

# Cancer in Northern New Mexico

Epidemiological Data for Cancer Rates Downstream of LANL

Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board Meeting  
The Lodge at Santa Fe

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**HEALTH SCIENCES**  
NEW MEXICO TUMOR REGISTRY

# What We'll Cover Today

- Cancer
- Public Health Surveillance for Cancer
- Measures and Methods
- Cancer Rates in Northern New Mexico
- Questions
- Concluding Remarks

# Cancer

- The word ***cancer*** is commonly used to refer to over 100 different diseases that may share common characteristics or “hallmarks”
- Each type of cancer is associated with ***risk factors*** that influence the chances of developing the disease... but these factors are not the same for all types of cancer
- Methods of treatment often vary by type of cancer
- Among children born in the United States today, it is estimated that 1-in-3 females and 1-in-2 males will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime

**10 Leading Causes of Death by Sex, New Mexico, 2016  
and U.S. 2015 (Ranked by number of NM deaths)**

	New Mexico	United States
1	Heart Disease	Heart Disease
2	Cancer (Malignant)	Cancer (Malignant)
3	Unintentional injuries	Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases
4	Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	Unintentional injuries
5	Stroke	Stroke
6	Diabetes Mellitus	Alzheimer's Disease
7	Alzheimer's Disease	Diabetes Mellitus
8	Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	Influenza and Pneumonia
9	Suicide	Kidney Disease
10	Influenza and Pneumonia	Suicide

In 2018, an estimated 9,730 New Mexicans will be newly diagnosed with cancer, and approximately 3,750 deaths from cancer will occur.

SOURCE: American Cancer Society

SOURCE: New Mexico Department of Health

# Public Health Surveillance

## Definition of Cancer Surveillance

The systematic collection  
of information on cancer

- *and* -

Timely and effective use of such information  
for the purposes of cancer prevention and control

# Public Health Surveillance

## Reportable Diseases and Conditions

- Considered a risk to the public health
- Monitored to assist in prevention and control
- Designated and enforced by state government
- Funded and administered by local, state, and federal agencies

# Public Health Surveillance

## Reportable Diseases and Conditions

- Cancer is a reportable disease in New Mexico
- Collection of cancer data is mandated under state law (New Mexico Administrative Code: Title 7; Chapter 4; Part 3)
- NMTR is the NM Department of Health's Designee for conducting Public Health Surveillance for Cancer

# Public Health Surveillance

## Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

- Public Health Surveillance is allowed under HIPAA
  - § 164.512 Uses and disclosures for which consent, an authorization or opportunity to agree or object is not required
- NMTR is excluded from the UNM-HSC HIPAA Hybrid Covered Entity
  - “A covered entity may use or disclose protected health information to the extent that such use or disclosure is required by law and the use or disclosure complies with and is limited to the relevant requirements of such law.”*



# Cancer Surveillance in New Mexico

## New Mexico Tumor Registry

- Population-based, central cancer registry
- Established in 1966
- Area of Coverage:

*-New Mexico Statewide  
-Arizona American Indians  
...in collaboration with the  
Arizona Cancer Registry*

- Founding member of the National Cancer Institute's SEER Program (1973)
- Collect and provide high quality cancer surveillance data to support scientific research and a broad spectrum of cancer control activities



# Cancer Surveillance in New Mexico

## New Mexico Tumor Registry

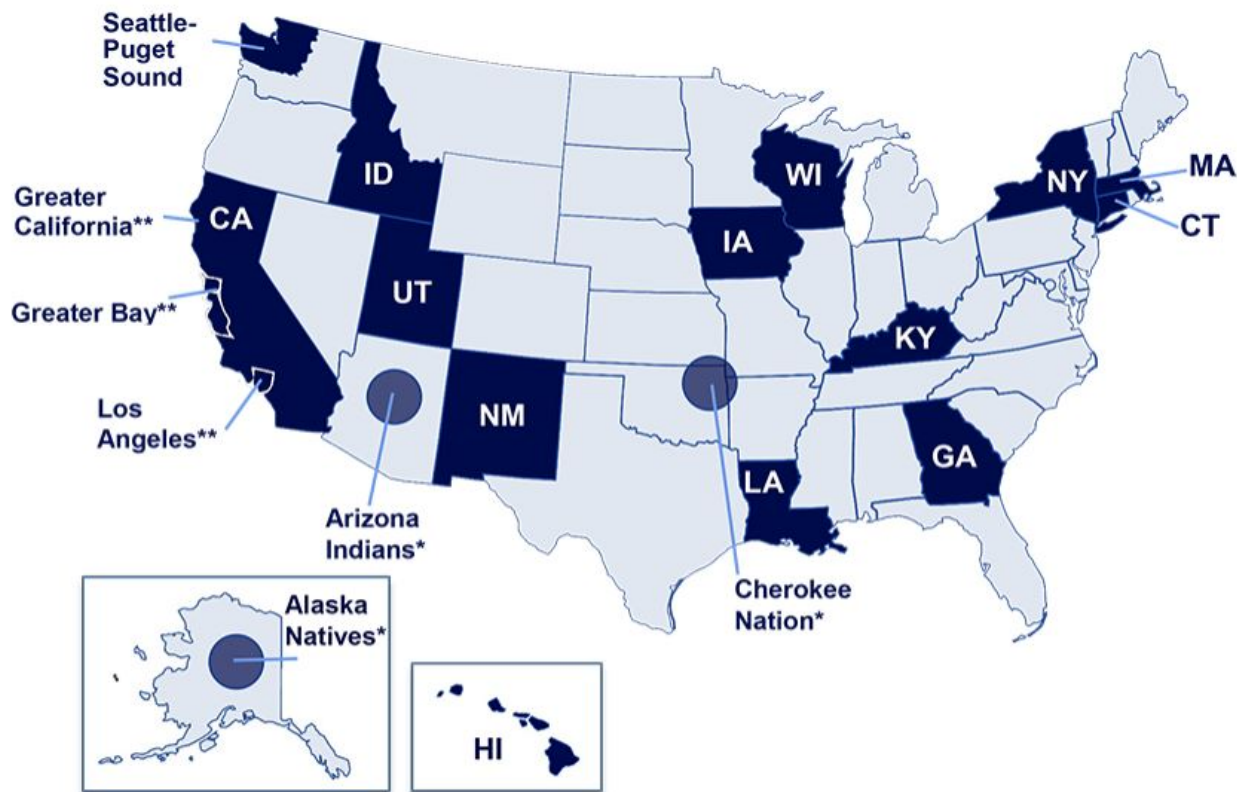
Cancer surveillance in New Mexico is conducted in accordance with standards set by:

- Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results Program
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- North American Association of Central Cancer Registries
- American College of Surgeons



**NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE**

**Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program**



\*Subcontract under New Mexico

\*\*Three regions represent the state of California: Greater Bay, Los Angeles, and Greater California

The SEER Program provides information on cancer statistics in an effort to reduce the cancer burden among the U.S. population. SEER is supported by the Surveillance Research Program in National Cancer Institute's Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences. This is the funding agency of the NMTR.

# The New Mexico Tumor Registry documents a variety of characteristics for each cancer case

## *Patient*

- Personal identifiers, sex, ancestry, age, place of residence

## *Cancer*

- Anatomic site, histology, behavior, grade, stage, selected markers

## *Therapy*

- Surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, hormones, other modalities

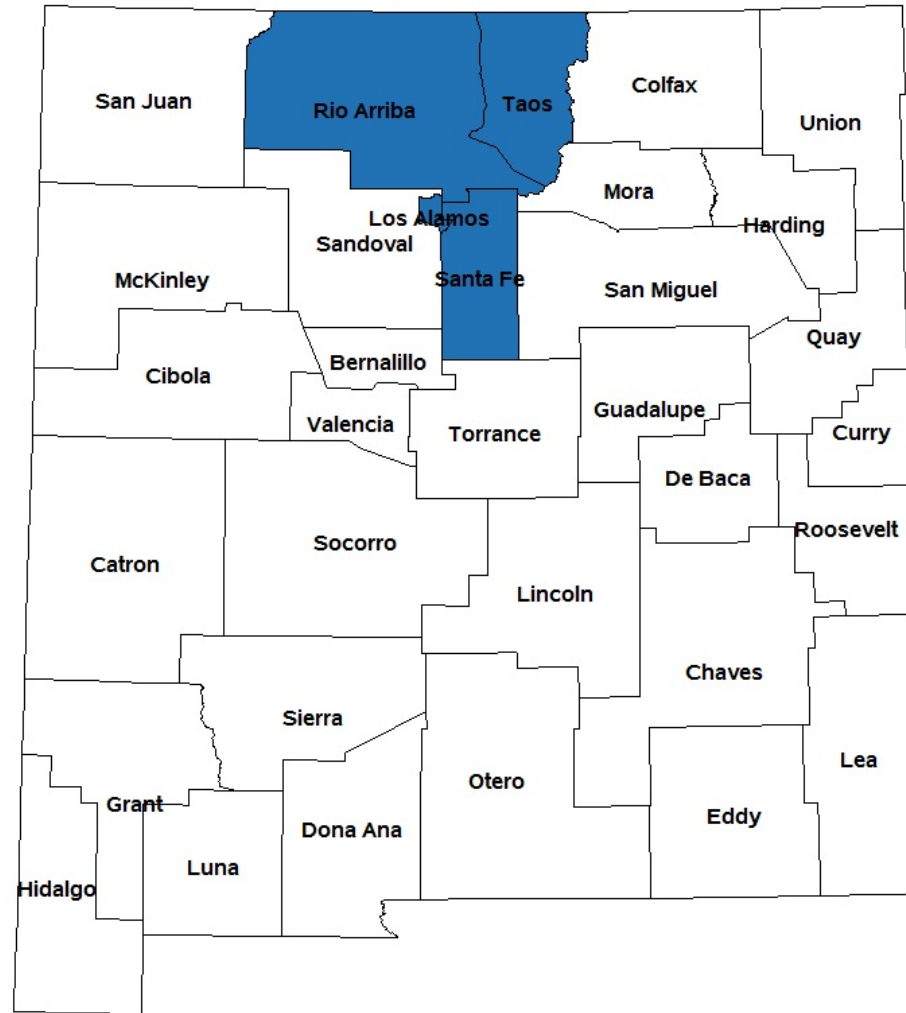
## *Care Provider*

- Physicians, hospitals

## *Outcome*

- Vital status, survival time, cause-of-death

# Focus on Four Northern New Mexico Counties

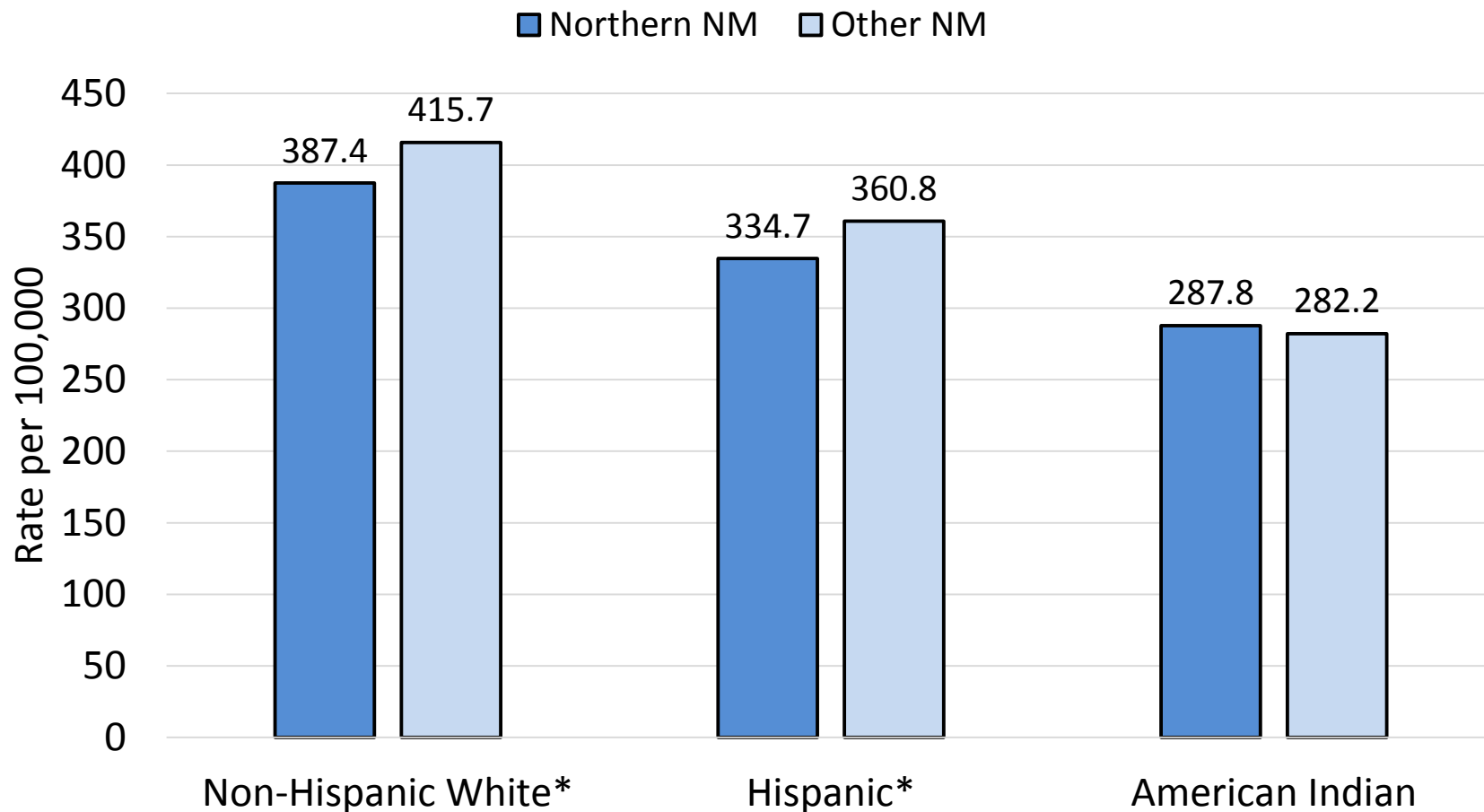


# Incidence Rates

- ***Incidence rates*** measure of how quickly new cancer cases are being diagnosed among New Mexico residents
- Relates newly-diagnosed cancer cases to the size of the resident population during a specified time period
- Today's presentation focuses on average annual incidence rates for the time period 2005-2016
- All rates were age-adjusted to the distribution of the US 2000 population
- The role of chance was assessed with conventional methods for assessing “statistical significance”

# All Types of Cancer - Combined

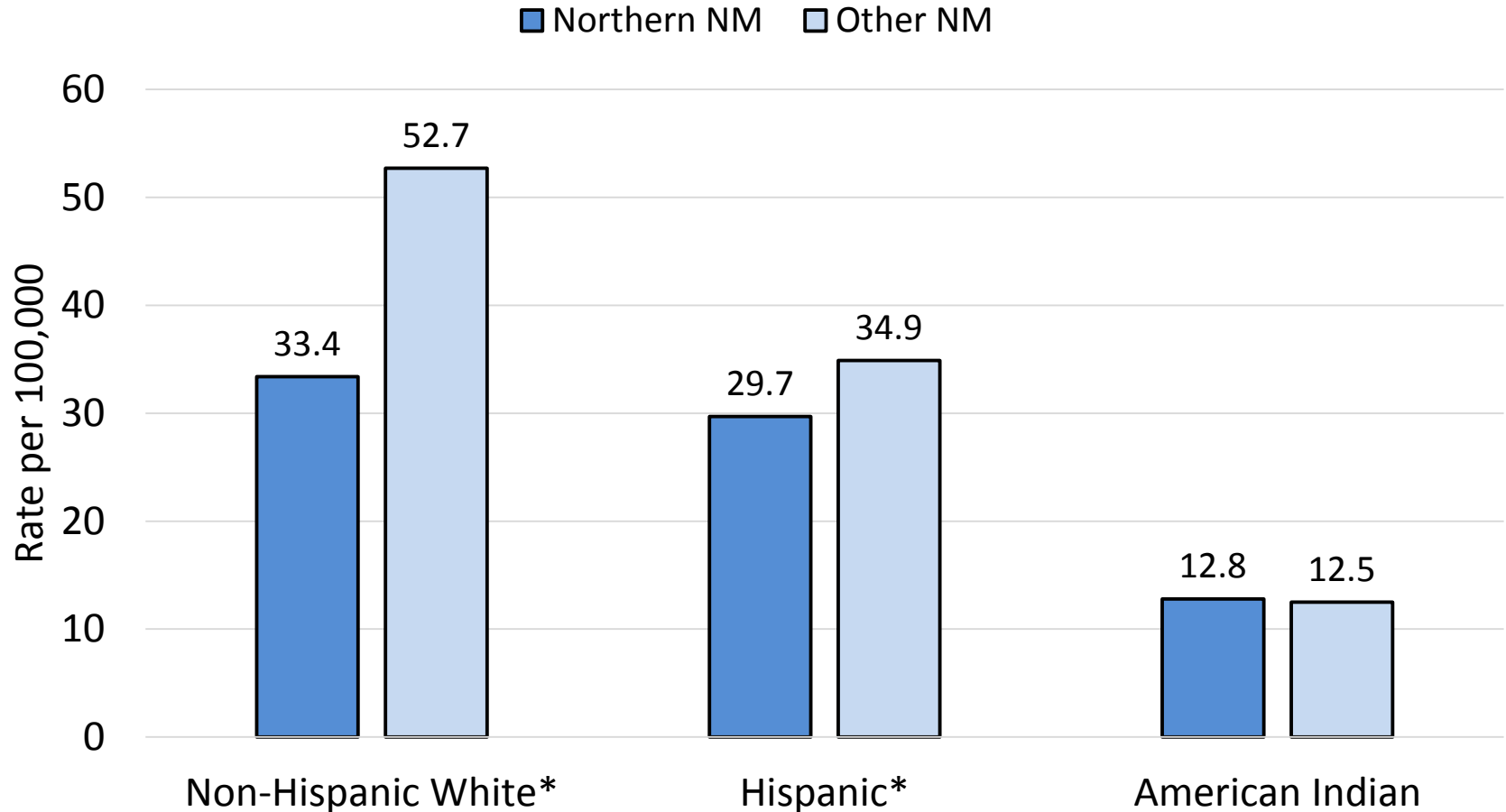
Average Annual Age-Adjusted Incidence Rates, 2005-2016



