



Hawai'i Cancer Research Survey Newsletter

Cancer Research Center, University of Hawai'i

NO. 1, FALL 1995

Mahalo for filling out the lengthy questionnaire we mailed to you between 1993 and 1995. We are very grateful for your participation. Many of you have asked questions about our survey. This newsletter will answer some of them and provide you with additional information about the Hawai'i Cancer Research Survey.

Questions and Answers

Q. What is the Hawai'i Cancer Research Survey?

A. The Hawai'i Cancer Research Survey is designed to learn how diet and other lifestyle practices influence the development of cancer. This important study is one of the largest and most ethnically varied in the world. To add to the ethnic diversity, we have included participants from California as well as Hawai'i.

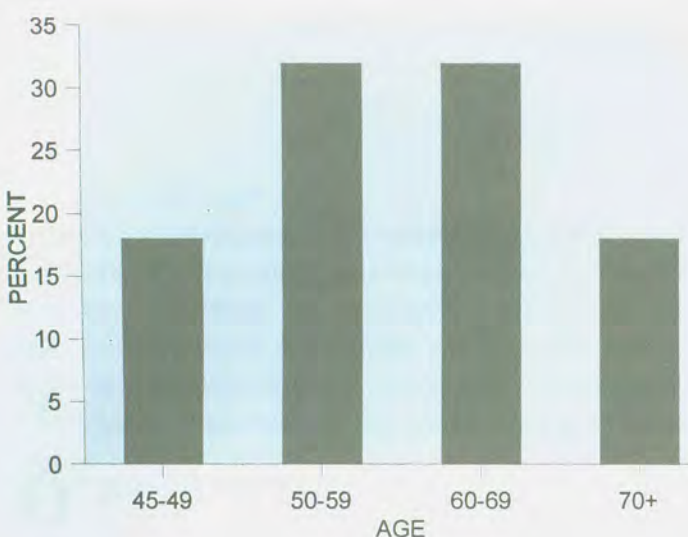
Q. Why do you need me?

A. To learn about the causes of cancer, we must collect information from persons of varying ethnic backgrounds, ages and lifestyle practices. Only by including as many different people as possible can we hope to identify those characteristics that place some persons at high risk for cancer. Every participant provides important clues to the causes of cancer.

Q. Who participated in the survey?

A. More than half of all people who received a survey responded. This is truly remarkable and shows a great concern about cancer in our community and people's willingness to help us in our research.

The following diagram shows the distribution of participants in the Hawai'i Cancer Research Survey according to age.



Q. Who is conducting this study?



Dr. Kolonel, first row, second from left.

A. Dr. Laurence Kolonel, the study director, is a graduate of Harvard Medical School. He has been in Hawai'i for over 20 years conducting studies on cancer. He is internationally known for his research work in Hawai'i.

Other members of the research team are shown in the photograph, some will be featured in future newsletters.

Q. Who is financing the survey?

A. The funds are provided by the National Cancer Institute in Washington, D.C. which seeks to identify the causes of cancer so that this major illness can be controlled.

Q. Why was the survey so long?

A. We apologize for the length of the survey, but diet was our major concern and it occupied 18 pages of the booklet! People consume so many different foods, and many of them may be important in either causing or protecting against cancer. We revised the questionnaire several times to pare down the list to foods more commonly eaten in our multiethnic population.

Q. How are the questionnaires processed?

A. Each questionnaire is optically scanned by a machine to capture and record the marked responses. The information is entered into a computer for statistical analysis, and the original questionnaire is then destroyed.

Q. How is confidentiality maintained?

A. Each participant is assigned a code number, and all information is stored under that number. Names are kept in a separate file and only used to recontact subjects for follow-up information. Our computer is not linked to any outside network, and we do not give out names and addresses to anyone under any circumstances.

Q. How accurate are the data on diet?

A. Many people wonder how useful the dietary data can be, since they have trouble recalling what they eat. However, other studies show that people do better than they think in this regard. Some of you are being asked by a public health nutritionist to provide additional detailed dietary information over the phone. This information will be used to increase the accuracy of the dietary data for the entire participant group.

Q. Will you be contacting me again for this study?

A. Yes. We will be periodically recontacting you with information about the study, such as in this newsletter, or to ask for updated information about your health.

We thought you might be curious about some of the responses to the items in the survey. (Answers are at the bottom of this page.)

1. What % of participants said they eat ice cream at least once a week?
A. 12% B. 24% C. 36% D. 48%
2. What % of participants said they drink diet soda at least once a day?
A. 5% B. 10% C. 15% D. 20%
3. What % of participants said they watch TV more than two hours a day?
A. 25% B. 35% C. 45% D. 55%
4. On average, how many hours of sleep do study participants get each day? Here is the distribution.



Thank you again for your participation!

Dennis the Menace



"ARE YOU SURE THIS STUFF IS HEALTHY TO EAT?
IT TASTES PRETTY GOOD."

"DENNIS THE MENACE used by permission of Hank Ketcham and (c) by North America Syndicate."

The Family Circus



"Does that milk come from skinny cows?"

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(Answers: 1. B, 2. C, 3. C)

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