



**SOUTH ASIA REGIONAL REPORT ON  
CANCER REGISTRATION AND CONTROL**

**R. SWAMINATHAN**

**Cancer Institute (W.I.A), Chennai, India**

**Plenary lecture session**



**Asian-Pacific Regional Reports on Cancer in  
4<sup>th</sup> International Cancer Control Congress, Seoul,  
November 3-5, 2011**

**Bangladesh**

**160,000,000**

**Bhutan**

**686,000**

**India**

**1,181,412,000**

## **DEMOGRAPHY**

- **Population at risk varied between <1 million in Bhutan to >1 billion in India**
- **Male-female ratio: India (0.935), Pakistan (0.942), Bangladesh (0.977), Bhutan (0.895); Nepal (1.013) and Sri Lanka (1.029)**
- **Calendar year of population estimation - 2008**

***(Source: GLOBOCAN 2008. IARC, Lyon, 2010)***

**28,809,000**

**Nepal**

**176,952,000**

**Pakistan**

**20,060,000**

**Sri Lanka**

**CANCER REGISTRIES provide vital leads to CANCER CONTROL through**

## **SITUATION ANALYSIS**

- **Cancer BURDEN**
- **Cancer PATTERN**
- **Cancer SURVIVAL**

Population based cancer registration is  
*a sine qua non* for any planned cancer  
control programme

This is achieved through Population  
based cancer registries

# SOURCE OF DATA – GLOBAL CANCER STATISTICS



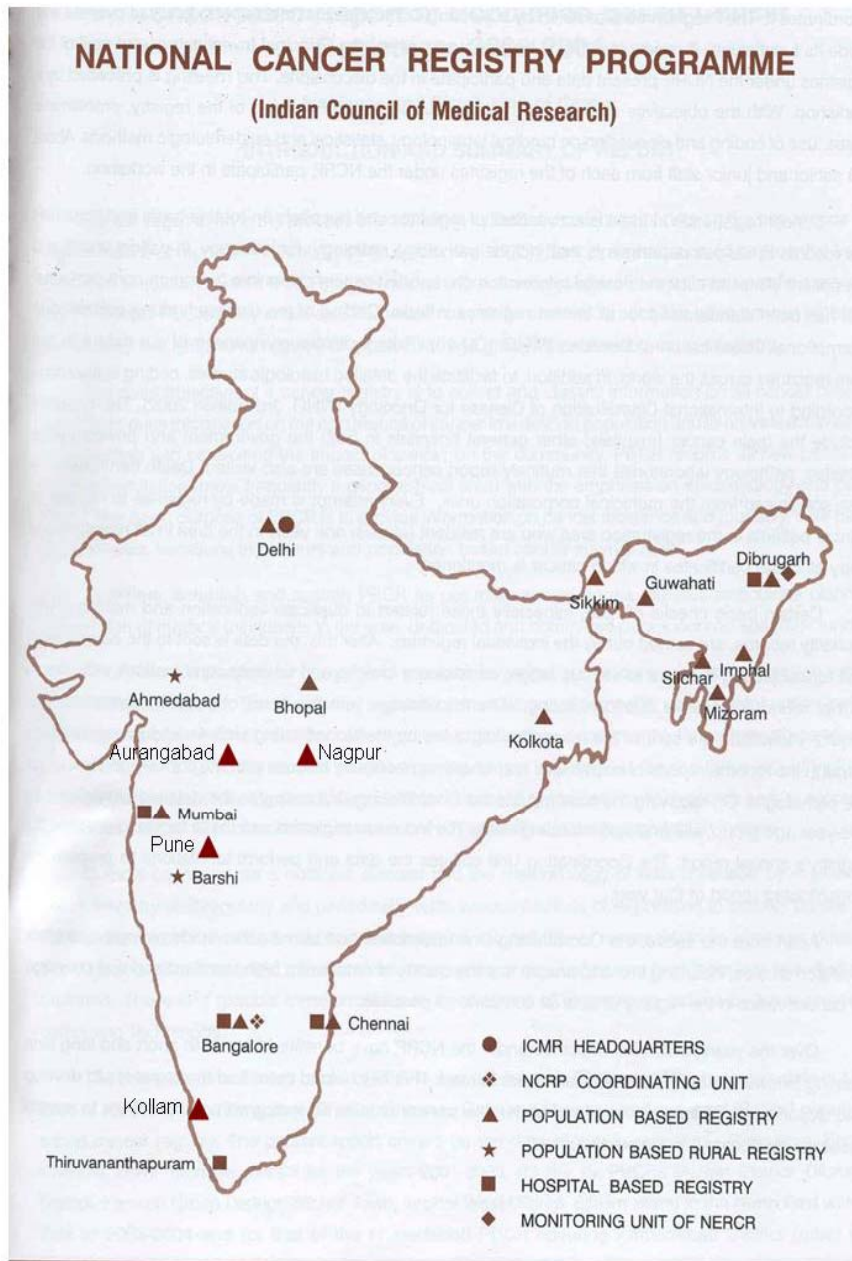
International Agency for  
Research on Cancer (IARC)

Centre International de  
Recherche sur le Cancer (CIRC)



- A quinquennial publication by IARC, France
- 58 countries; 219 PBCRs
- Available in the form of book and CD
- Data on cancer incidence by country, registry, age, gender

# Source of cancer incidence data in India



**There are 26 Population Based Cancer Registries in India, initiated all over India at different times since 1963**

**Population covered by PBCRs is only 7.5% of total population**

**Predominantly urban based & systematic registration of cases done by active method**

# GLOBAL INCIDENCE AND BURDEN OF CANCER

## Estimates for 2008 AD

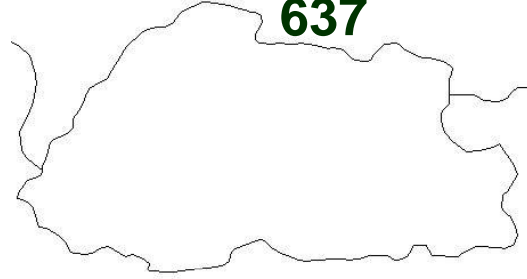
|                                      | Male             | Female           | M+F               |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b><u>WORLD</u></b>                  |                  |                  |                   |
| <b>Incidence rate/100,000</b>        | <b>194.5</b>     | <b>180.6</b>     | <b>187.6</b>      |
| <b>New cancer cases</b>              | <b>6,618,000</b> | <b>6,045,000</b> | <b>12,663,000</b> |
| <b><u>More developed regions</u></b> |                  |                  |                   |
| <b>Incidence rate /100,000</b>       | <b>496.2</b>     | <b>409.5</b>     | <b>451.6</b>      |
| <b>New cancer cases</b>              | <b>2,964,000</b> | <b>2,591,000</b> | <b>5,555,000</b>  |
| <b><u>Less developed regions</u></b> |                  |                  |                   |
| <b>Incidence rate /100,000</b>       | <b>130.2</b>     | <b>127.2</b>     | <b>128.8</b>      |
| <b>New cancer cases</b>              | <b>3,654,000</b> | <b>3,453,000</b> | <b>7,107,000</b>  |

- **56% of 12.7 million new cancer cases in the world lives in medium to low resource countries**
- **Incidence is higher in more developed countries than less developed countries**
- **Male preponderance is forthcoming**

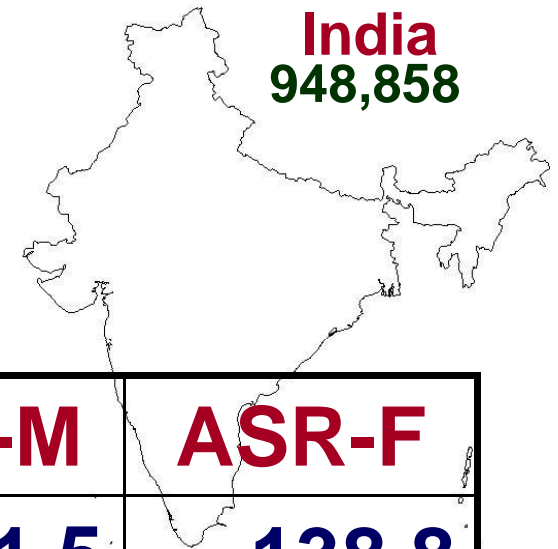
**Bangladesh**  
141,086



**Bhutan**  
637



**India**  
948,858



# CANCER INCIDENCE STATISTICS

Globocan 2008

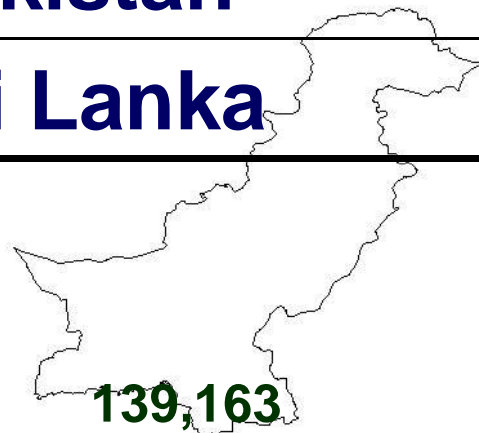
Female  
preponderance

| <b>Country</b>    | <b>ASR-M</b> | <b>ASR-F</b> |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Bangladesh</b> | <b>111.5</b> | <b>138.8</b> |
| <b>Bhutan</b>     | <b>124.8</b> | <b>130.5</b> |
| <b>India</b>      | <b>92.9</b>  | <b>105.5</b> |
| <b>Nepal</b>      | <b>127.5</b> | <b>154.2</b> |
| <b>Pakistan</b>   | <b>106.5</b> | <b>123.4</b> |
| <b>Sri Lanka</b>  | <b>107.2</b> | <b>116.1</b> |

