

Cancer Statistics Digest

Comparison of Prostate Cancer Mortality in Five Countries: France, Italy, Japan, UK and USA from the WHO Mortality Database (1960-2000)

Prostate cancer mortality age-standardized rates (ASRs; using 1985 Japanese standard population) are shown for Japan, USA, UK, France and Italy (Fig. 1). ASRs for Japanese males were much lower compared to those observed among males in the USA, UK, France and Italy (Fig. 1).

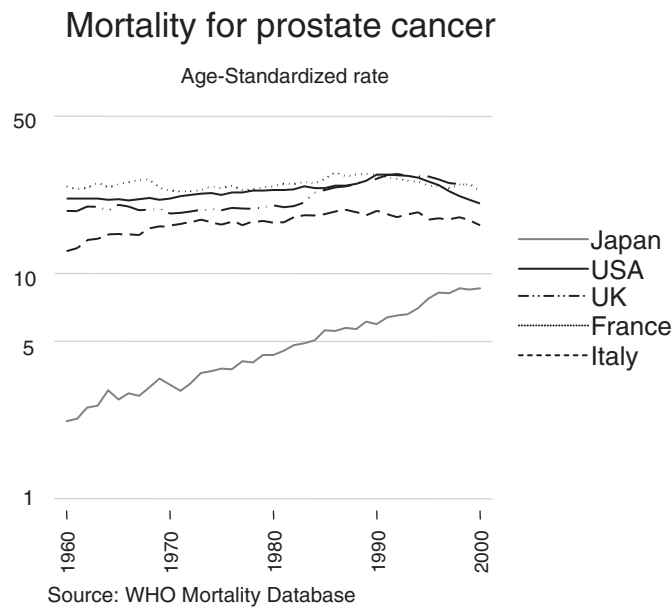


Figure 1. Age-standardized mortality rates for prostate cancer: age-standardized with 1985 Japanese standard population, rates per 100 000.

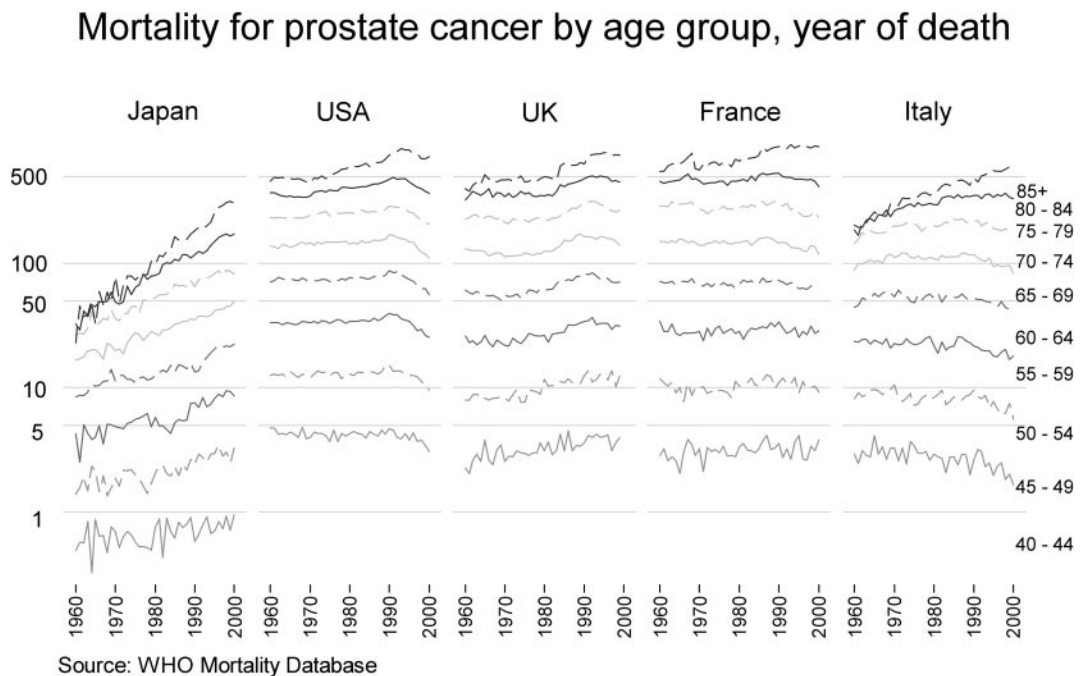


Figure 2. Age-specific rates for males over 40 years of age by year of death for prostate cancer in five countries, rates per 100 000.

