

Liver and Bile Duct Cancer

In West Virginia



Liver Cancer Quick Facts¹:

- Between 2015 and 2019, West Virginia (WV) reported 1,049 new liver cancer cases, which is about 210 new cancer cases per year.
- In WV, men are twice as likely as women to develop and die from the disease liver cancer.
- Incidence of liver and bile duct cancer in WV has doubled since 2000 (Figure 1).
- Liver and bile duct cancer is the 14th most commonly diagnosed cancer, and the 8th most common cause of cancer death in West Virginians.

For more information, please contact the West Virginia Cancer Registry.

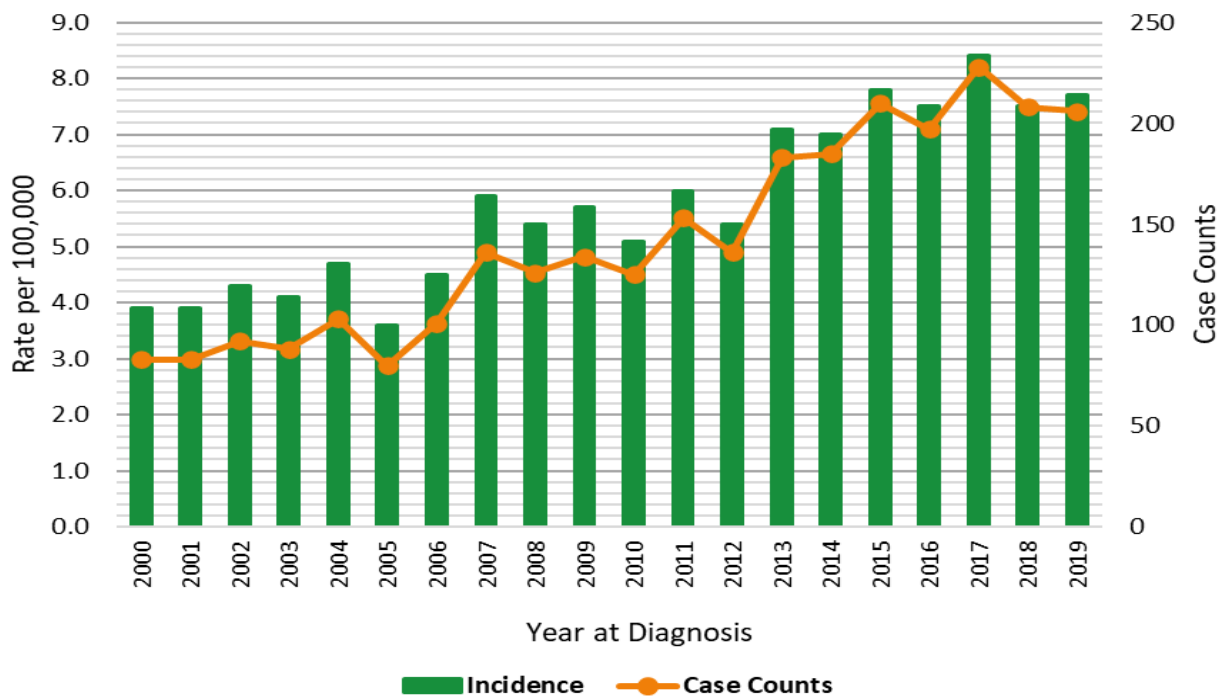
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What is the Liver and Bile Duct Cancer?