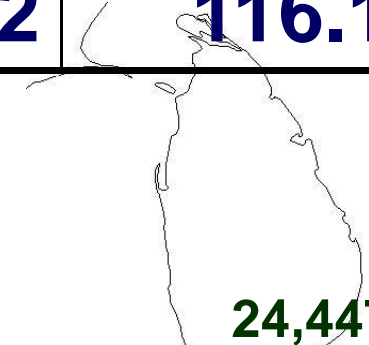
27,768  
**Nepal**



139,163  
**Pakistan**



24,447  
**Sri Lanka**





# Top five cancers among men by country

| BANGLADESH    |      | BHUTAN        |      | INDIA         |      |
|---------------|------|---------------|------|---------------|------|
| Site          | ASR  | Site          | ASR  | Site          | ASR  |
| Lung          | 30.4 | Stomach       | 31.6 | Lung          | 10.9 |
| Oral cavity   | 9.6  | Oesophagus    | 10.4 | Oral cavity   | 9.8  |
| Oesophagus    | 8.0  | Large bowel   | 7.9  | Other pharynx | 8.3  |
| Other pharynx | 6.5  | Lung          | 8.7  | Oesophagus    | 6.5  |
| Stomach       | 5.9  | Liver         | 8.1  | Stomach       | 4.7  |
| NEPAL         |      | PAKISTAN      |      | SRI LANKA     |      |
| Site          | ASR  | Site          | ASR  | Site          | ASR  |
| Lung          | 20.7 | Lung          | 12.3 | Oral cavity   | 16.5 |
| Oral cavity   | 10.2 | Oral cavity   | 11.0 | Lung          | 12.0 |
| Stomach       | 10.2 | Stomach       | 8.0  | Oesophagus    | 9.1  |
| Leukemia      | 5.9  | Other pharynx | 6.4  | Large bowel   | 7.5  |
| NHL           | 5.7  | Oesophagus    | 6.2  | Leukemia      | 6.9  |

*GLOBOCAN 2008*

**Lung and oral cancers are the commonest in most countries**

# Top five cancers among women by country

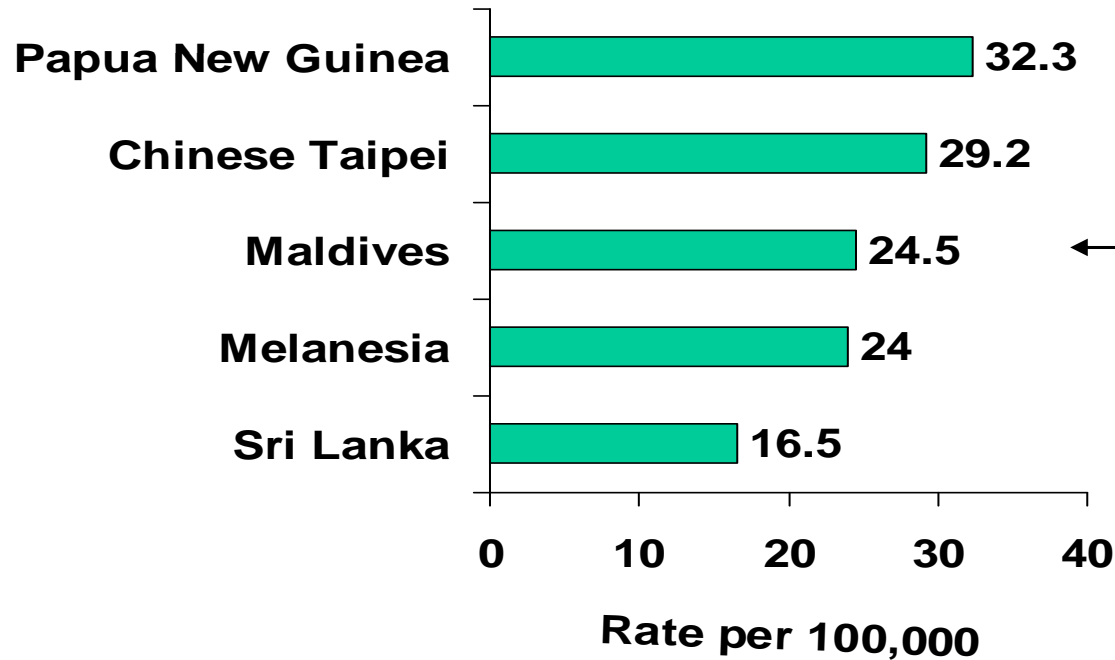
| BANGLADESH  |      | BHUTAN     |      | INDIA       |      |
|-------------|------|------------|------|-------------|------|
| Site        | ASR  | Site       | ASR  | Site        | ASR  |
| Breast      | 27.2 | Cervix     | 20.4 | Cervix      | 27.0 |
| Cervix      | 29.8 | Stomach    | 16.2 | Breast      | 22.9 |
| Oral cavity | 9.9  | Lung       | 10.8 | Ovary       | 5.7  |
| Lung        | 8.7  | Oesophagus | 9.4  | Oral cavity | 5.2  |
| Oesophagus  | 7.5  | Ovary      | 8.5  | Oesophagus  | 4.2  |

| NEPAL        |      | PAKISTAN    |      | SRI LANKA  |      |
|--------------|------|-------------|------|------------|------|
| Site         | ASR  | Site        | ASR  | Site       | ASR  |
| Cervix       | 32.4 | Breast      | 31.5 | Breast     | 29.1 |
| Breast       | 23.5 | Cervix      | 19.5 | Cervix     | 11.8 |
| Lung         | 18.2 | Oral cavity | 8.6  | Ovary      | 9.4  |
| Ovary        | 10.0 | Ovary       | 5.8  | Thyroid    | 9.3  |
| Gall bladder | 8.6  | Oesophagus  | 5.7  | Oesophagus | 8.6  |