Mortality for prostate cancer by age group, year of birth

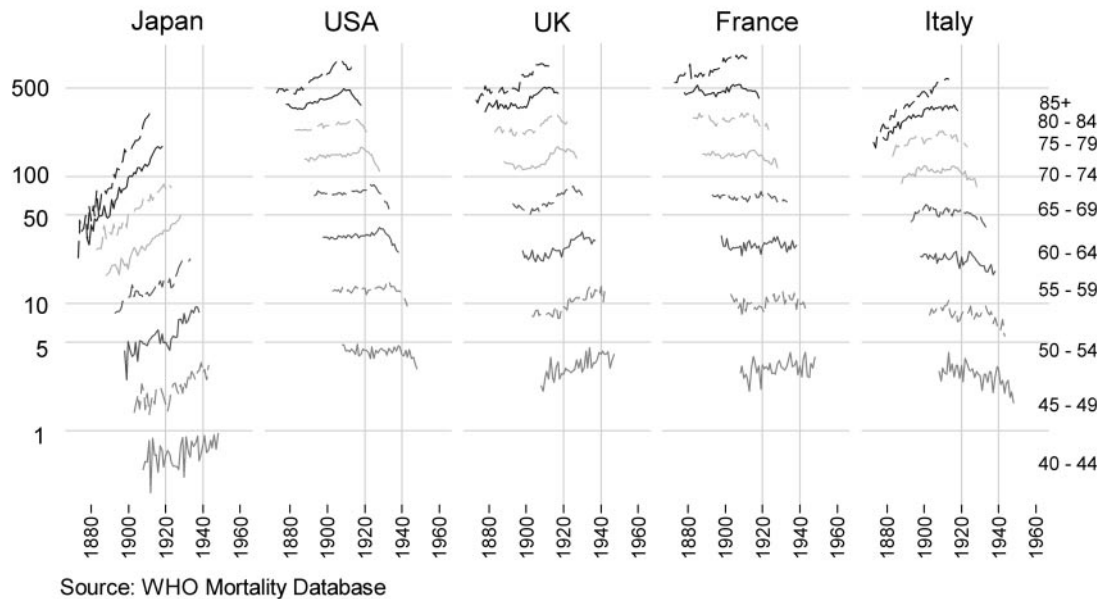


Figure 3. Age-specific rates for males over 40 years of age by birth cohort for prostate cancer in five countries, rates per 100 000.

France and Italy. However, ASRs in Japan have been constantly and dramatically increasing from 1960 to 2000, and the difference in ASRs between Japan and the other four countries have recently diminished. ASRs of prostate cancer among males from the USA, UK, France and Italy were similar while those among Italian men tended to be lower. For the four countries other than Japan, ASRs for these four decades have maintained a plateau or increased slightly. Elevation in ASRs of prostate cancer among males from the USA and UK was observed in the late-1980s with a peak around 1990, followed recently by a decreasing trend.

Mortality trends for prostate cancer by age group are shown according to year of death (Fig. 2). An increasing trend in mortality from prostate cancer among Japanese males was observed irrespective of age group, and its peak has not been reached by 2000 for all age groups. Regarding mortality from prostate cancer among males in the USA, UK, France and Italy, decreasing trends were found after 1990 for almost all age groups. For these four countries, except for elderly males aged 80 years or more, mortality from prostate cancer from 1960 to 1990 was stable (USA, France and Italy) or slightly increasing (UK).

When mortality rates for prostate cancer by age group were shown according to year of birth (Fig. 3), no distinctive birth cohort effect was found for males in Japan, USA, UK, France and Italy.

Note: Original data was downloaded from WHO Mortality Database (version as of August 2004). The data was then tabulated by I. Yoshimi with 185 (ICD-8), 185 (ICD-9) and C61 (ICD-10). Responsibility for this presentation and interpretation lies with the authors, not the WHO Mortality Database.

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