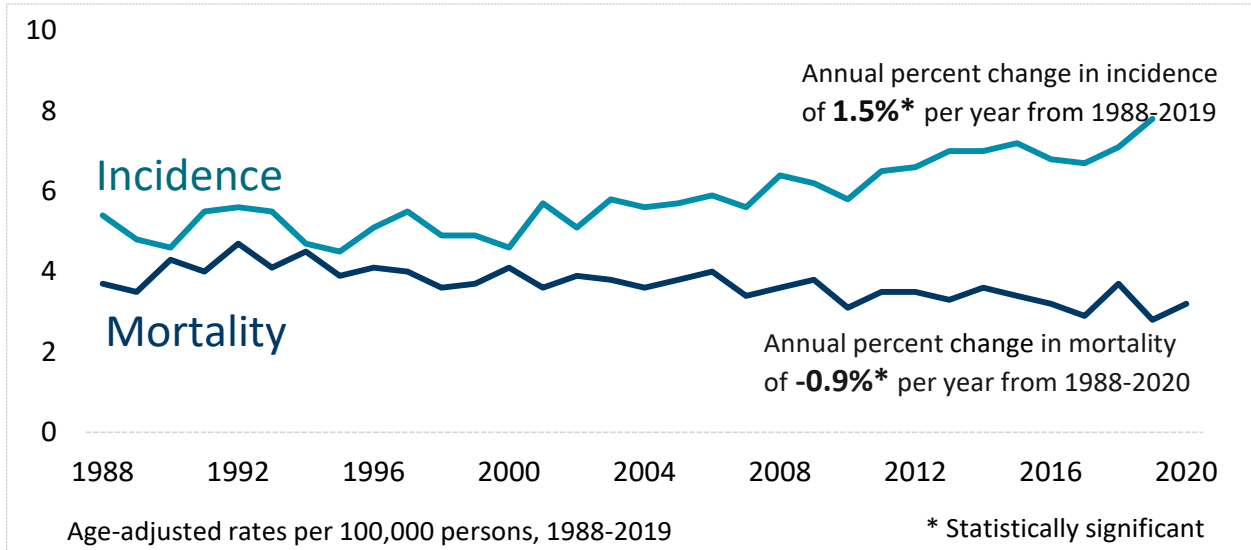
- In Minnesota, over 90% of people diagnosed with myeloma are age 50 and older.
- Each year about 540 Minnesotans will be diagnosed with myeloma and 195 will die from this disease.
- As of 2020, there were an estimated 2,871 Minnesotans living with a myeloma diagnosis.

Males are more likely to be diagnosed with and die from myeloma than females.

