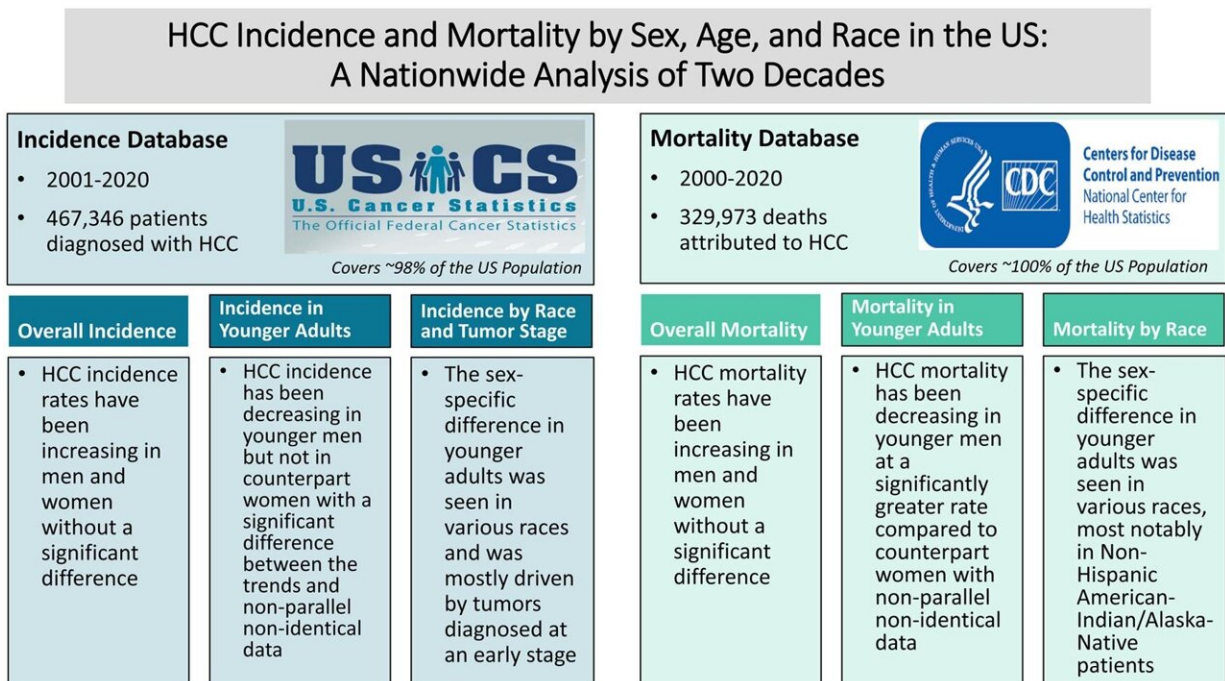


# Hepatocellular carcinoma incidence and mortality in the US by sex, age, and race

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Hepatocellular Carcinoma Incidence and Mortality in the U.S. by Sex, Age, and Race: A Nationwide Analysis of Two Decades. Credit: Yazan Abboud, Nikolaos T. Pysopoulos

Over the past two decades, there has been a significant increase in the incidence of primary liver cancer in the U.S., with higher rates observed in men. Its burden increases with age and disproportionately affects men, with mortality rates three times higher in men than in women. The

higher incidence in men can be partially attributed to a greater prevalence of risk factors such as alcohol abuse and chronic HBV and HCV infections.

A recent study of the Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) database showed rising incidence and mortality of liver cancer in the U.S. from 1975 to 2017. The most notable increase in incidence was observed in men and older adults. The study was recently published in the *Journal of Clinical and Translational Hepatology*.

Another study found varying [mortality rates](#) of HCC across different age-specific populations in recent years. While mortality rates were found to be decreasing in younger individuals, they were increasing in older adults. In addition, liver cancer trends among [racial groups](#) showed increasing incidence and mortality rates from 1975 to 2017, with variations across different race groups.

Given the escalating incidence and mortality of HCC and the observed disparities among age and racial/ethnic groups, analyzing recent trends can aid in identifying high-risk populations, guiding early detection, intervention, and treatment, and ultimately improving patient outcomes.

While current literature offers insight into the increasing incidence and mortality rates of HCC, there remains limited data pertaining to recent sex, age, and racial/ethnic group-specific incidence and mortality rates and time trends. This is especially important given the increasing incidence of several gastrointestinal cancers in younger adults, particularly in younger women.

Therefore, this study aimed to evaluate recent incidence and mortality rates and time trends of HCC in the U.S., focusing on specific sex, age, and race/ethnicity.

Age-adjusted HCC incidence rates were calculated from the Centers for Disease Control's United States Cancer Statistics database, which combines incidence data on newly diagnosed cancer cases and covers approximately 98% of the population in the U.S.. Additionally, age-adjusted HCC mortality rates were obtained from the Centers for Disease Control's National Center for Health Statistics database, which offers comprehensive coverage spanning nearly 100% of deaths attributed to HCC in the U.S..

Rates were stratified by sex, age (older [ $\geq 55$  years] and younger [

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