Ovarian Cancer Prevalence Among African Americans

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Purpose of Study

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

Background Information

- Ovaries are reproductive organs in women
- 1 in 75 women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer
- Treatment is very effective in the early stages
- 90% of women who get ovarian cancer are over the age of 40
- It's the 5th leading cancer death for women in the United States

Symptoms

- Abdominal bloating or swelling
- Decreased appetite
- Lower back pain
- Weight loss

Prevention and Screening

- Visit a doctor annually
- Pap smears do not screen for ovarian cancer
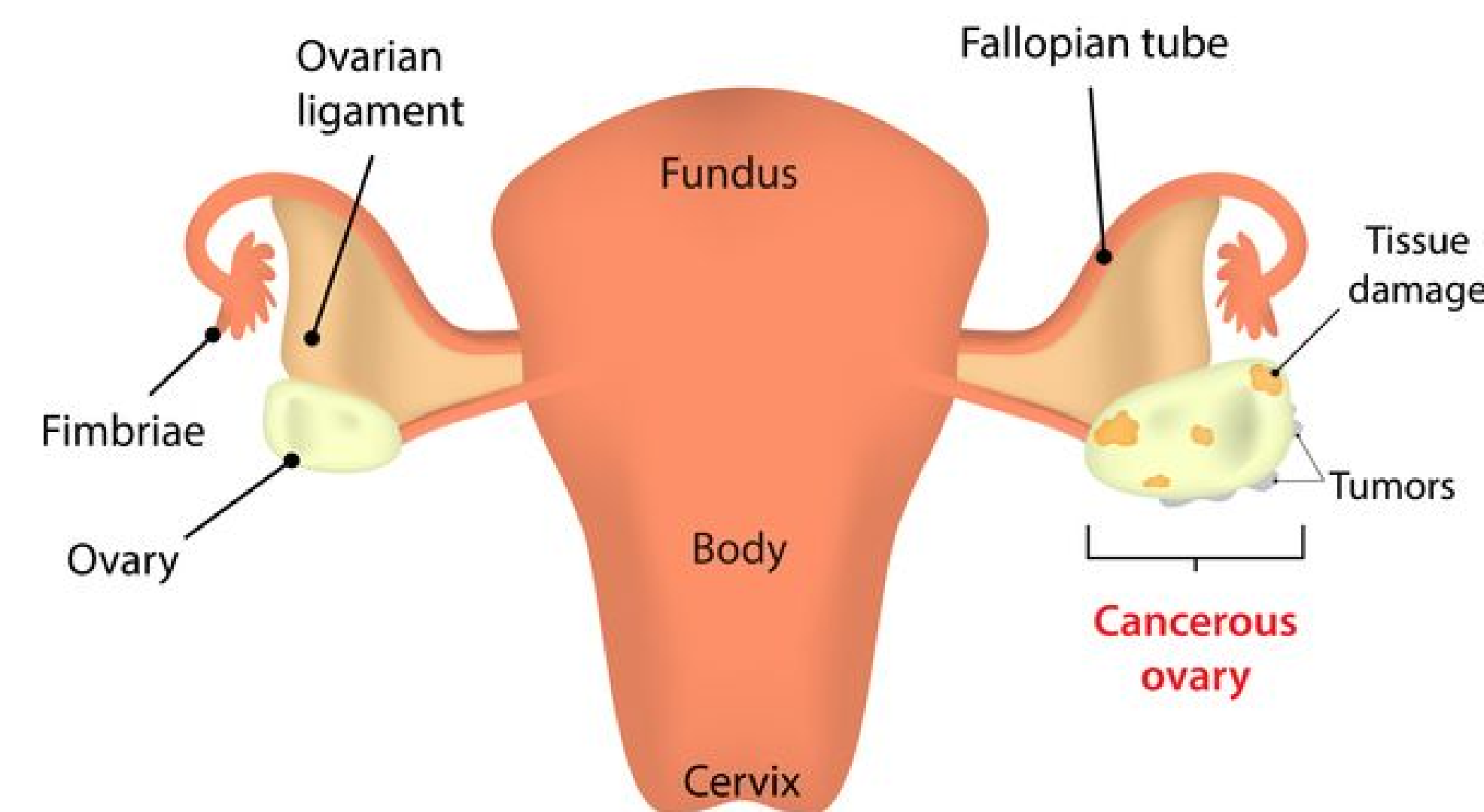- Women with a family history have a higher risk of developing it