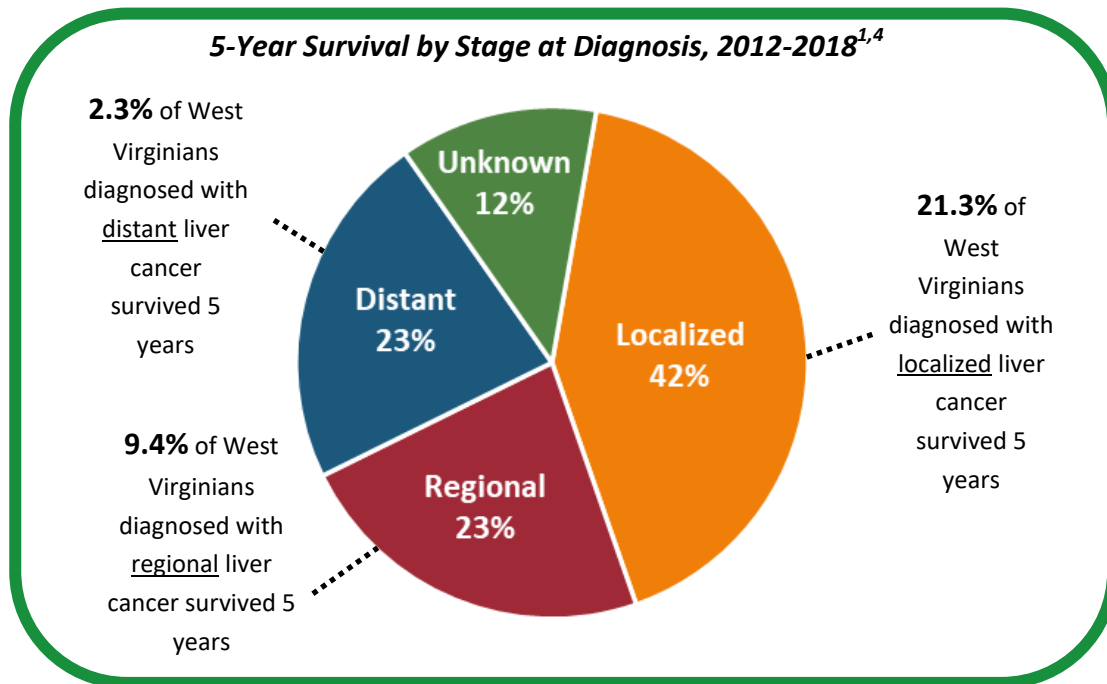
Liver and Bile Duct cancer occurs when liver cells or the cells that line the bile ducts begin growing and dividing uncontrollably. Symptoms of liver and bile duct cancer include unexplained weight loss, loss of appetite, feeling full after a small meal, nausea or vomiting, a feeling of fullness under the ribs, abdominal pain or pain near the right shoulder blade, swelling of the abdomen, itching, and yellowing of the skin or eyes (jaundice).³

Liver and Bile Duct cancer can be prevented by getting the hepatitis B vaccination, getting tested for hepatitis, receiving viral hepatitis treatment (if you have already been diagnosed with viral hepatitis), maintaining a healthy weight and diet, and refraining from alcohol and tobacco use².

Figure 1: Incidence Rates and Case Counts of Liver Cancer in WV Over Time¹



5-Year Survival by Stage at Diagnosis, 2012-2018^{1,4}



Liver Cancer Risk Factors³

- **Gender** — Liver cancer is much more common in men than in women.
- **Race/Ethnicity** — In the United States, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have the highest liver cancer rates, followed by Latinos, Native Americans, African Americans, and whites.
- **Cirrhosis** — Cirrhosis occurs when healthy liver cells are replaced with scar tissue, making normal liver functions much harder to complete. This is primarily caused by chronic viral infection or hepatitis due to alcohol use.
- **Chronic Viral Hepatitis** — Those that have chronic hepatitis infections usually develop cirrhosis of the liver. Worldwide, chronic viral hepatitis is the most common risk factor for liver cancer.
- **Inherited Metabolic Diseases** — Certain genetically inherited metabolic diseases, like hereditary hemochromatosis, can lead to cirrhosis of the liver.
- **Certain Lifestyle Habits** — Alcohol abuse, tobacco use, obesity, and type 2 diabetes have all been linked with an increased risk of liver cancer.
- **Aflatoxins** — Aflatoxins are cancer-causing substances made by a fungus that contaminates wheat, peanuts, soybeans, ground nuts, corn, and rice. Long-term exposure is a major risk factor for liver cancer.
- **Certain Rare Diseases** — Diseases such as tyrosinemia, alpha1-antitrypsin deficiency, porphyria cutanea tarda, glycogen storage diseases, and Wilson's disease all increase risk of liver cancer.

References

- 1) West Virginia Cancer Registry
- 2) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention . Liver Cancer. <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/liver/index.htm>. Accessed February, 2023.
- 3) American Cancer Society. Liver Cancer Risk Factors. <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/liver-cancer/causes-risks-prevention/risk-factors.html>. Accessed February, 2023
- 4) U.S. Cancer Statistics Working Group. U.S. Cancer Statistics Data Visualizations Tool, based on 2021 submission data (1999-2019): U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Cancer Institute; <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/dataviz>, released in November 2022.