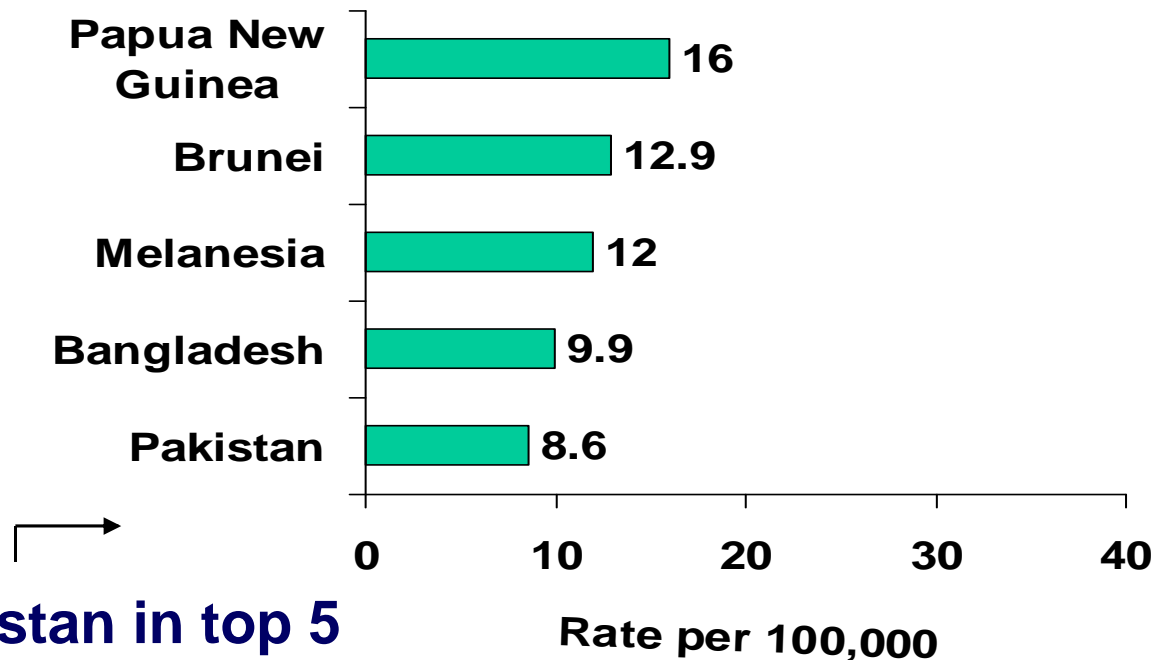
*GLOBOCAN 2008*

**Cervix and breast are at the top constituting 35-47% of all cancers**

# INCIDENCE OF ORAL CANCER, global, Year 2008

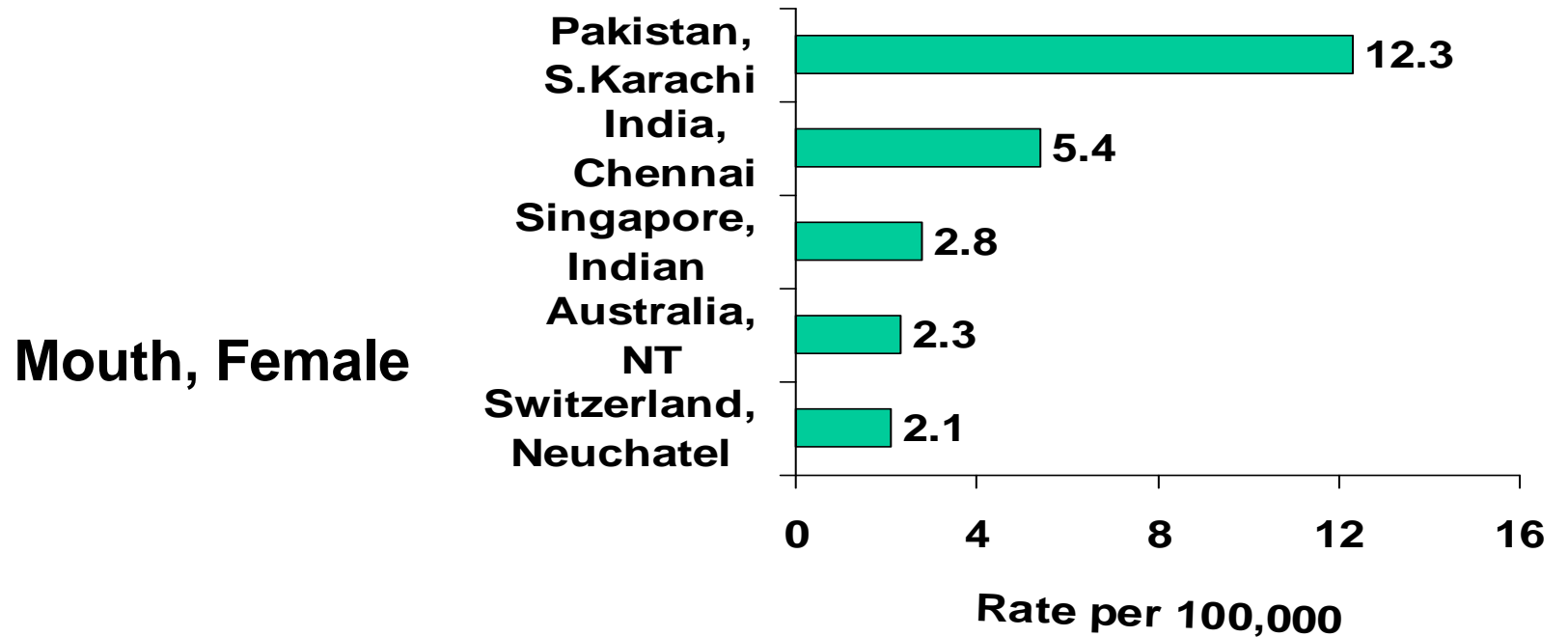
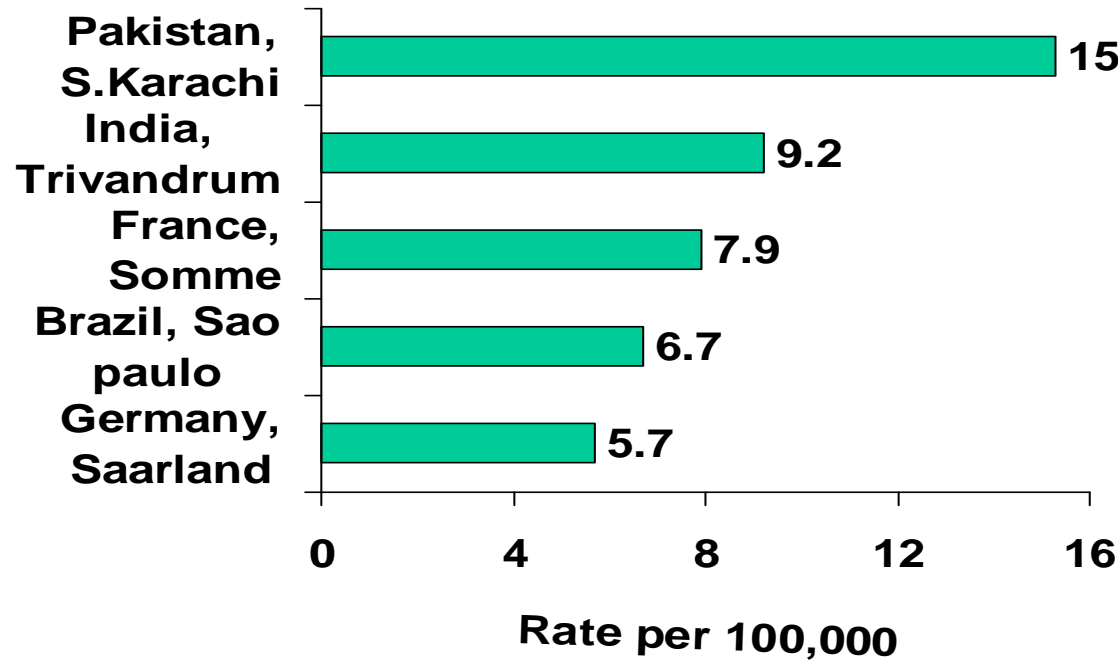