\* Asterisk denotes statistically significant difference ( $p < 0.05$ )

# Cancers of the Lung and Bronchus

Average Annual Age-Adjusted Incidence Rates, 2006-2015

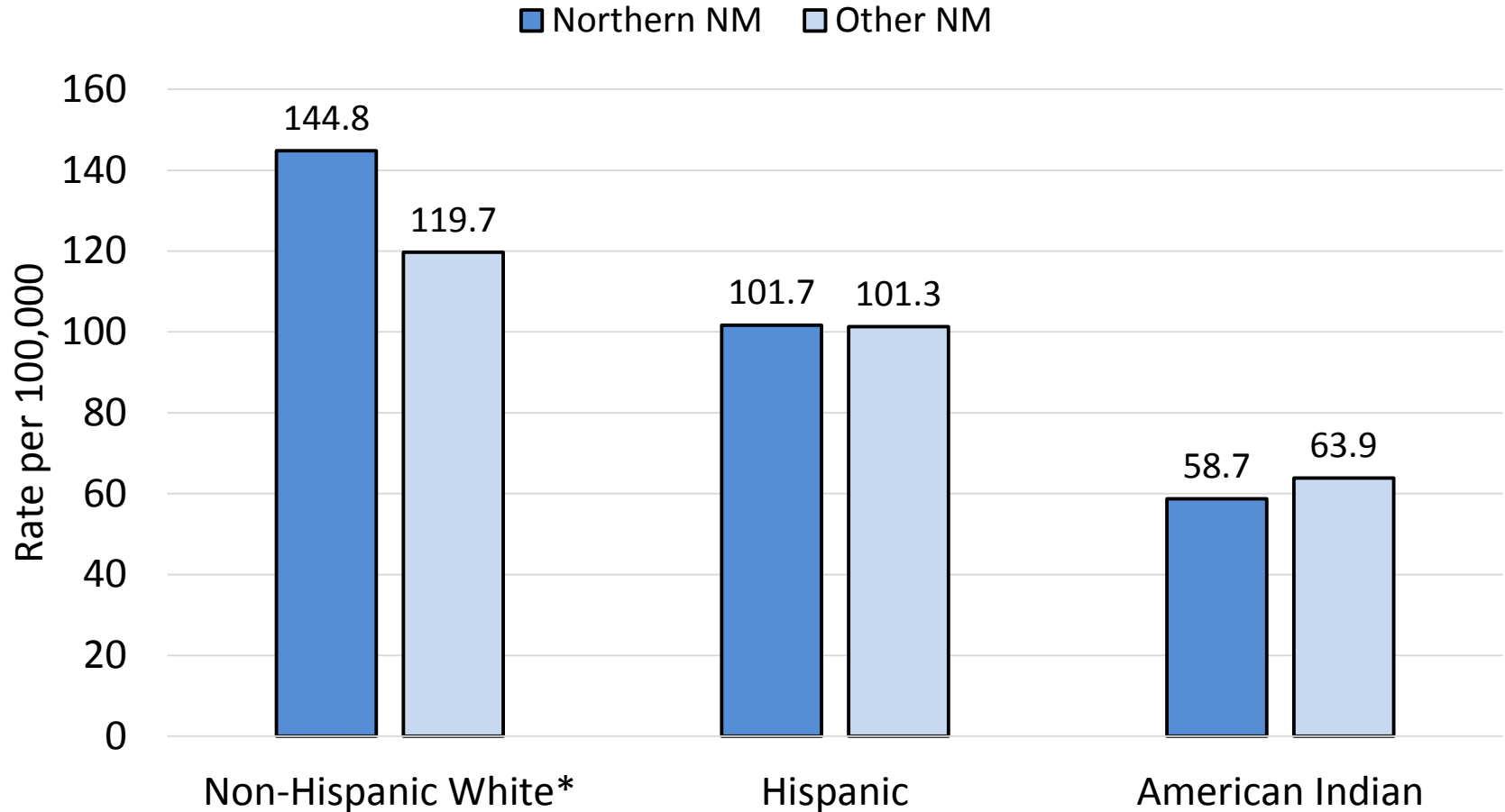


\* Asterisk denotes statistically significant difference ( $p < 0.05$ )



