

Stomach Cancer Prevalence Among African Americans

UMB CURE
Scholars Program

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Purpose of Study

To examine the disparity in the prevalence of stomach cancer in African Americans.

Background Information

- Stomach cancer is a disease where cancer cells form in the lining of the stomach.
- The cancer begins in the innermost mucosa cells and spreads to the outer cells of the stomach.
- Infection with h. Pylori bacteria is the most common cause of stomach cancer.
- It is often diagnosed late as there is no early signs and symptoms.

Symptoms

- Nausea and vomiting
- Heartburn
- Weight loss
- Blood in stool from digested blood
- Stomach pain

Prevention and Screening

- Diet - health diet including fruits and vegetables
- Maintain healthy weight
- Physical activity
- Stop smoking

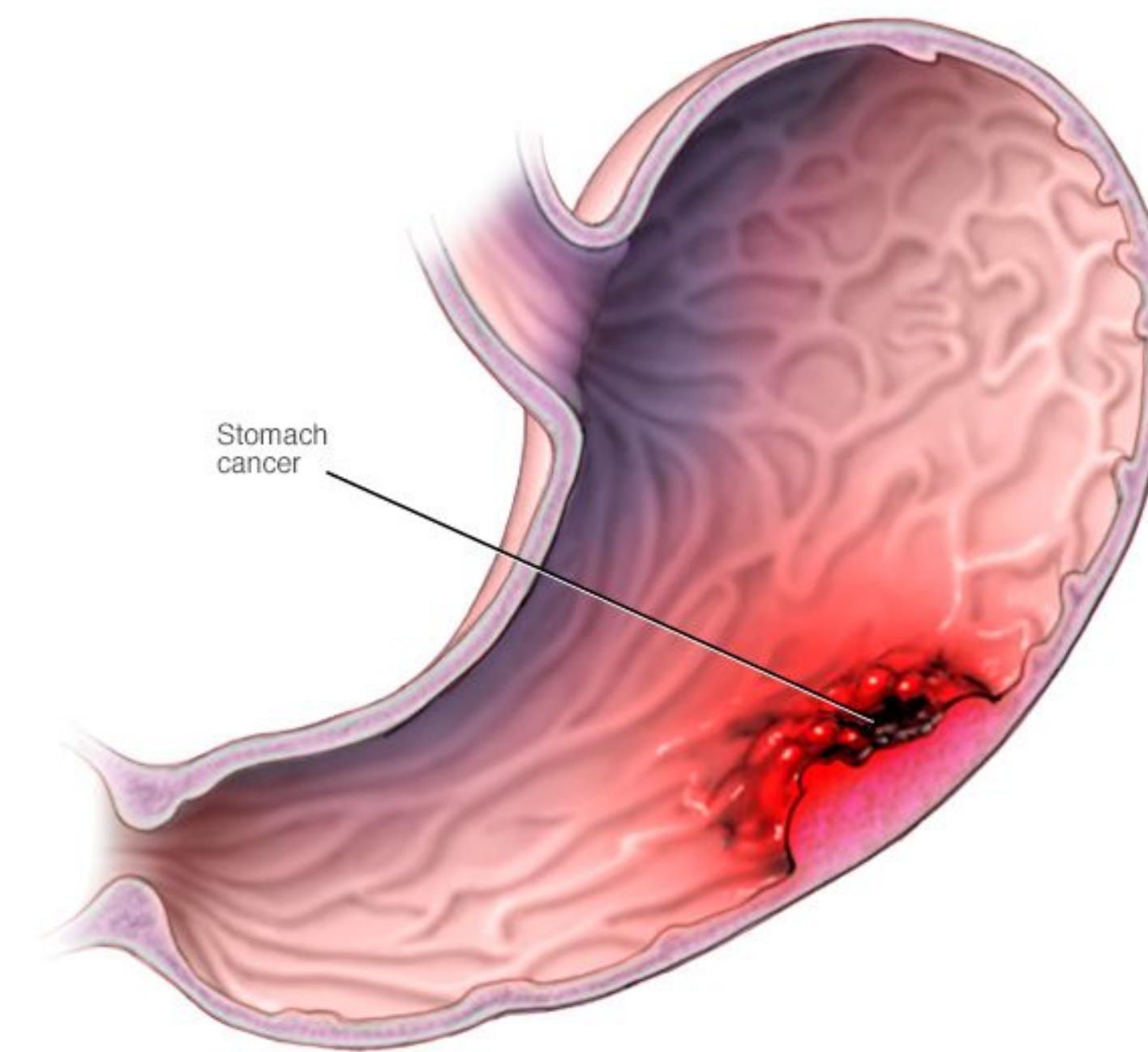


Figure 1. Location of stomach cancer

Treatment

- Surgery-dependng on how much cancer
- Chemotherapy
- Radiation
- Combination of chemotherapy and radiation

