

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

The overall incidence of cancer is known to rise with increasing age. Control of communicable diseases, has increased life expectancy and therefore more of the population live longer resulting in a greater population in the older age groups. The increase in population due to growth also contributes to the increase in the number of cancer cases. Improved literacy, greater consciousness about health in general and awareness about cancer in particular makes more and more people seek medical advice at an earlier stage. Availability and access to sophisticated and improved diagnostic techniques, aid in detection of tumours that would have been missed at earlier times. The question is whether cancer is on the increase after accounting for these factors and whether that rise is statistically significant.

One measure of determining such an increase would be to examine the age adjusted incidence rates (AAR) over time. This may or may not take into account all of the factors mentioned above. Nonetheless, it would give some indication of the trends in the disease. Cancer being a chronic disease (and unlike infectious diseases) with generally a long latent period and a rather prolonged clinical phase, generally speaking, year to year variations are slight. Therefore, in assessing time trends in AAR, in this report, single year, average annual AARs of three and five calendar years have been used for the older PBCRs that started reporting incidence data from the year 1982 or 1988. For the newer PBCRs with relatively fewer years of data available, the three year moving average of the AARs has been used along with the single year AARs. The data presented here gives a fair account of the direction in which the incidence rates of the leading sites of cancer are proceeding across the years. Based on this, the report also provides an estimate of the burden of specific sites of cancer for the next decade. Such estimates will greatly facilitate deciding on priorities and planning site specific cancer control activities.

The first report on time trends in incidence rates was first published under the NCRP in 2009 comprising data from 1982 to 2005. This is the second report covering additional five years of data (2006 to 2010) and reporting trends in incidence rates in many of the newer PBCRs that include those from the North East.

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR DISEASE INFORMATICS AND RESEARCH NATIONAL CANCER REGISTRY PROGRAMME - NETWORK (Indian Council of Medical Research)



- ICMR HEADQUARTERS
 - NCDIR-NCRP COORDINATING UNIT
 - ◆ MONITORING UNIT, N.E. PBCRs
- POPULATION BASED REGISTRY
 - ▲ HOSPITAL BASED REGISTRY
 - ★ PATTERNS OF CARE AND SURVIVAL STUDIES
 - ✿ CENTRES USING HBCRDM SOFTWARE
 - ✕ CANCER ATLAS - PUNJAB STATE