

## CHAPTER 7

# Cancer of the Small Intestine

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Cancer of the small intestine is often considered rare, but in 2004, there were more than 5,000 new cases diagnosed (exclusive of intestinal lymphomas), or about a third the total number of esophageal cancers or primary liver cancers, and more than the number of gallbladder cancers. Slightly more than half of patients were diagnosed at age 65 years or older (Table 1), with a median age of 67 years ([http://seer.cancer.gov/csr/1975\\_2005/results\\_merged/topic\\_med\\_age.pdf](http://seer.cancer.gov/csr/1975_2005/results_merged/topic_med_age.pdf)), making this the digestive system cancer with the second youngest age of onset (after primary liver cancer). Nevertheless, rates were highest among the elderly and among blacks and males.

Age-adjusted incidence for cancer of the small intestine increased by 73 percent between 1979 and 2004 (Figure 1). Lack of awareness of the magnitude of this increase may be a reason for the perception that

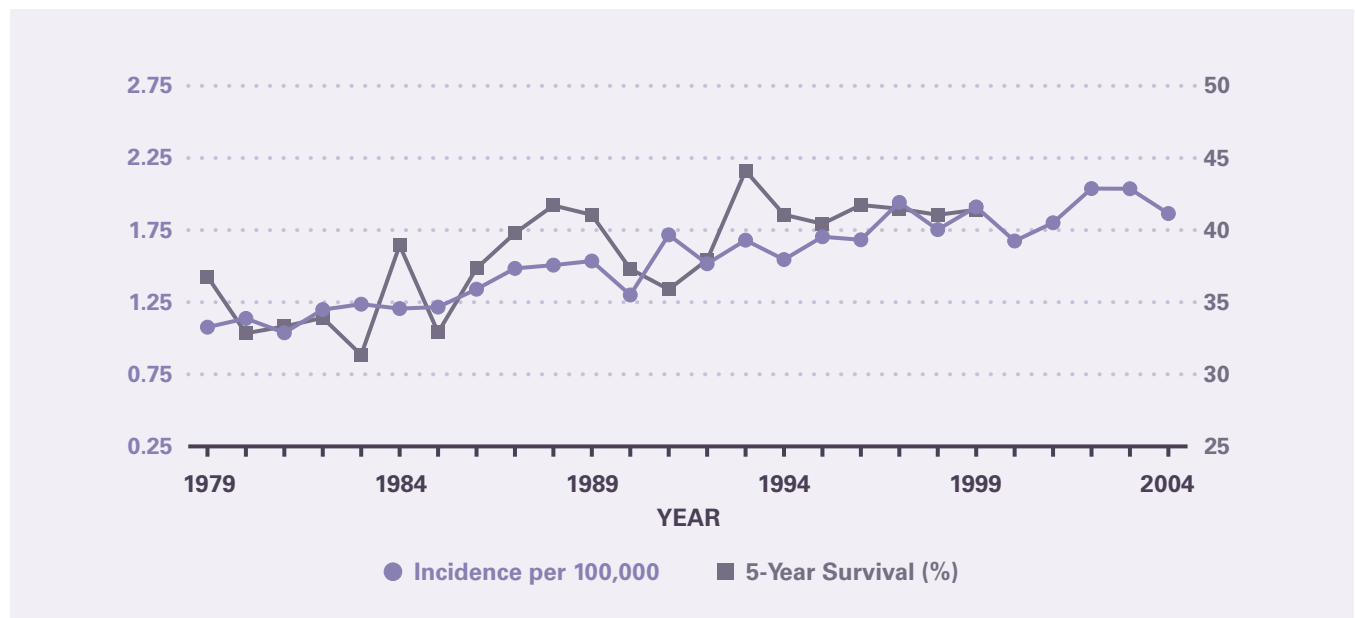
it remains a rare cancer. Over the same period, 5-year survival improved modestly, from about 33 percent to about 41 percent. National medical care systems do not adequately capture outpatient or inpatient visits (Table 2), although rates of hospital discharges have tended to increase in recent years (Figure 2). The number of hospitalizations prior to 1988 was too small to provide estimates.

Because of its relatively high survival rate, there were only 1,115 deaths from cancer of the small intestine in 2004, and fewer than 10,000 YPLL prior to age 75 years (Table 3). The majority of deaths occurred among persons age 65 years and older. Death rates were higher for blacks than whites and for males than females, reflecting the incidence rates. Age-adjusted death rates changed little between 1979 and 2004 (Figure 3).

