

# Race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, age contribute to disparities in cancer death

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Factors contributing to disparities in cancer death include race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, geographic location, and age, according to a study published online Nov. 14 in *CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians*.

Farhad Islami, M.D., Ph.D., from the American Cancer Society in Atlanta, and colleagues updated data on racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and geographic disparities in cancer occurrence and outcomes and contributing factors to these disparities.

The researchers found that Black and American Indian/Alaska Native people continued to bear a disproportionately higher burden of cancer deaths overall and from major cancers during 2016 through 2020. Among Black and White men and women, overall [cancer mortality rates](#) were about 1.6 to 2.8 times higher for those with  $\leq 12$  years of education versus those with  $\geq 16$  years of education.

The largest Black-White disparities in overall cancer mortality were seen among individuals with  $\geq 16$  years of education. Substantially higher mortality rates from all cancer and from leading causes of [cancer death](#) were seen in nonmetropolitan areas versus large metropolitan areas; for [colorectal cancer](#), mortality rates were 23 and 21 percent higher among men and women, respectively, in nonmetropolitan areas versus large metropolitan areas.

Greater racial and geographic disparities in cancer mortality were seen for those younger than 65 years versus 65 years of age or older.

"Our research suggests a major role for socioeconomic disparities in racial disparities in cancer mortality," Islami said in a statement. "It also shows substantial disparities in cancer occurrence and outcomes by [geographic location](#), especially in younger ages."

**More information:** Farhad Islami et al, American Cancer Society's report on the status of cancer disparities in the United States, 2023, *CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians* (2023). [DOI: 10.3322/caac.21812](https://doi.org/10.3322/caac.21812)

Shail Maingi et al, Disparities in cancer care: A long way to go, *CA: A*

*Cancer Journal for Clinicians* (2023). [DOI: 10.3322/caac.21822](https://doi.org/10.3322/caac.21822)

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