← Male – Sri Lanka ranks 5th

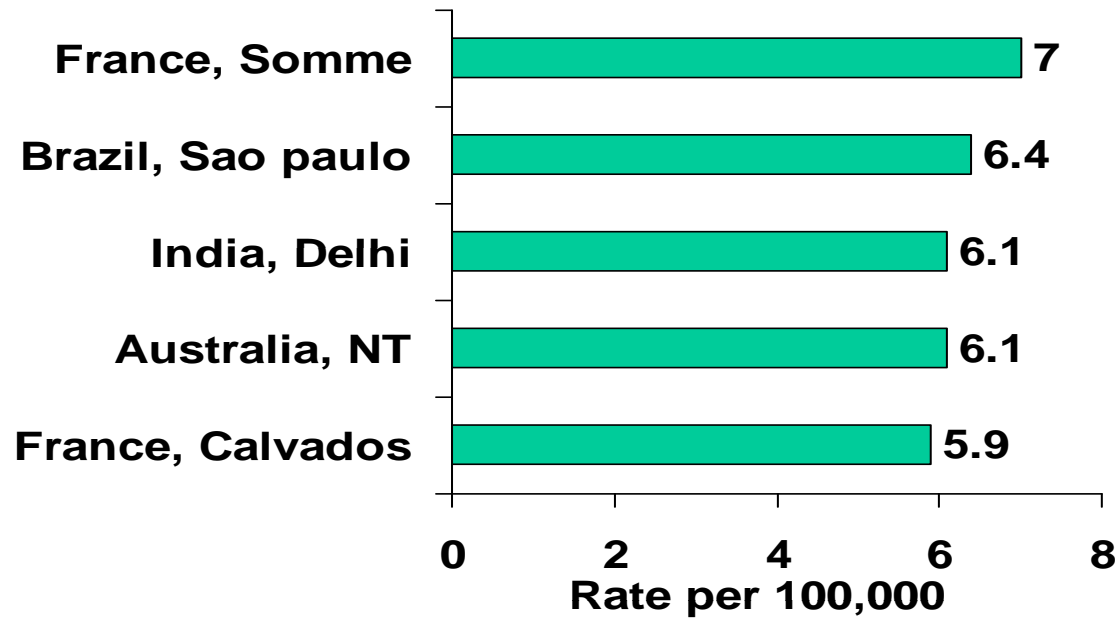


Female – Bangladesh and Pakistan in top 5

# INCIDENCE OF ORAL CANCER by SUBSITE, global, Year 2000

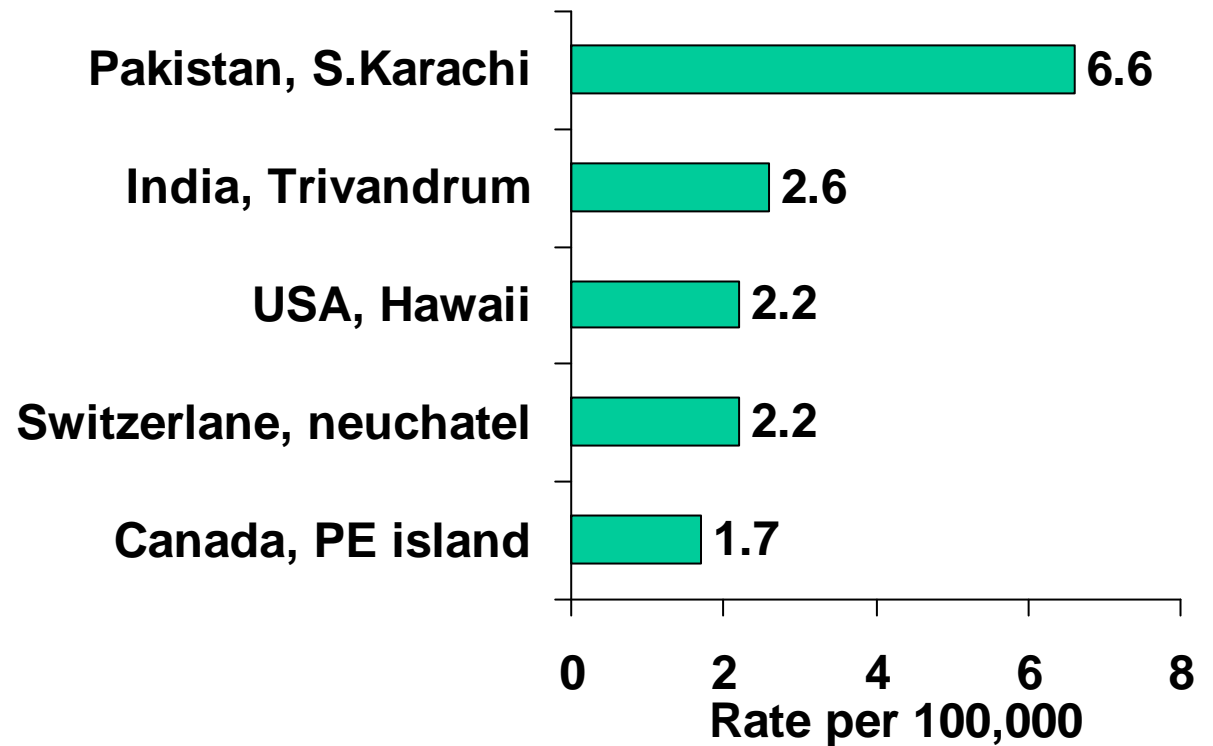


# INCIDENCE OF ORAL CANCER SUBSITE, global, Year 2000



**Tongue, Male**

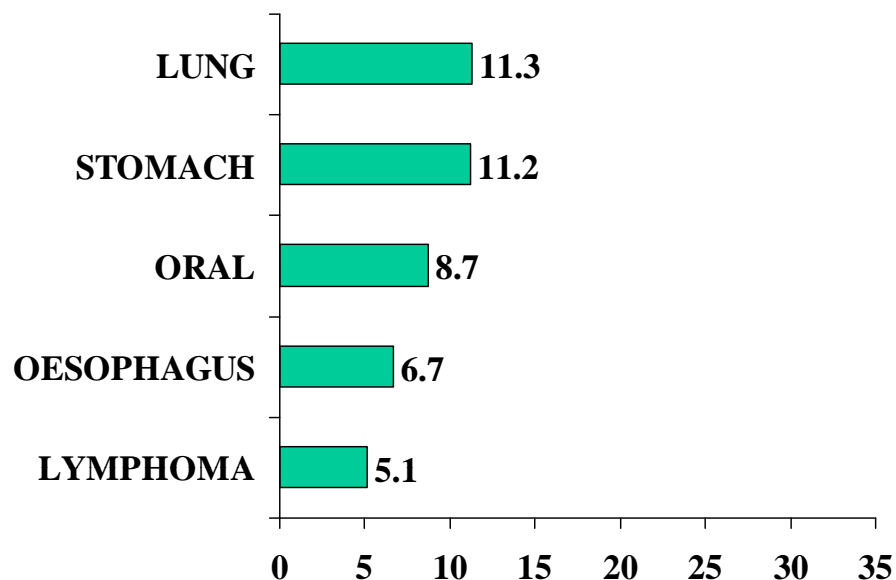
**Tongue, Female**



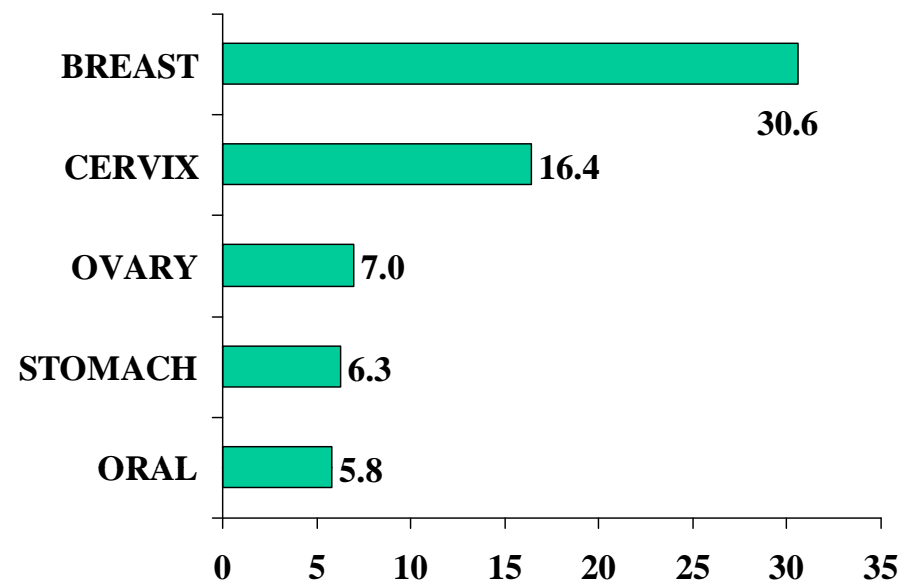
# VARIABLE CANCER PATTERN – URBAN & RURAL SOUTH INDIA, 2008

*(Rates are per 100,000 population)*

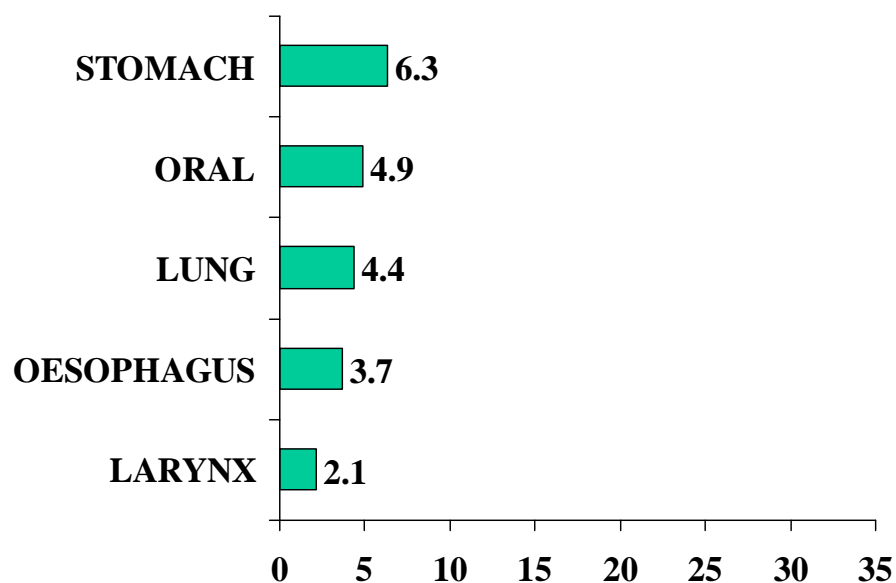
**Chennai, Urban, MALE: All cancers: 105.0**



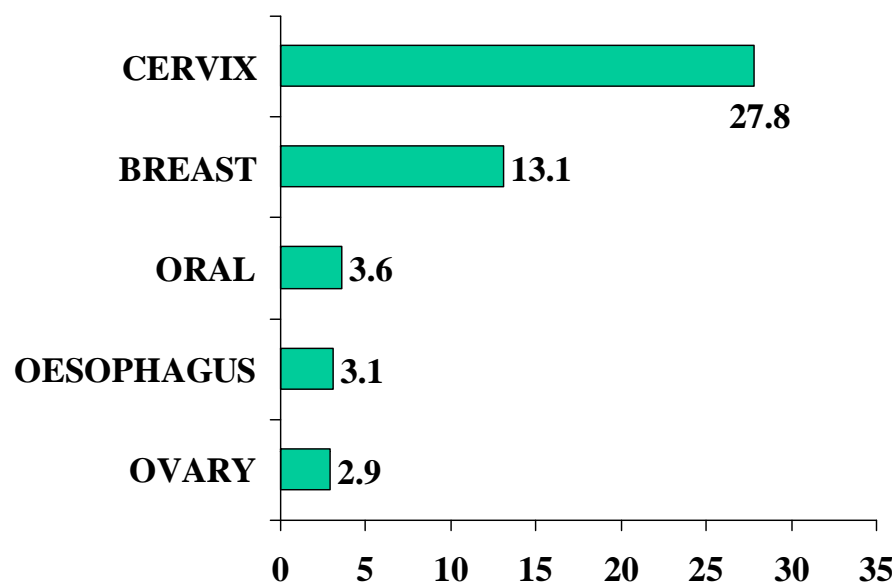
**Chennai, Urban, FEMALE: All cancers: 114.0**



