CANCER MORTALITY TRENDS IN MEXICO: A SPECIFIC ANALYSIS OF THE STATE OF CHIHUAHUA

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Abstract. Cancer is considered as a major public health issue worldwide. Mexico has about 128 million inhabitants and, at present cancer is the third leading cause of death, after cardiovascular disease and diabetes. Statistics shows that about 80,000 people die of cancer every year; and the incidence and mortality of cancer have risen recently. The most common cancers among male are prostate and lung while breast and cervix uteri are the most common among females. There is a notably higher mortality rate due to cancer in the States in northern Mexico and lung, breast and prostate cancer are three times as high in the northern States as in the south. The mortality rate from cancer in Chihuahua is about 14.3\% and the question that arises is what factors are affecting the high incidence of cancer among the inhabitants? Specifically the question that will be addressed is what social and cultural factors are influencing the high incidence of cancer in different locations of the State of Chihuahua? Hence, the objective of this review is to summarize the status of cancer in the state of Chihuahua and to discuss some factors such as tobacco use, \textsuperscript{222}Rn exposure, obesity, malnutrition, capsaicin consumption and new dietary habits that are contributing to increasing the incidence of this disease. Data shows that in some locations in Chihuahua obesity and \textsuperscript{222}Rn exposure are major factors while in others malnutrition and dietary habits need to be analyzed. Therefore, the identification of risk factors for cancer among Chihuahua’s inhabitants according to the place of residence will be important in preventing this disease.

Key Words: cancer mortality, Chihuahua, factors, Mexico.