**Table 1.** Cancer of the Small Intestine: Number of Cases and Incidence Rates by Age, Race/Ethnicity, and Sex, 2004

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS		Number of Cases	INCIDENCE PER 100,000	
			Unadjusted	Age-Adjusted
<b>AGE (Years)</b>	Under 15	—	—	—
	15–44	407	0.3	—
	45–64	1,987	2.8	—
	65+	2,889	8.4	—
<b>RACE/ETHNICITY</b>	Non-Hispanic White	4,298	2.2	1.9
	Non-Hispanic Black	756	2.2	3.0
	Hispanic	295	0.7	1.4
	Asian/Pacific Islander	107	0.9	1.0
	American Indian/Alaska Native	—	—	—
<b>SEX</b>	Female	2,357	1.6	1.5
	Male	2,703	1.9	2.2
<b>TOTAL</b>		5,065	1.8	—

SOURCE: Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program

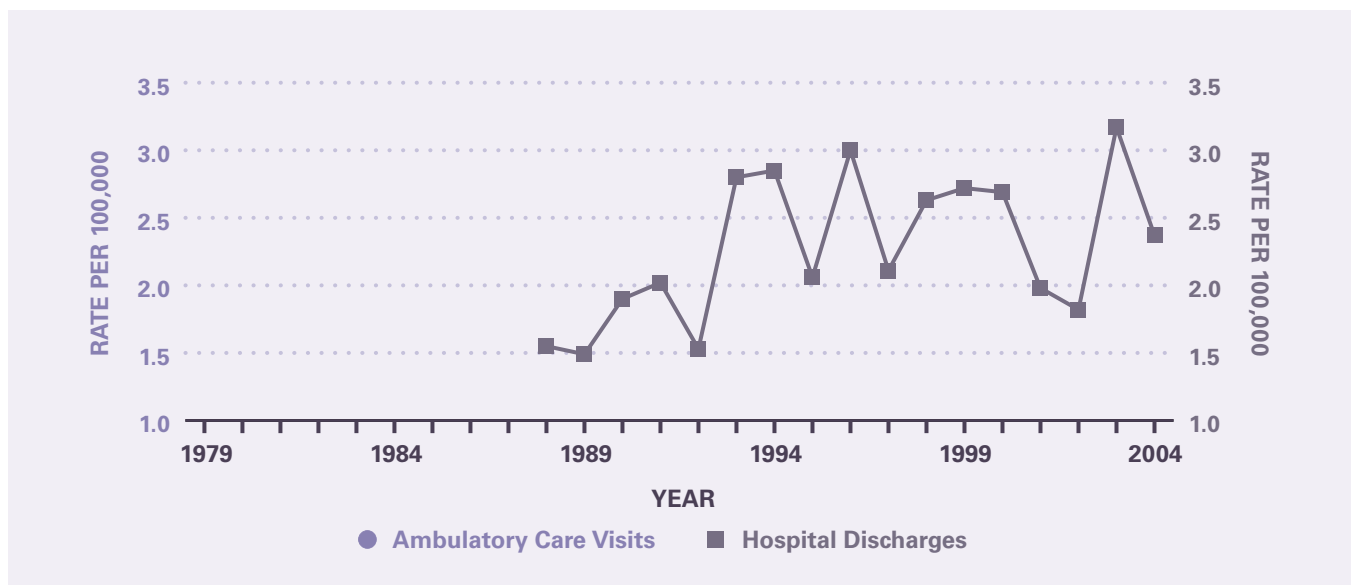
**Figure 1.** Cancer of the Small Intestine: Age-Adjusted Incidence Rates and 5-Year Survival Rates, 1979–2004

SOURCE: Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program

**Table 2.** Cancer of the Small Intestine: Number and Age-Adjusted Rates of Ambulatory Care Visits and Hospital Discharges With First-Listed and All-Listed Diagnoses by Age, Race, and Sex in the United States, 2004

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS	AMBULATORY CARE VISITS				HOSPITAL DISCHARGES			
	First-Listed Diagnosis		All-Listed Diagnoses		First-Listed Diagnosis		All-Listed Diagnoses	
	Number in Thousands	Rate per 100,000	Number in Thousands	Rate per 100,000	Number in Thousands	Rate per 100,000	Number in Thousands	Rate per 100,000
<b>AGE (Years)</b>	Under 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	15–44	—	—	—	—	0	0	1
	45–64	—	—	—	—	2	3	3
	65+	—	—	—	—	3	9	5
<b>RACE</b>	White	—	—	—	—	5	2	7
	Black	—	—	—	—	1	3	1
<b>SEX</b>	Female	—	—	—	—	3	2	4
	Male	—	—	—	—	3	2	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	—	—	—	—	6	2	9	3