**Dindigul, Rural, MALE: All cancers: 54.6**



**Dindigul, Rural, FEMALE: All cancers: 70.0**

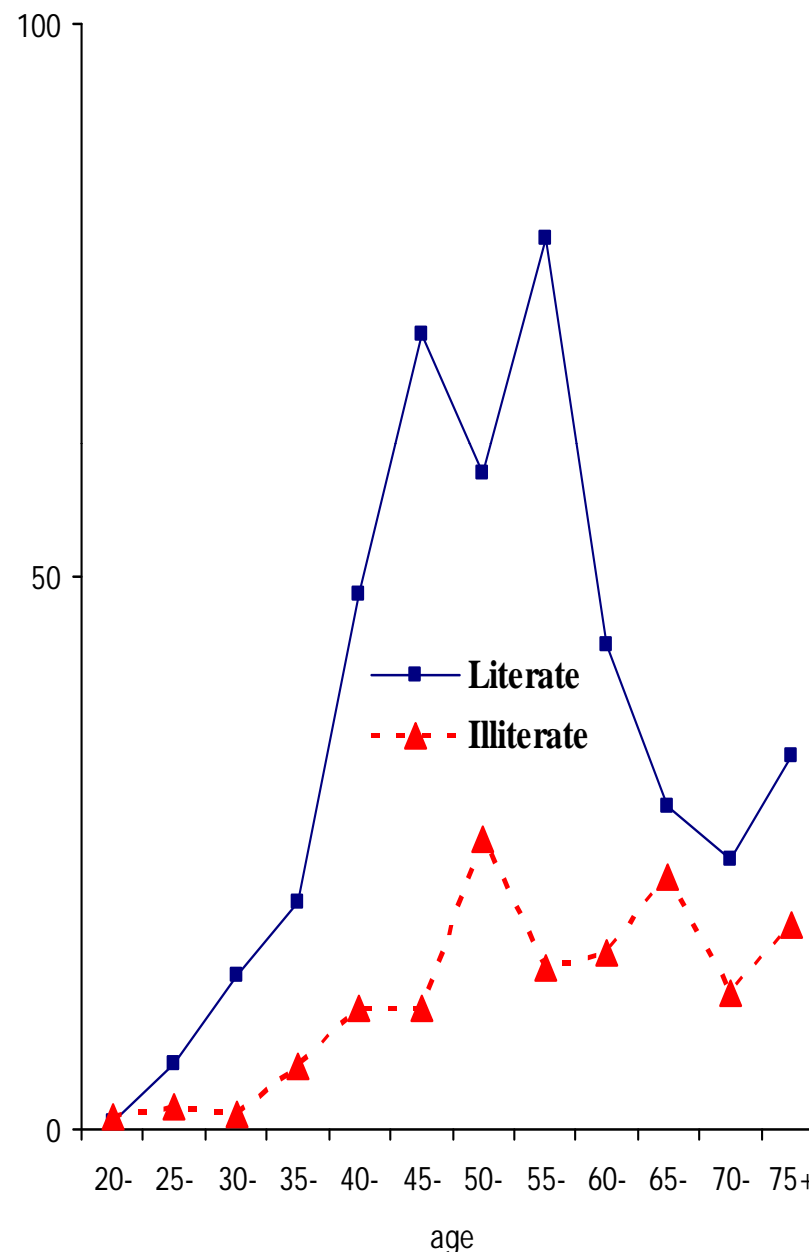


**Education specific age-standardized rate (ASR) and standardized rate ratio (SRR): breast vs. cervix cancers, Dindigul district, 2003-06**

| Education level  | Cancer breast |                    |           |
|------------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------|
|                  | ASR           | SRR <sup>#</sup>   | 95% CI    |
| <u>Education</u> |               |                    |           |
| Nil              | 8.5           | 1.00 <sup>\$</sup> | -         |
| ≤5 years         | 20.4          | 2.40               | 1.8, 3.2  |
| 6-12 years       | 42.6          | 5.01               | 3.2, 7.7  |
| >12 years        | 51.7          | 6.08               | 1.8, 20.5 |

**A 6-fold increased risk of breast cancer was observed in women with college level of education compared to illiterates; increasing trend in risk with increasing literacy was significant**

**Age-specific incidence by literacy status, Dindigul district, 2003-06**

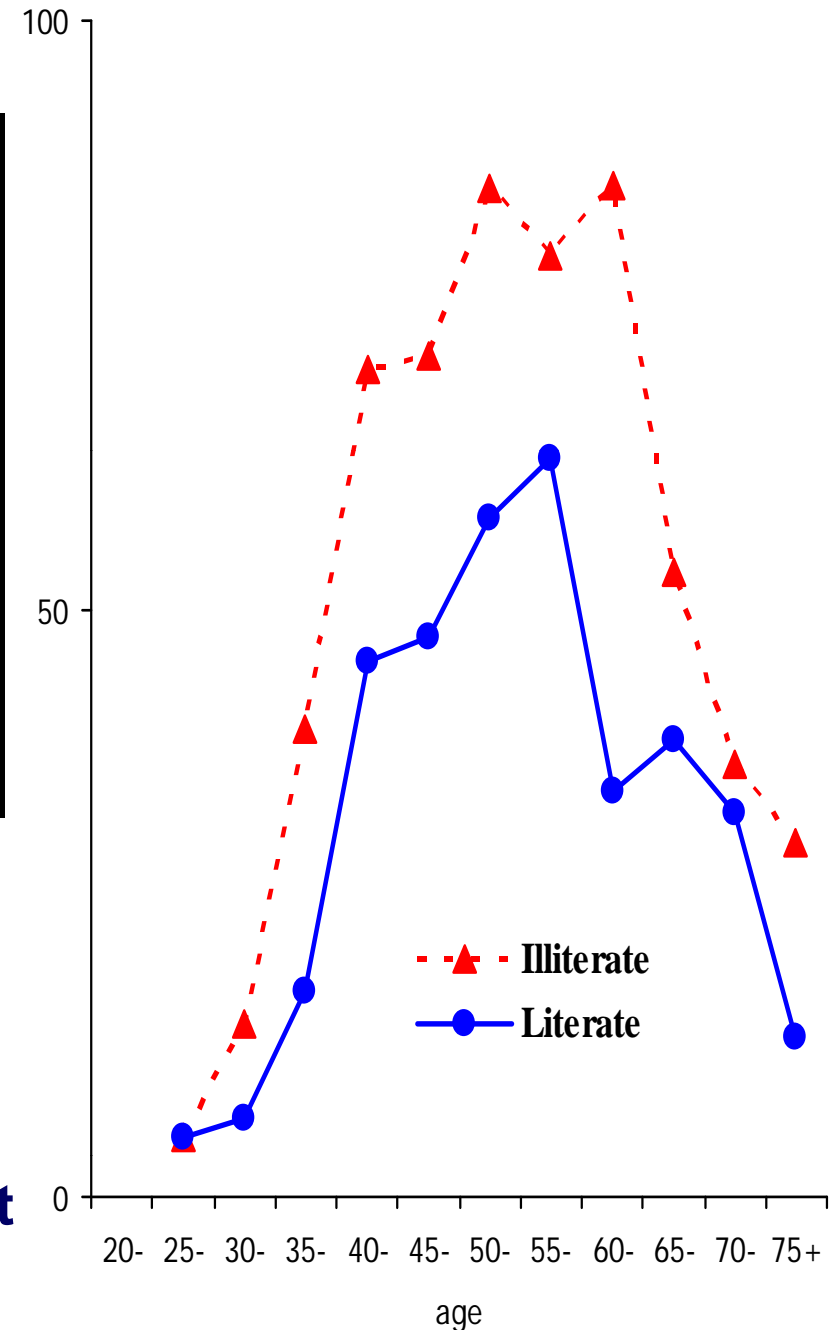


**Education specific age-standardized rate (ASR) and standardized rate ratio (SRR) of cervical cancer, Dindigul district, 2003-06**

| Education level  | Cancer cervix |                  |            |
|------------------|---------------|------------------|------------|
|                  | ASR           | SRR <sup>#</sup> | 95% CI     |
| <u>Education</u> |               |                  |            |
| Nil              | 37.7          | 1.00             | -          |
| ≤5 years         | 21.5          | 0.57             | 0.48, 0.69 |
| 6-12 years       | 23.1          | 0.61             | 0.49, 0.77 |
| >12 years        | 11.9          | 0.32             | 0.19, 0.52 |

