

# Recent data reveals most common cancers in Hawai'i

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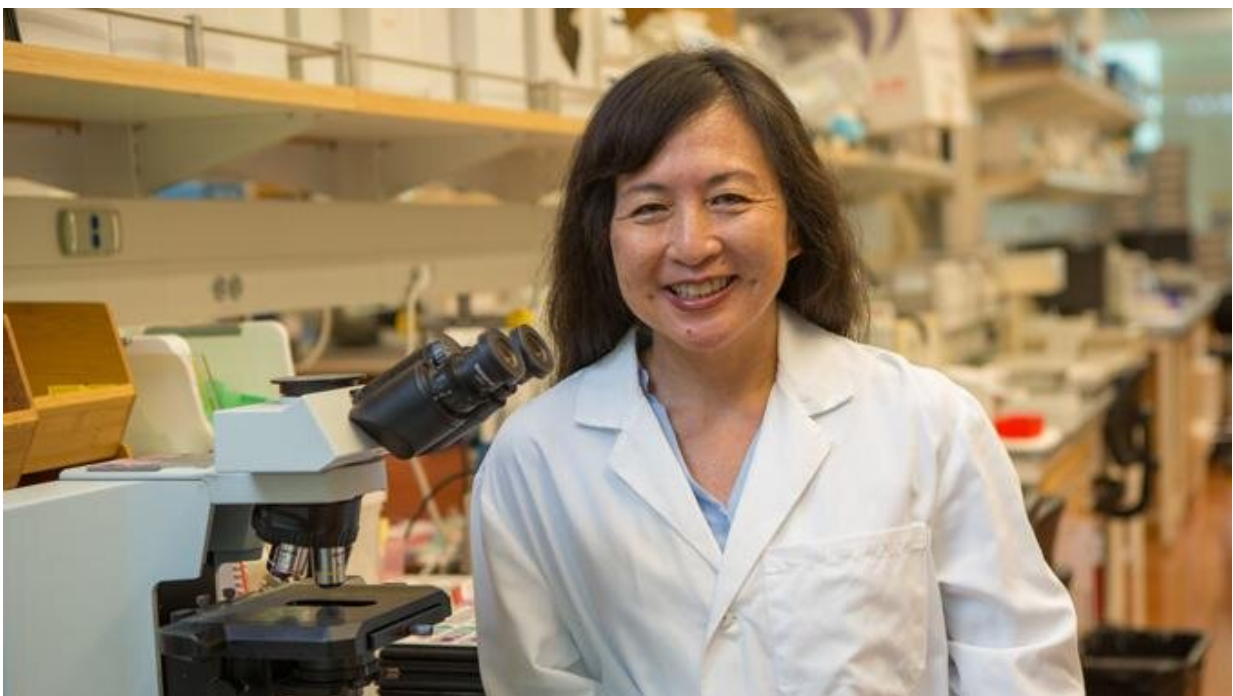
The University of Hawai'i Cancer Center's [Hawai'i Tumor Registry](#) released updated cancer statistics in Hawai'i Cancer at a Glance, 2012-2016, which includes data on cancer incidence and mortality in the state of Hawai'i.

The report shows that [breast cancer](#) remains the most frequently

diagnosed cancer among women, while [prostate cancer](#) is the most common cancer among men. Hawai'i's liver and stomach [cancer incidence](#) and [mortality rates](#) are significantly higher than the U.S., and [lung cancer](#) continues to be the leading cause of cancer death in the state.

Hawai'i is a diverse state in its geography, as well as in its demographics. In addition to having no ethnic majority, it has the highest proportion of individuals of mixed-race ethnicity in the U.S., with two of every 10 residents describing themselves as more than one race.

"Hawai'i Cancer at a Glance, 2012-2016, acknowledges this diversity, and examines variation in cancer incidence and mortality by county and across various racial and [ethnic groups](#)," Hawai'i Tumor Registry Principal Investigator Brenda Hernandez said. "Disparities in [cancer risk](#) and outcomes across racial and ethnic groups may reflect genetic variation as well as differences in diet, tobacco and alcohol use, obesity and other lifestyle exposures."



Brenda Hernandez. Credit: University of Hawaii at Manoa

Key ethnic differences were also observed. Lung cancer incidence is highest in Filipinos and Native Hawaiians. Thyroid cancer incidence is highest in Filipino women. Liver cancer incidence and mortality are highest in Native Hawaiian men, and whites (both men and women) have the highest rates of melanoma.

Annually, an average of 7,010 Hawai'i residents are newly diagnosed with invasive cancer and 2,347 individuals die of cancer. There are more than 62,000 cancer survivors in the state.

The Hawai'i Tumor Registry is responsible for cancer surveillance in the state of Hawai'i. It is a funded registry of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) Program. The Hawai'i Tumor Registry collects confidential data on cancer diagnosis, treatment and outcomes. The data is used to track cancer trends in the state and nation.

"Tracking the rate of new cancer cases and deaths is critically important for the UH Cancer Center's research on cancer prevention, early detection, treatment and survivorship," Hernandez said. Publications from NCI SEER registries, such as Hawai'i Cancer at a Glance, 2012-2016, serve as an important resource for cancer research and public health activities throughout the nation.

Updated national and statewide cancer statistics reflect a reporting delay between the time an individual is diagnosed with cancer and the case is reported to [cancer](#) registries in order to obtain complete clinical and pathologic information, as well as the first course of treatment.

**More information:** Hawai'i Cancer at a Glance, 2012-2016  
[www.uhcancercenter.org/research ... awaii-tumor-registry](http://www.uhcancercenter.org/research...awaii-tumor-registry)

Provided by University of Hawaii at Manoa

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