SOURCE: National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS) and National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NHAMCS) (3-year average, 2003–2005), and Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project Nationwide Inpatient Sample (HCUP NIS)

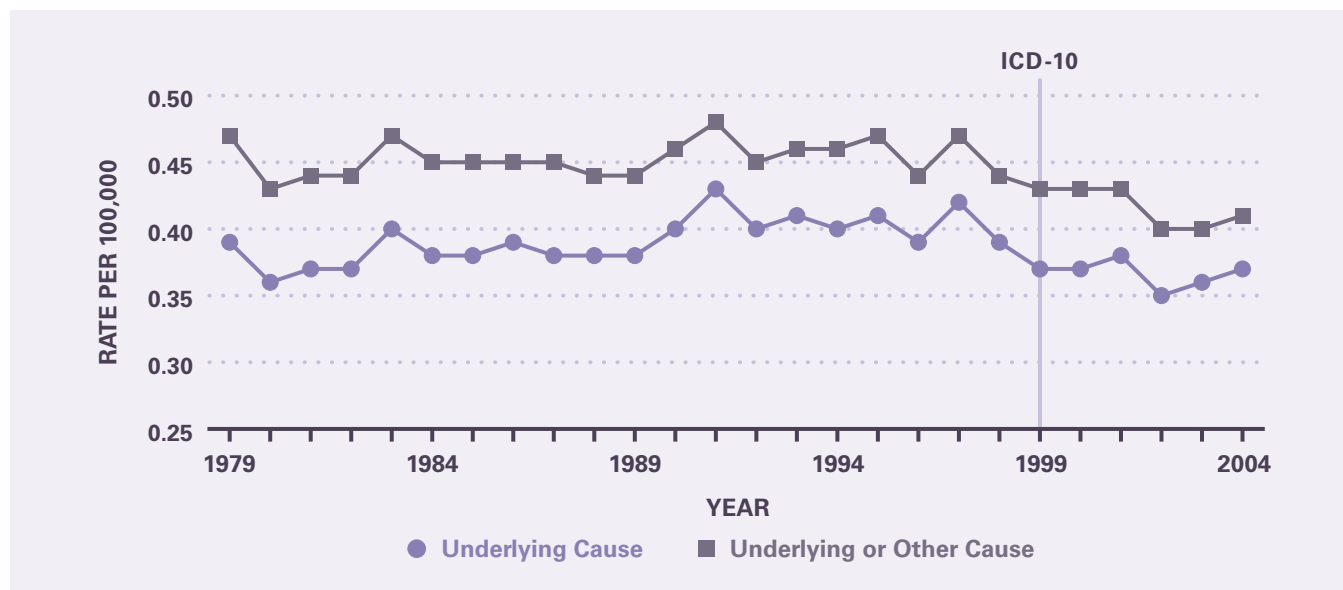
**Figure 2.** Cancer of the Small Intestine: Age-Adjusted Rates of Ambulatory Care Visits and Hospital Discharges With All-Listed Diagnoses in the United States, 1979–2004 (Ambulatory Care Visit Data Unavailable)

SOURCE: National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS) and National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NHAMCS) (averages 1992–1993, 1994–1996, 1997–1999, 2000–2002, 2003–2005), and National Hospital Discharge Survey (NHDS)

**Table 3.** Cancer of the Small Intestine: Number and Age-Adjusted Rates of Deaths and Years of Potential Life Lost (to Age 75) by Age, Race, and Sex in the United States, 2004

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS	UNDERLYING CAUSE			UNDERLYING OR OTHER CAUSE	
	Number of Deaths	Rate per 100,000	Years of Potential Life Lost in Thousands	Number of Deaths	Rate per 100,000
<b>AGE (Years)</b>	Under 15	—	—	—	—
	15–44	55	0.0	59	0.0
	45–64	329	0.5	358	0.5
	65+	731	2.0	838	2.3
<b>RACE</b>	White	908	0.3	1,021	0.4
	Black	175	0.6	194	0.7
<b>SEX</b>	Female	523	0.3	588	0.3
	Male	592	0.5	667	0.5
<b>TOTAL</b>		1,115	0.4	1,255	0.4

SOURCE: Vital Statistics of the United States

**Figure 3.** Cancer of the Small Intestine: Age-Adjusted Rates of Death in the United States, 1979–2004

SOURCE: Vital Statistics of the United States