# Cancers of the Female Breast

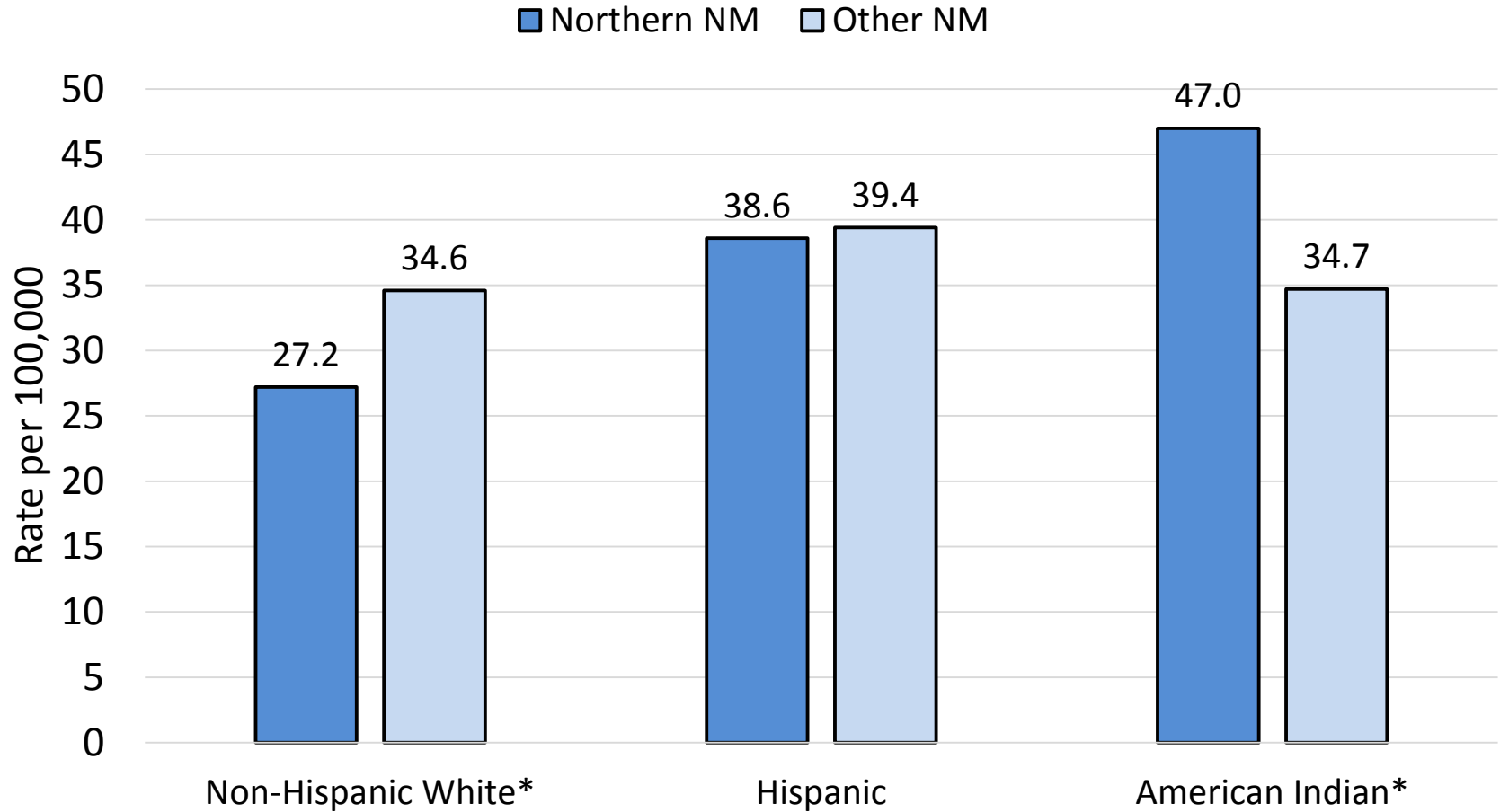
Average Annual Age-Adjusted Incidence Rates, 2006-2015



\* Asterisk denotes statistically significant difference ( $p < 0.05$ )

# Cancers of the Colon and Rectum

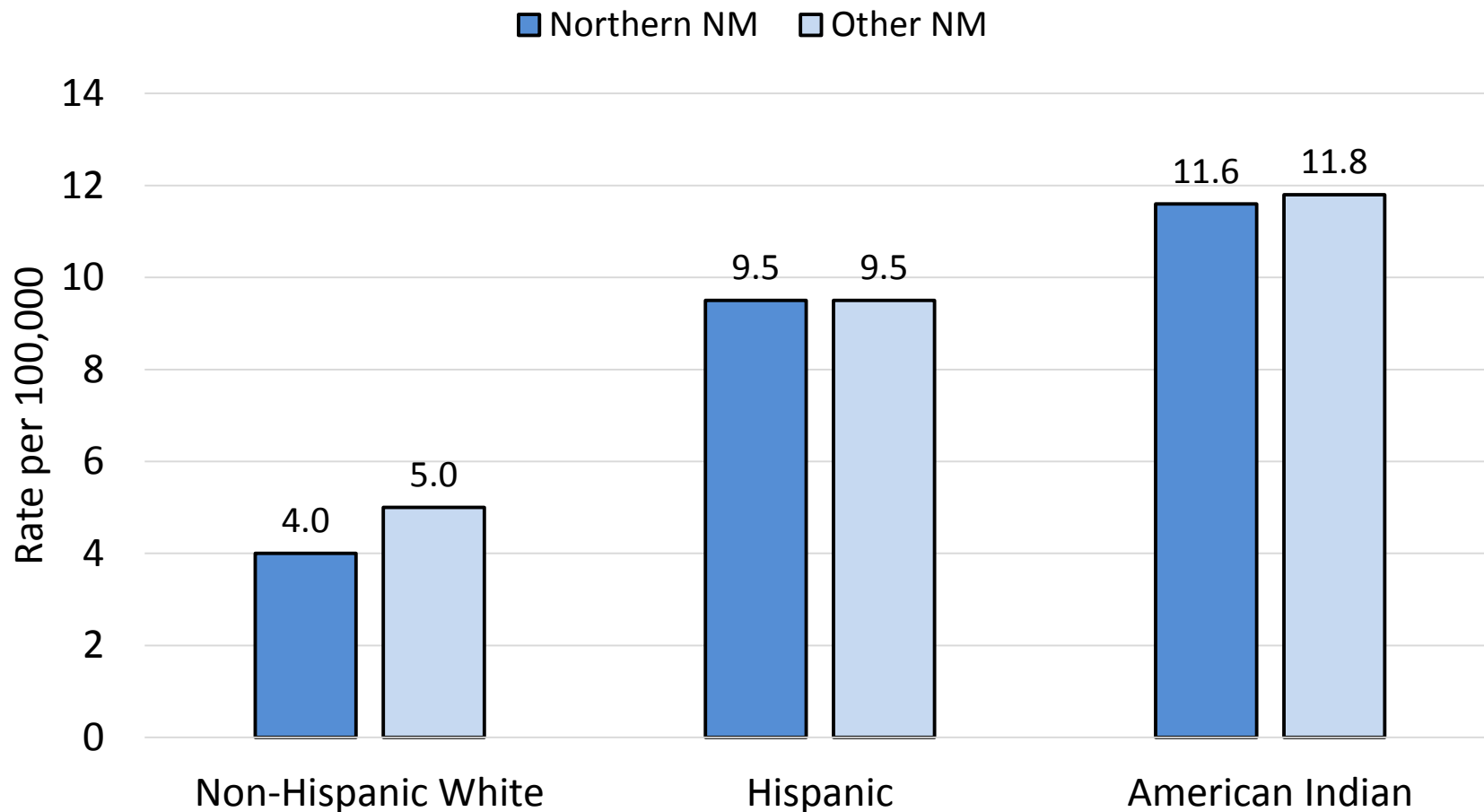
Average Annual Age-Adjusted Incidence Rates, 2006-2015