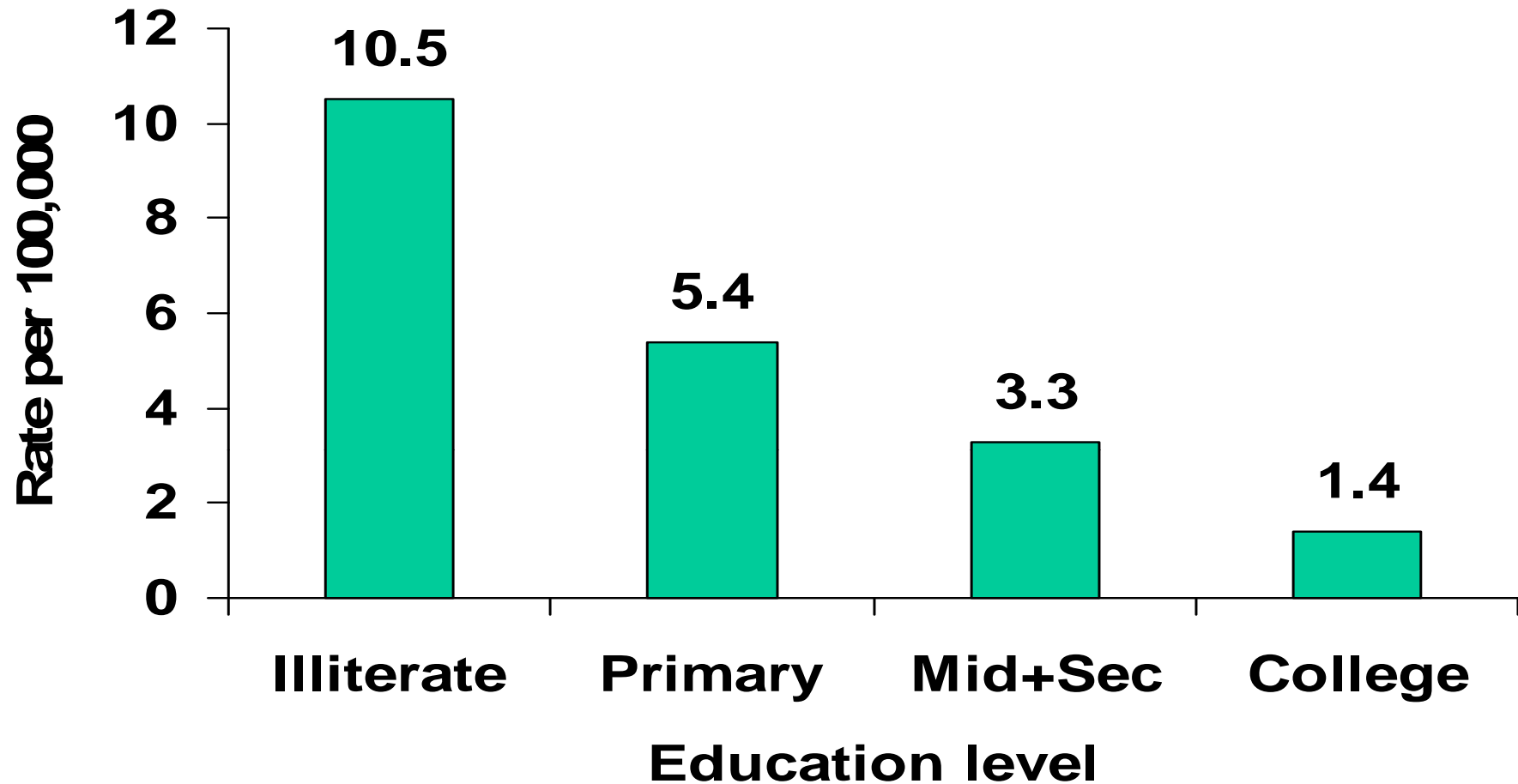
**A 68% reduced risk of cervical cancer was observed in women with college level of education compared to illiterates; decreasing trend in risk with increasing literacy was significant**

