

Cancer Incidence and Mortality in the Kingdom of Bahrain Statistics and Trends

Mohammed Amin Al Awadhi, MDCM, FRCSC, FRCSI* Najat Mohammed Abulfateh, MD, Arab Board Family Medicine, MSc** Fatema Abu-Hassan, MD, Arab Board Family Medicine, MSc** Majida Ahmed Fikree, MD, Arab Board Family Medicine, MSc** Eman Janahi, MD, Arab Board Family Medicine, MSc** Reshma Carlo, BSc, MSc***

Background: The availability of baseline data for cancer incidence and trends could help policy makers in implementing evidence-based strategies for cancer prevention, early detection and management.

Objective: To evaluate the epidemiology of cancer among the Bahraini population from 1998-2011.

Design: A Retrospective Study.

Setting: Cancer Registry, Ministry of Health, Bahrain.

Method: All cancer cases in the Bahrain Cancer Registry from 1 January 1998 to 31 December 2011 were reviewed.

Result: Between January 1998 to December 2011, 5,966 newly diagnosed cases of cancer were documented, an annual average of 426 cases; 2,815 (47.2%) were males, and 3,151 (52.8%) were females. The average annual crude incidence cancer rate was 86.3/100,000 Bahraini males and 97.5/100,000 Bahraini females. The average annual ASRs were 136.4 and 135.8/100,000 Bahraini males and females, respectively. During the 14-year period, the world ASRs for the Bahraini population appear to have declined in both sexes. The decline was more marked among males, as rates dropped from 160.9 in 1998 to 111.2/100,000 in 2011. The average annual age-specific incidence rates were observed to increase dramatically with advancing age in both genders.

Conclusion: During the 14-year period, the average annual world ASRs were 136.4 and 135.8 per 100,000 Bahraini males and females respectively, which is higher than GCC states and lower than Australia/New Zealand.