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# Cancers of the Stomach

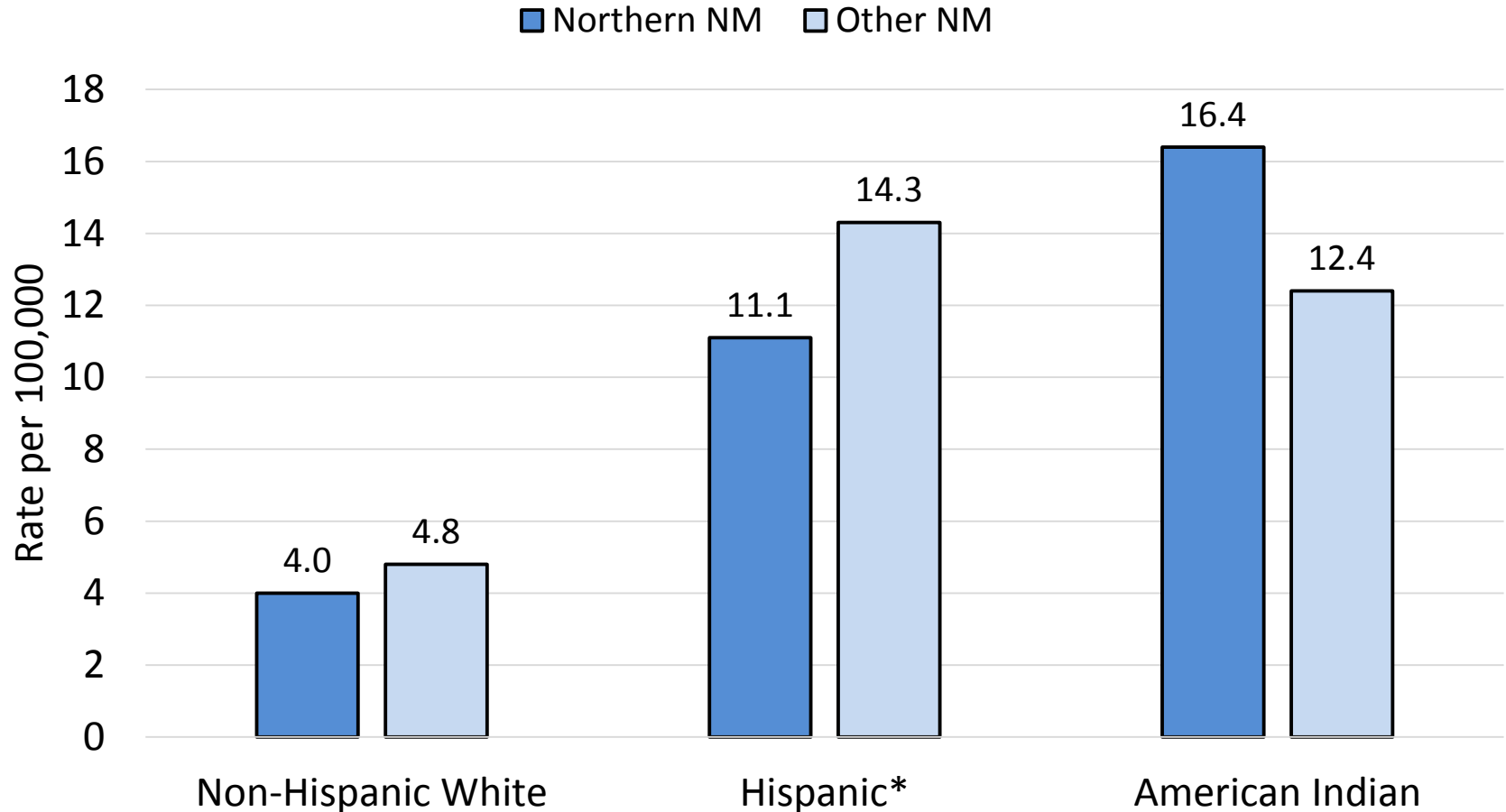
Average Annual Age-Adjusted Incidence Rates, 2006-2015