**Age-specific incidence by literacy status, Dindigul district, 2003-06**





# INCIDENCE OF ORAL CANCER BY EDUCATION LEVEL CHENNAI, INDIA, 1998-2004

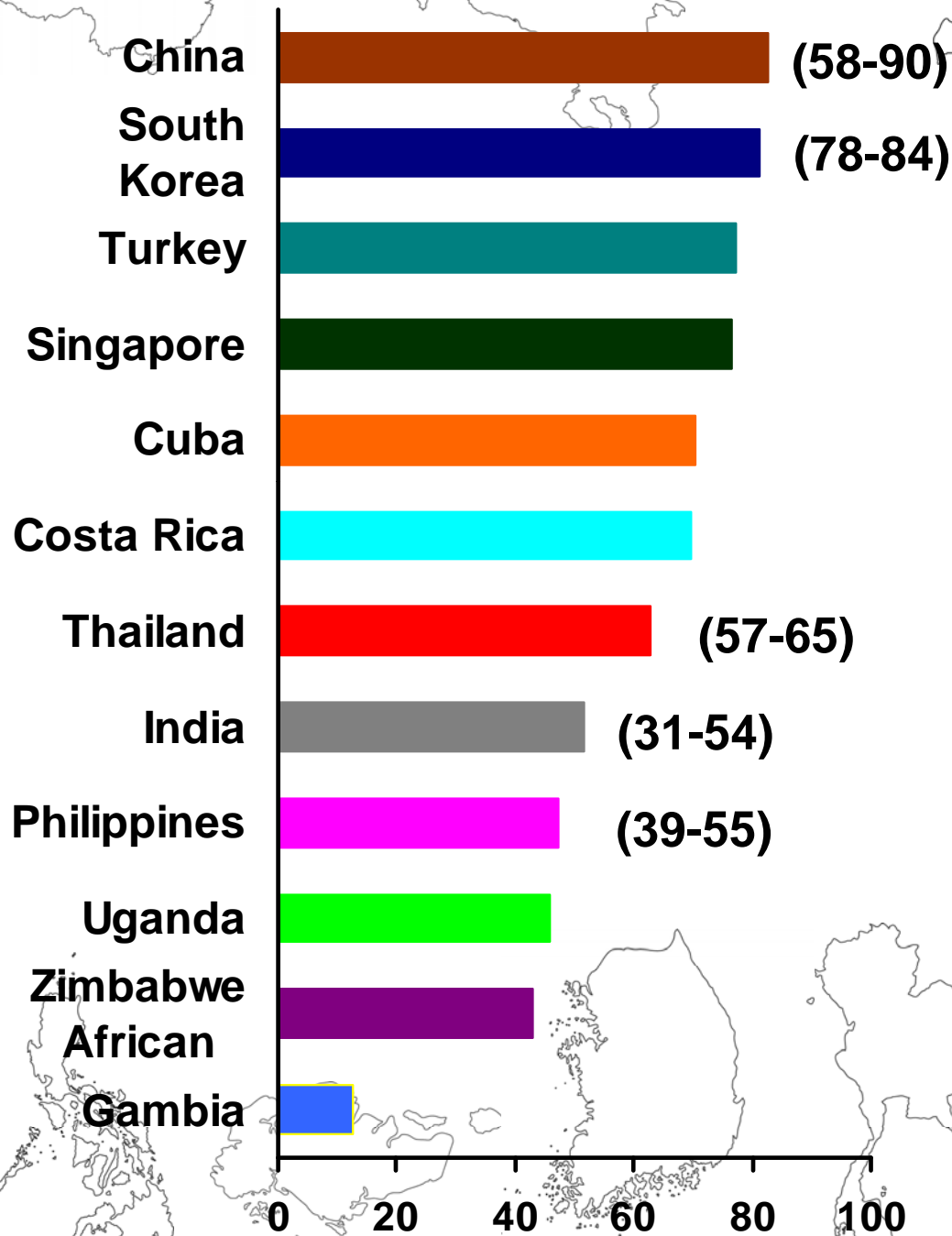


**An inverse relationship between socio-economic status and oral cancer incidence is forthcoming**

**Incidence ↓ as education level ↑**

**This suggests an association between lifestyle factors and oral cancer incidence**

# 5-Year Age Standardised Relative Survival (0-74 yrs)



## Breast Cancer (ICD-10:C50)

- Highest in Hong Kong SAR, China
- Lowest in Gambia

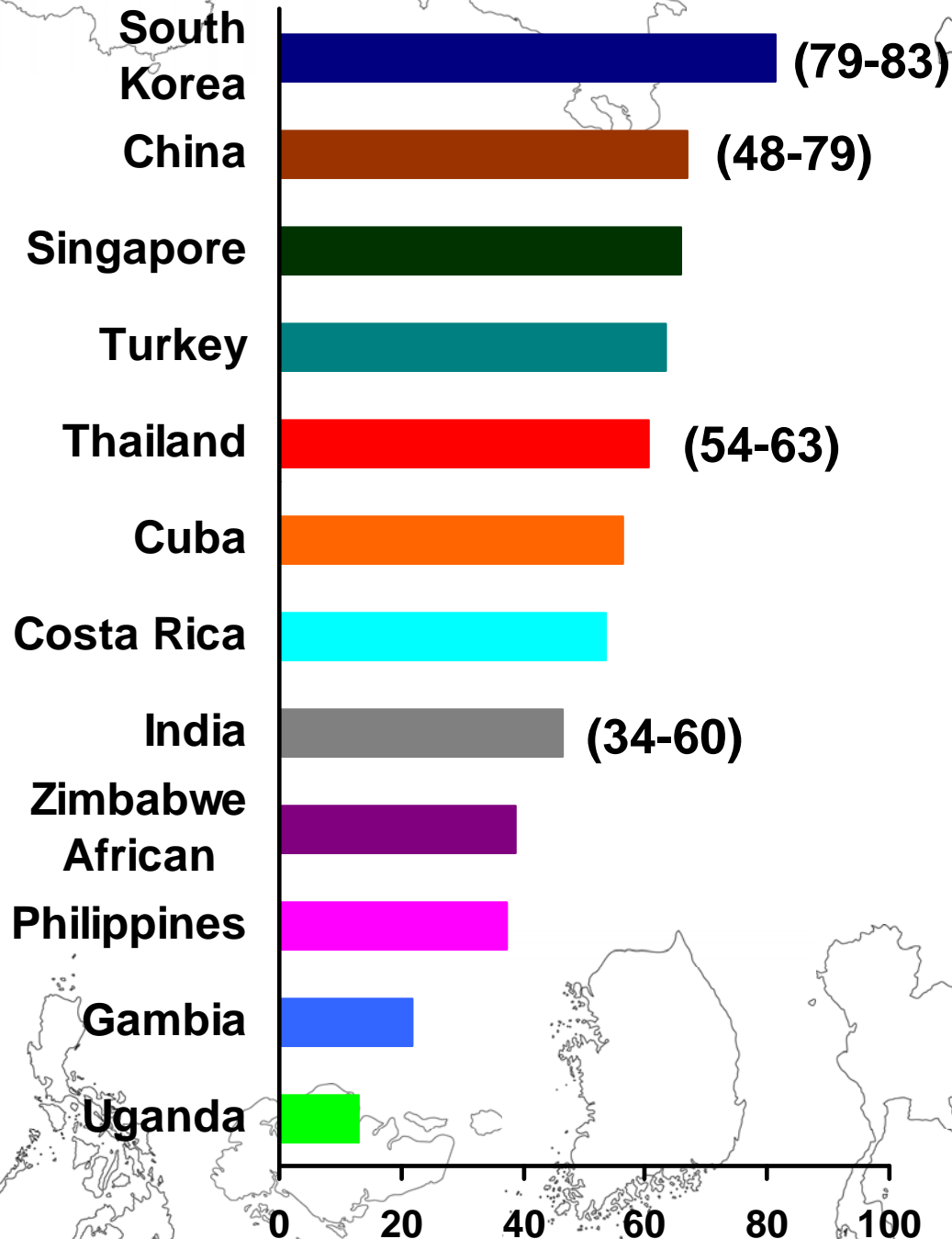
## Intra country variation

- Pronounced in India (among urban); China & Philippines (urban ↑ and rural ↓)
- No difference in South Korea & Thailand

## Data from developed countries

- US-SEER: 89%
- Eurocare3: 76%

# 5-Year Age Standardised Relative Survival (0-74 yrs)



## Cervix Cancer (ICD-10:C53)

- Highest in Seoul, South Korea
- Lowest in Kampala, Uganda

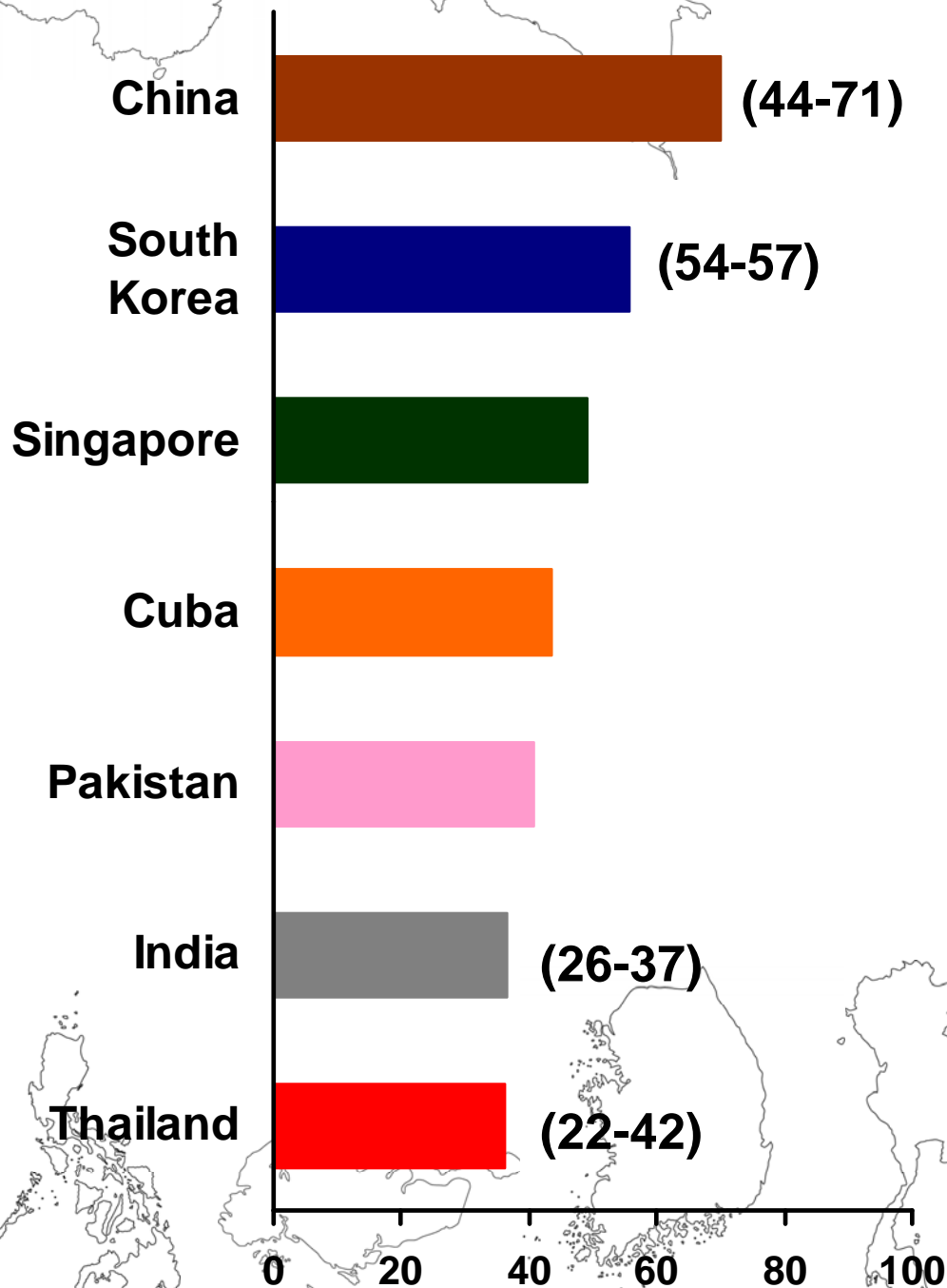
## Intra country variation

- Pronounced in China (urban ↑ vs rural ↓) & India
- No difference in South Korea & Thailand

## Data from developed countries

- US-SEER: 70%
- Eurocare3: 62%

# 5-Year Age Standardised Relative Survival (0-74 yrs)



## Oral Cancer (ICD-10:C03-6)

- Highest in Shanghai, China
- Lowest in Chiang Mai, Thailand

## Intra country variation

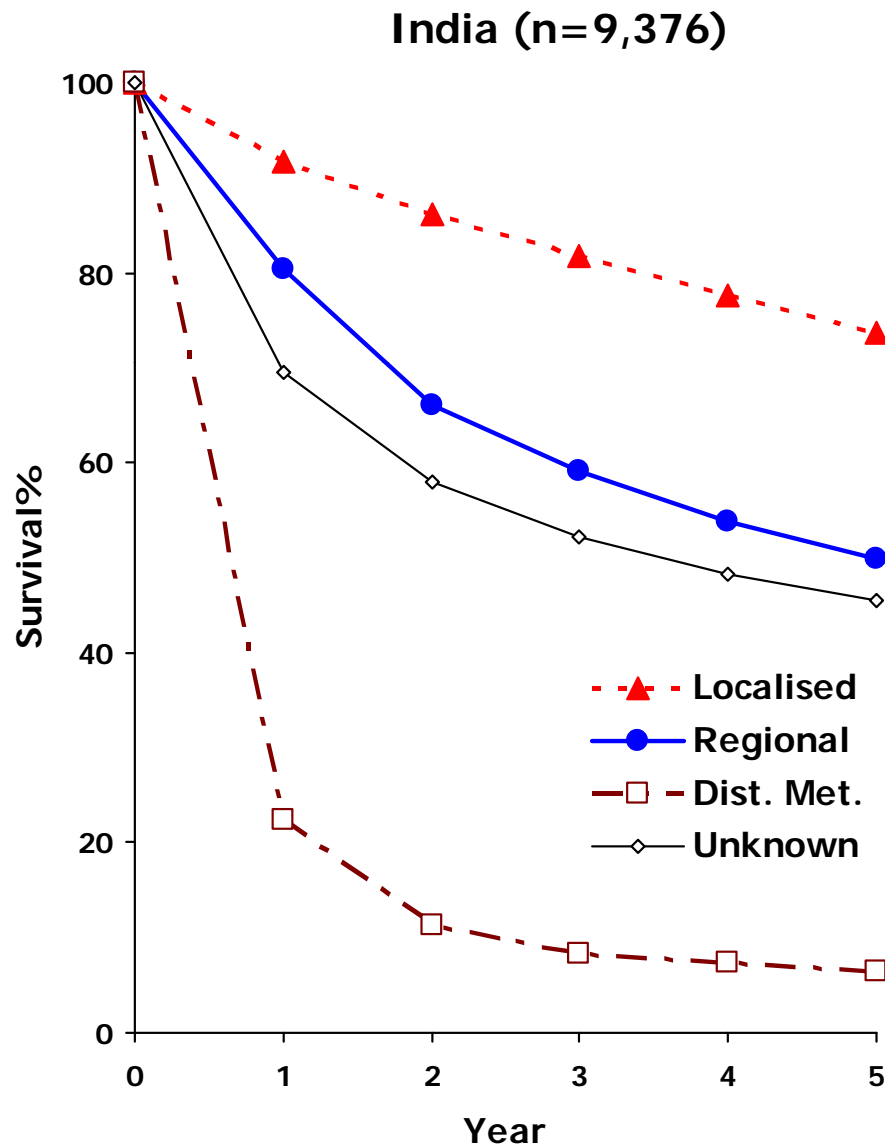
- Pronounced in China (urban ↑ vs rural ↓) & Thailand
- No difference in India & South Korea