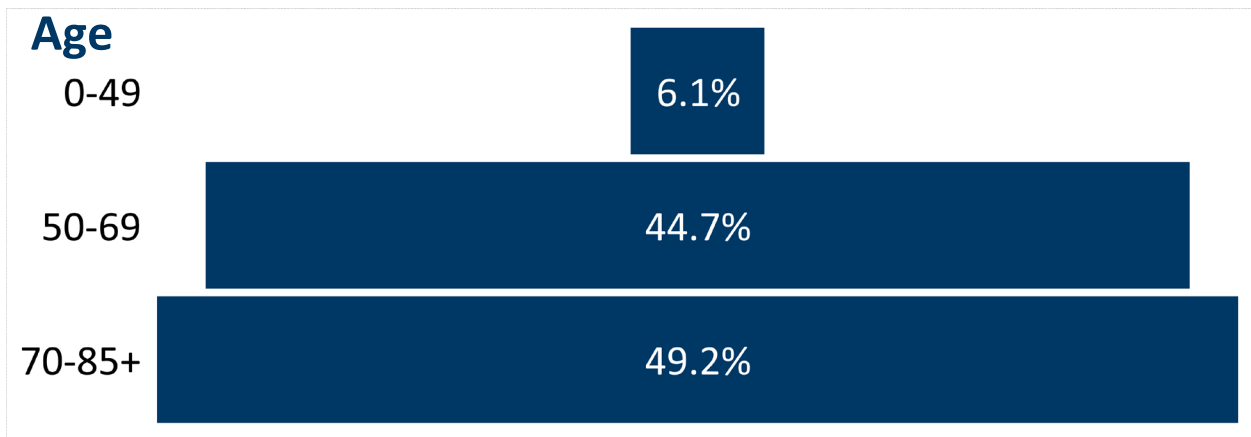


MULTIPLE MYELOMA IN MINNESOTA

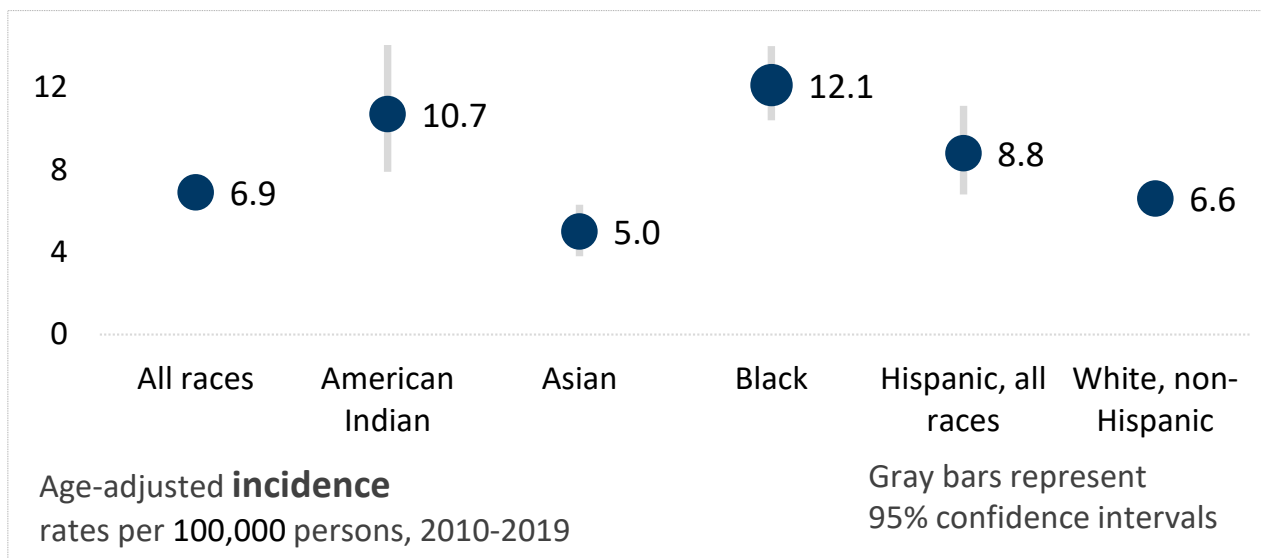
In Minnesota, since 1988, the incidence (new diagnoses) of myeloma has increased while mortality (deaths) has decreased.



More than 90% of Minnesotans diagnosed with myeloma are age 50 and over.