No statistically significant differences observed

# Cancers of the Liver

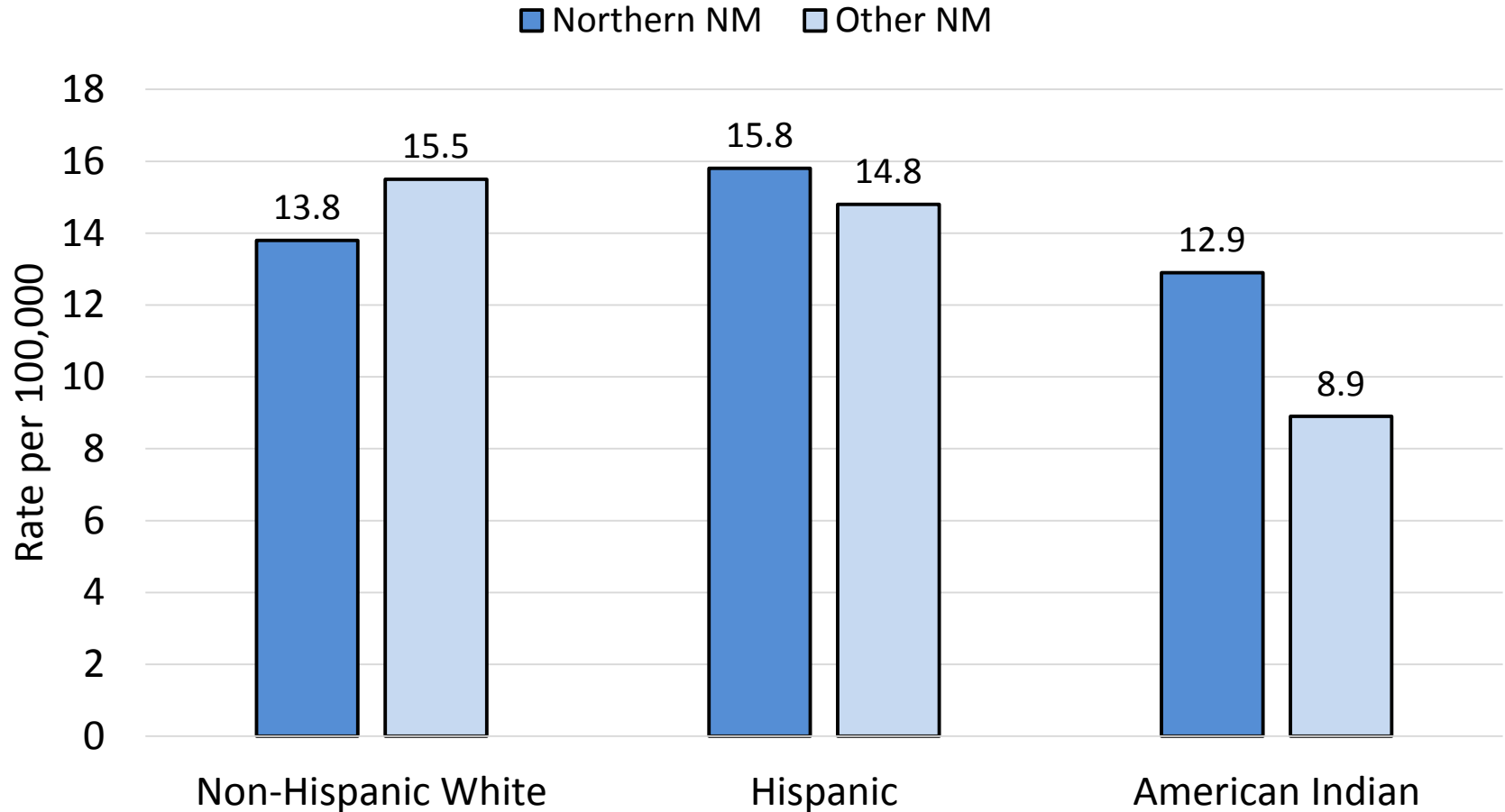
Average Annual Age-Adjusted Incidence Rates, 2006-2015



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# Cancers of the Thyroid

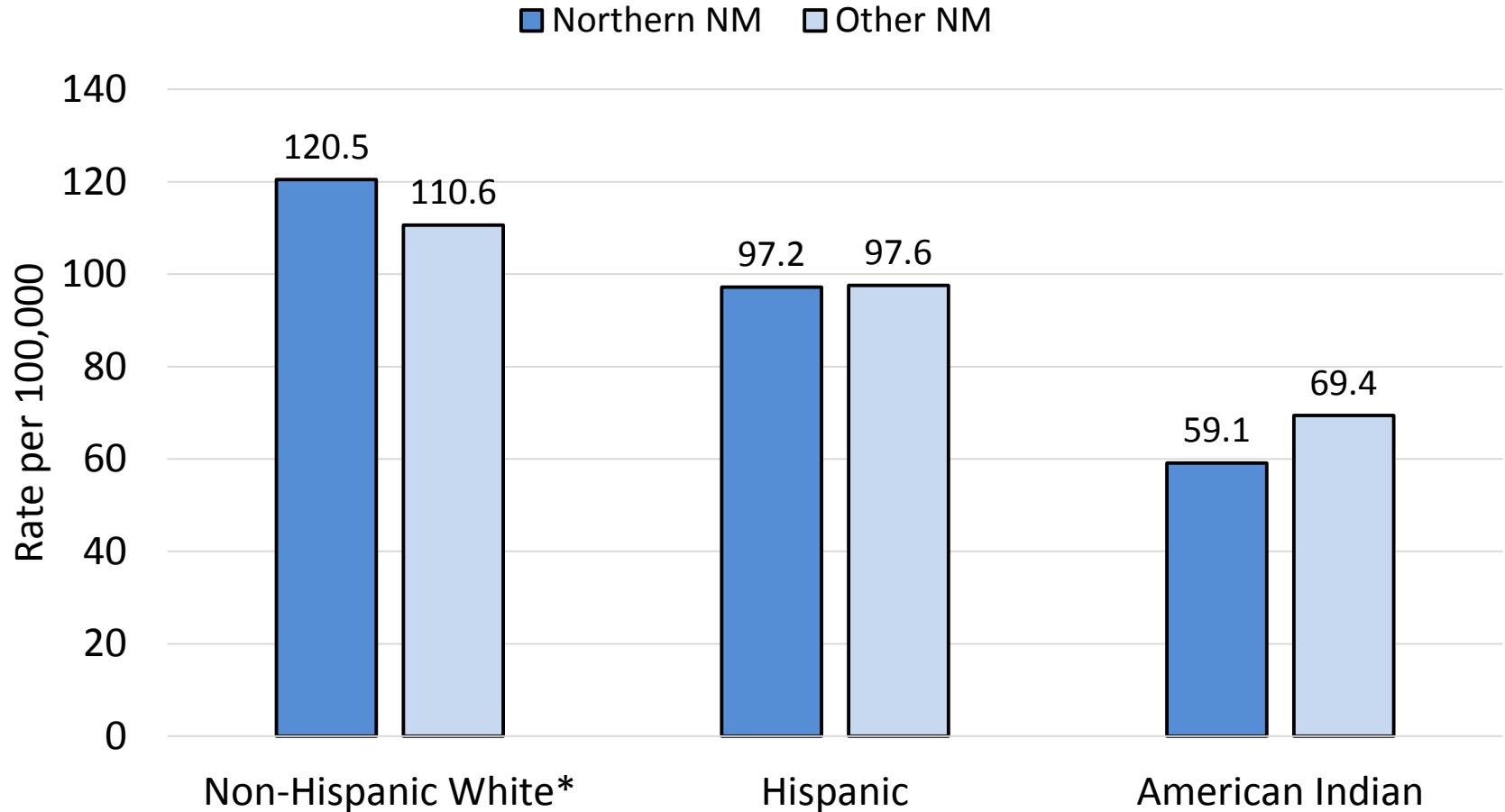
Average Annual Age-Adjusted Incidence Rates, 2006-2015