Factors Influencing Disparity

- Lack of access to quality healthcare
- Unhealthy diet (high in salty, smoked foods and low in fruits and vegetables)
- Poverty
- Stress
- Cigarette smoking
- Race/sex

Data

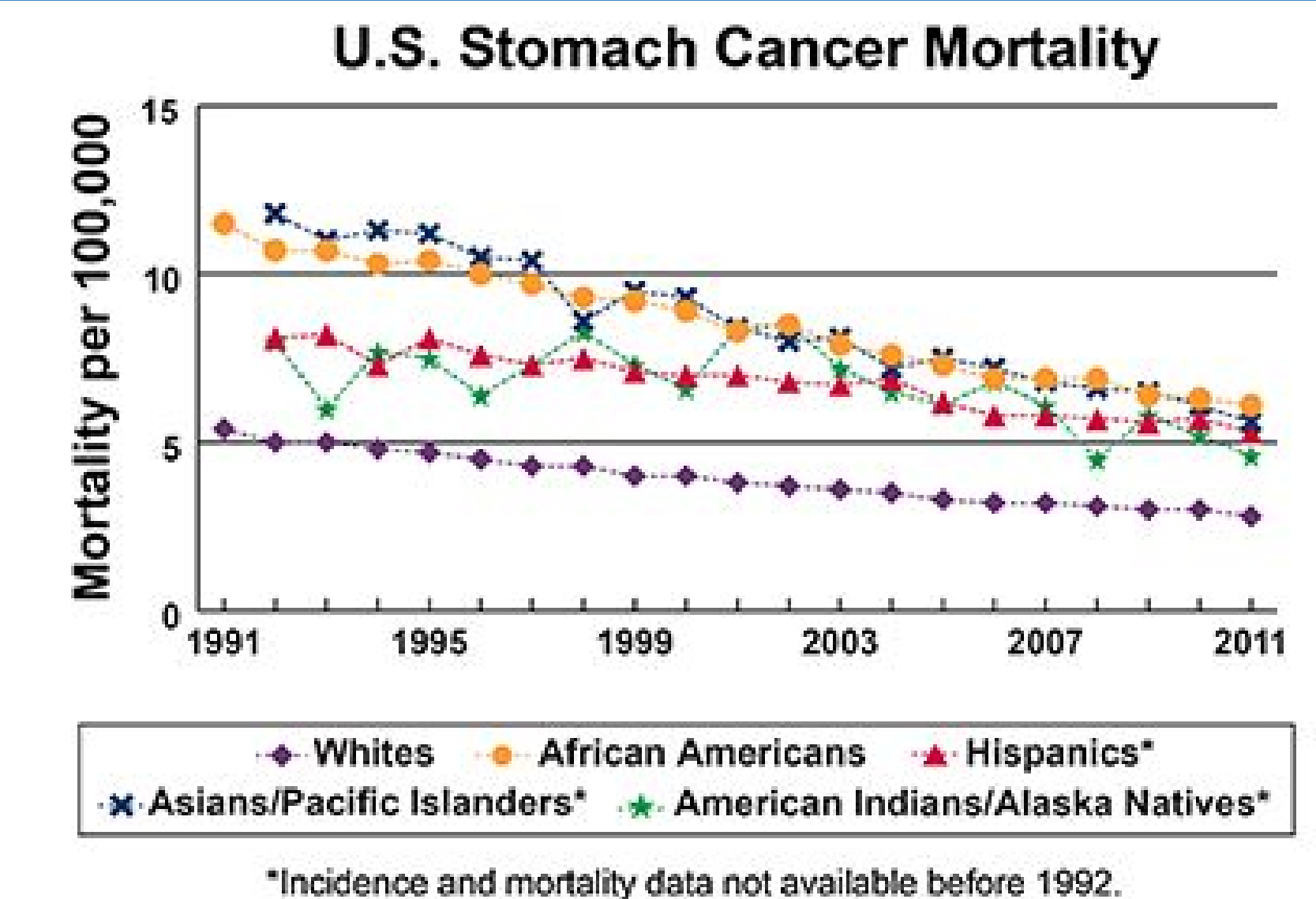


Figure 2. Incidence rates of stomach cancer

Addressing the Disparity

- Educate UMB CURE Scholars.
- Educate families.
- Educate community.
- Become healthcare providers.
- Become cancer researchers.

References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
2. Mayo Clinic
3. National Cancer Institute
4. National Institute of Health