Figure 1. Location of ovarian cancer

Treatment

- Surgery
- Chemotherapy
- Radiation (used less often)
- Best approach combines two treatments

Factors Influencing Disparity

- Lack of access to quality healthcare
- Unhealthy diet
- Poverty
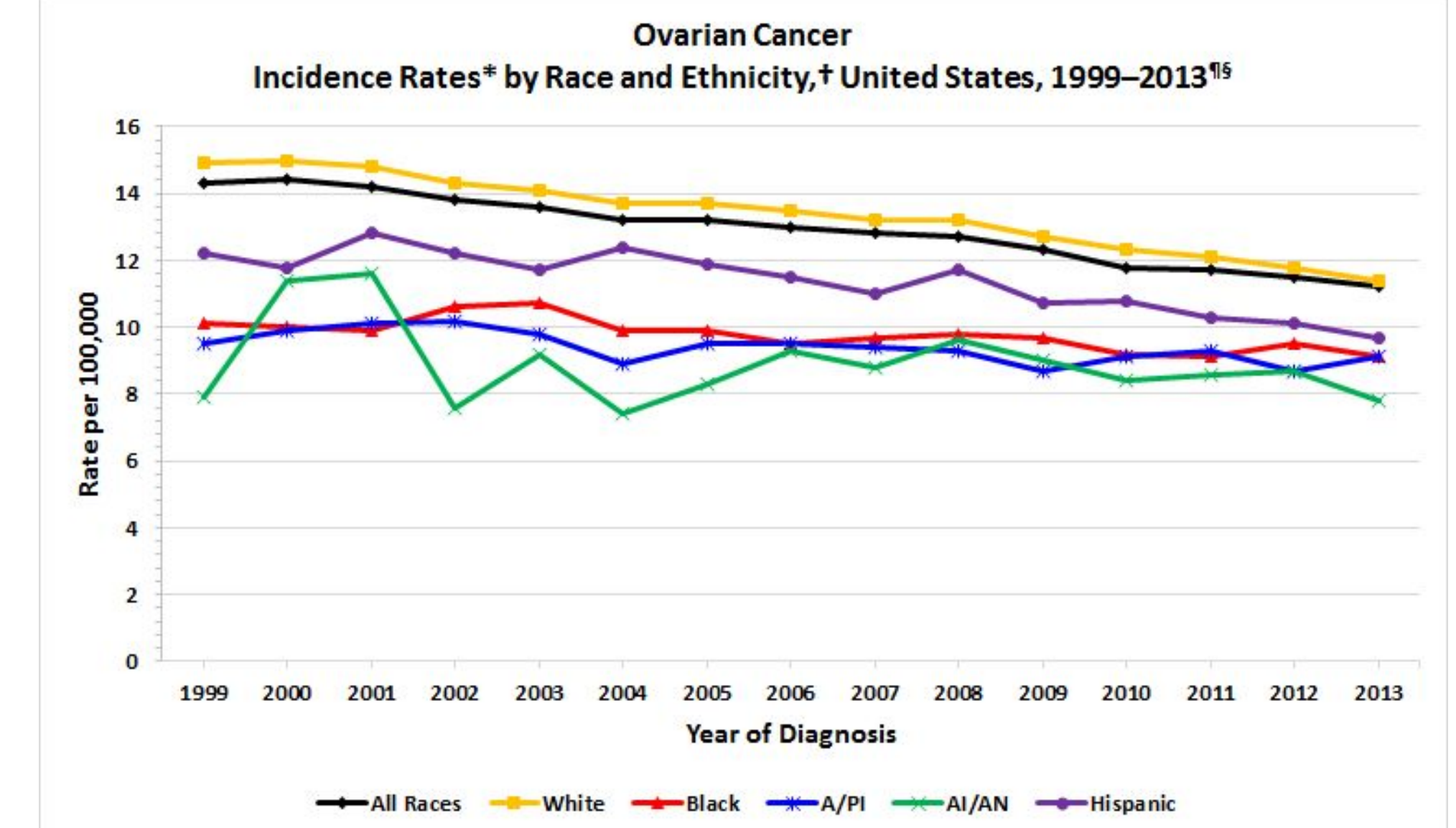- Exposure to environmental toxins
- Stress

Data

Figure 2. Incidence rates of ovarian 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. National Cancer Institute
3. National Institute of Health