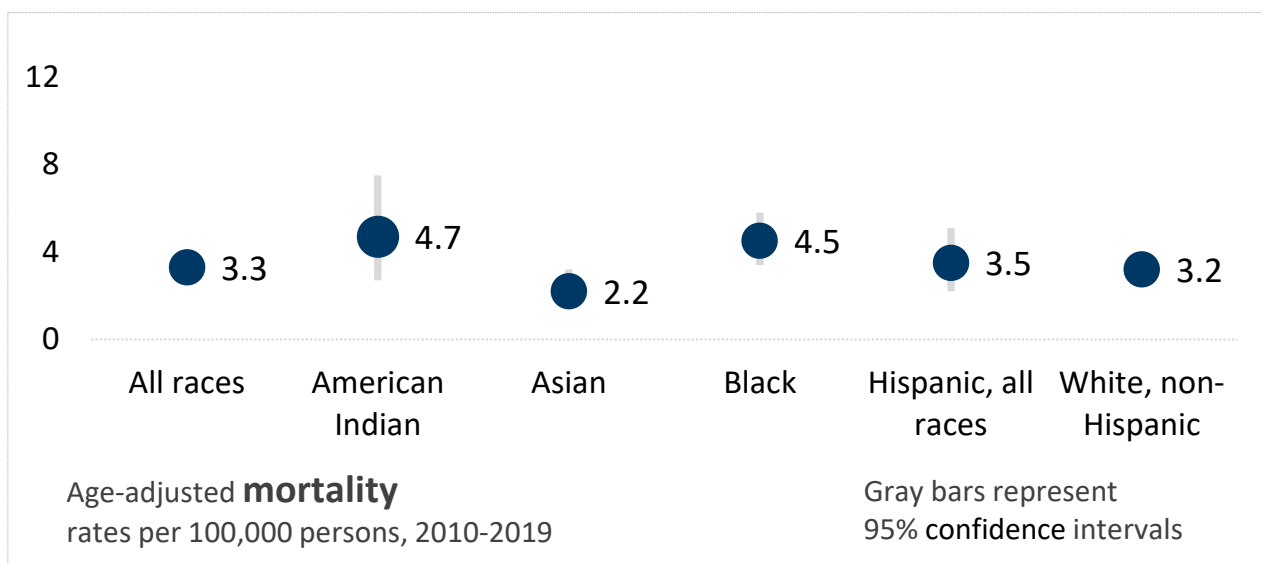


In Minnesota, myeloma incidence (new diagnoses) rates vary by race/ethnicity.

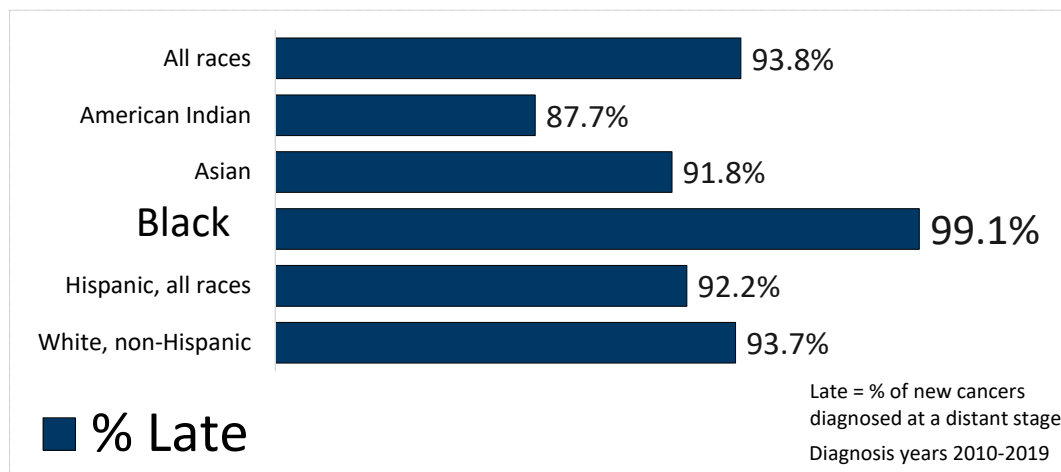


The incidence of melanoma is higher for Minnesotans who are Black and American Indian than for Minnesotans who are Asian or White-non-Hispanic.

In Minnesota, myeloma mortality (death) rates are similar by race/ethnicity.



Many myelomas are diagnosed at a late stage.



More than 90% of myelomas are diagnosed at a late state, and nearly 100% of myelomas are diagnosed in Minnesotans who are Black. Overall, approximately 60% of Minnesotans diagnosed with myeloma will survive at least five years after diagnosis.

Data and sources

- MCRS Cancer Technical Notes (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/mcrs/technicalnotes.html>)
- American Indian refers to American Indian/Alaska Native; Asian refers to Asian/Pacific Islander.

References

- [CDC: Myeloma \(https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/myeloma/index.htm\)](https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/myeloma/index.htm)
- [Leukemia and Lymphoma Society \(https://www.lls.org/myeloma/myeloma-overview\)](https://www.lls.org/myeloma/myeloma-overview)

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Minnesota Department of Health
Minnesota Cancer Reporting System
625 Robert Street North
PO Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
651-201-5900
health.mcrs@state.mn.us
www.health.state.mn.us

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