## Data from developed countries

- US-SEER: 52-59%
- Eurocare3: 45%

# Average survival, Cervix cancer by stage, India, 1990-99

Pooled data from Chennai, Mumbai, Bhopal, Barshi (rural Maharashtra) and Karunagappally (rural Kerala) PBCRs



|         | Loc. | Reg. | Dist. Met. | Unk. |
|---------|------|------|------------|------|
| % cases | 17.5 | 71.2 | 6.0        | 5.3  |

## Early stage cancer

- 75-80% of cases have survived at least 5 years after diagnosis

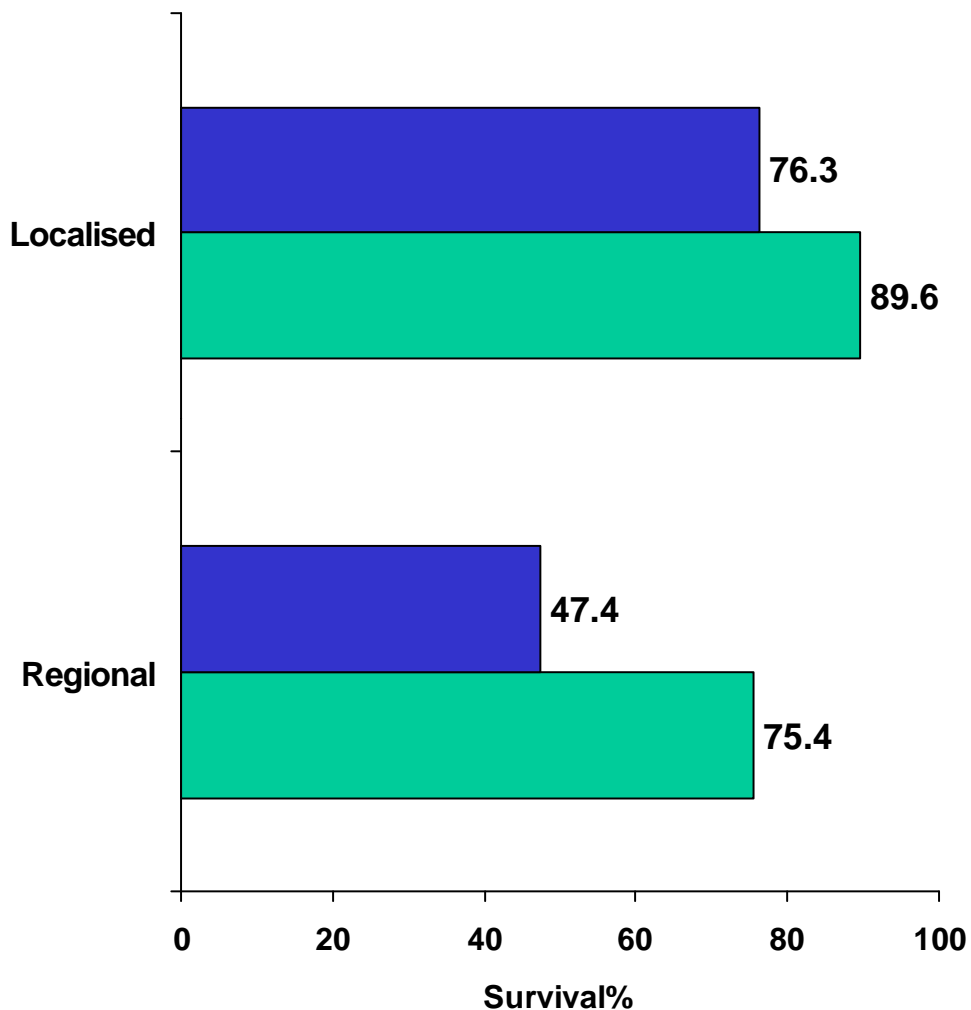
## Locally advanced cancer

- 45-50% of cases have survived at least 5 years after diagnosis

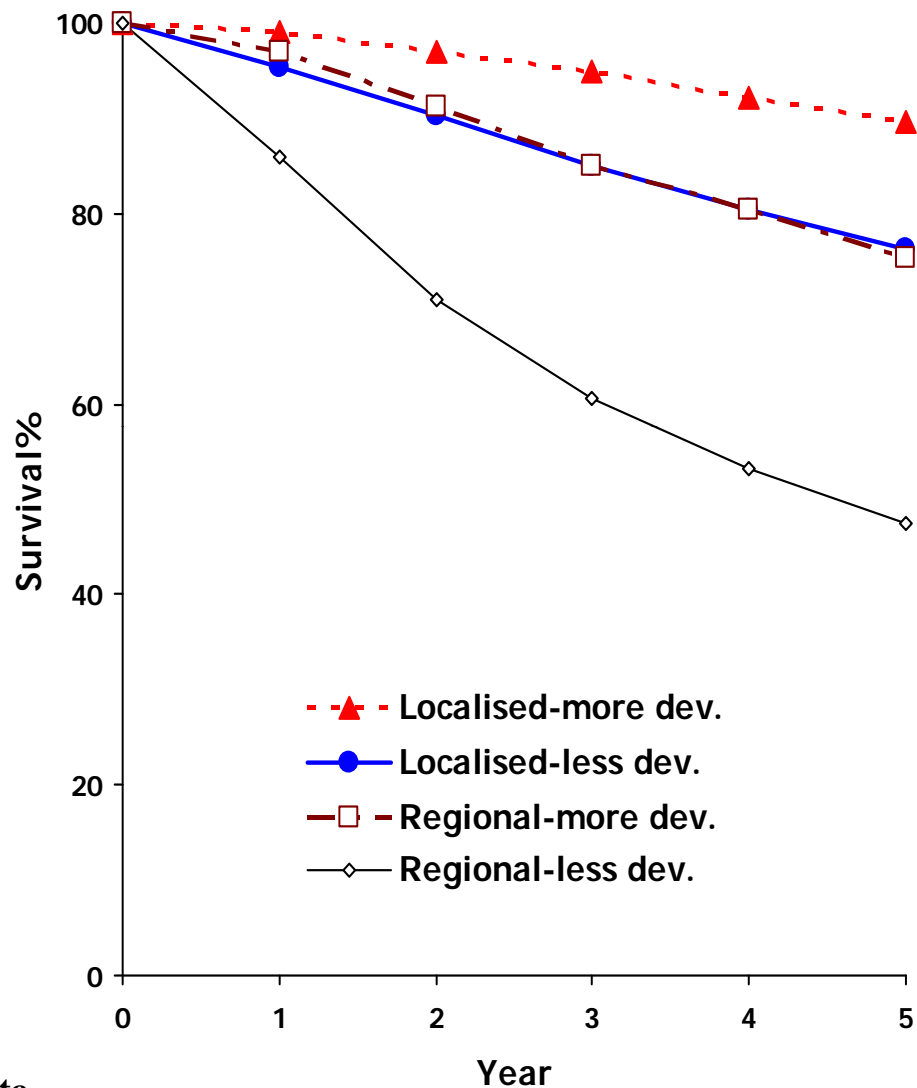
## Disease stage at diagnosis

- Early stage 17.5% compared to 71% in locally advanced stage

**Fig. 5: 5-year absolute survival for localised and regional extent of disease among more and less developed health services – Breast cancer**



**Absolute survival for localised and regional extent of disease among more and less developed health services - Breast cancer**



■ Less developed health services-Thailand, India, Costa Rica, etc.

■ More developed health services (Singapore & Turkey)

|         | More dev. |      | Less dev. |      |
|---------|-----------|------|-----------|------|
| % cases | Loc.      | Reg. | Loc.      | Reg  |
|         | 17.0      | 32.0 | 26.0      | 47.0 |

# Action Plan required

- **Cancer should be declared a notifiable disease**
  - **to facilitate systematic data collection of population-based incident cancer cases**
  - **to achieve larger coverage of populations at low cost**
- **Active surveillance wherever needed for data quality**
- **Evolving specific strategies**
  - **for primary prevention of tobacco related cancers**
  - **for secondary prevention of cervical and breast cancers**
  - **opportunistic or population-based**