No statistically significant differences observed

# Cancers of the Prostate

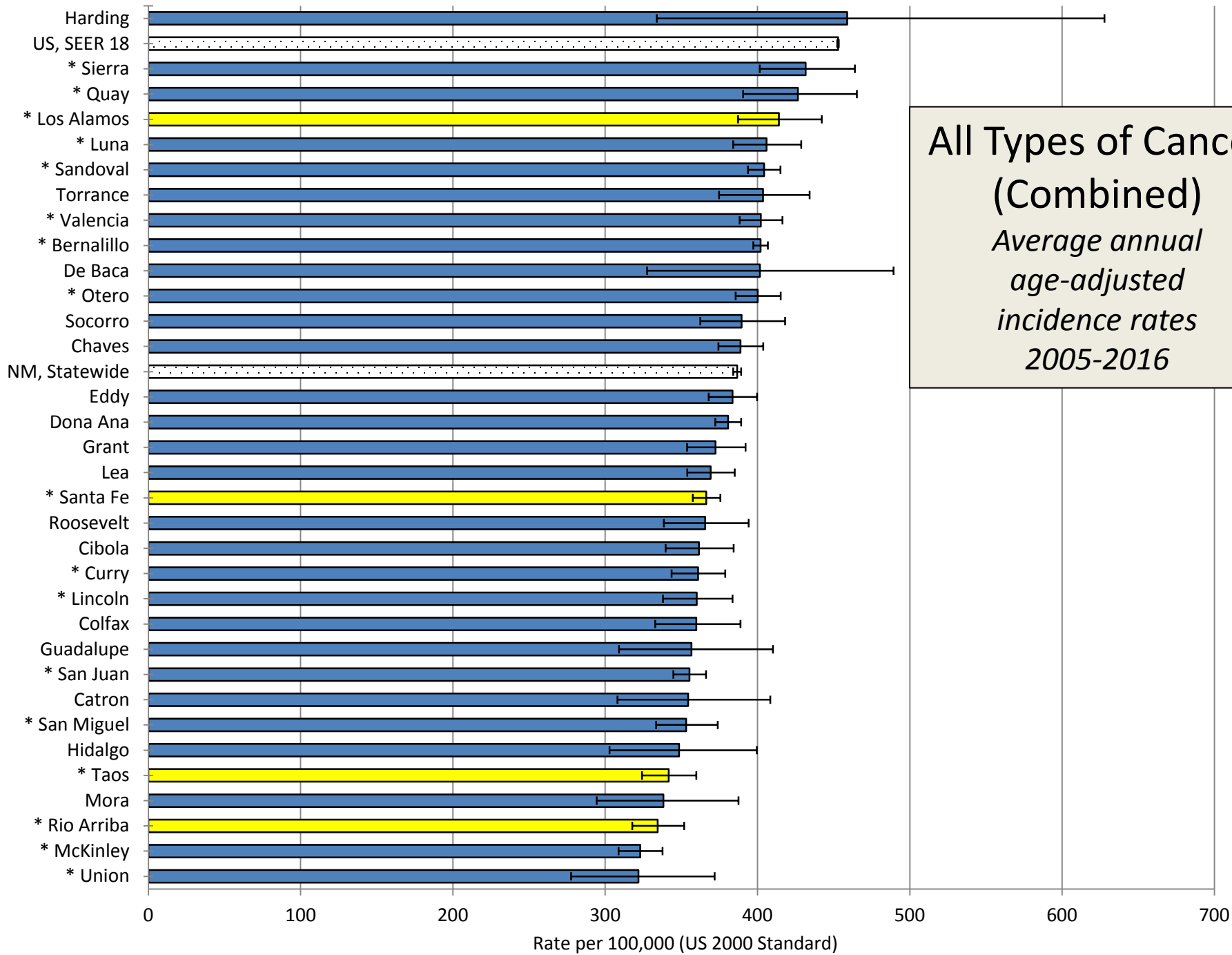
Average Annual Age-Adjusted Incidence Rates, 2006-2015



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# Concluding Remarks

- Cancer is a leading cause of illness and death in New Mexico
- Cancer rates vary by race/ethnicity
- With some exceptions, cancer rates in Northern New Mexico are generally similar to rates observed in other regions of the state
- Challenges:
  - *Constraints in compiling and interpreting reports based on a relatively small number of cases in some areas*
  - *Appropriate population estimates are not always readily available for such analyses*





# Any Questions?

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## Thank you!

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