

# Latinos More Likely to Survive Lung Cancer

April 23, 2012

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Latinos living with lung cancer tend to live longer than white or black individuals with the same disease, according to a study published in the journal *Cancer* and reported by [HealthDay News](#).

For the study, researchers at the University of Miami (UM) examined the diagnosis and survival data of 172,000 cancer patients diagnosed with the most common form of lung cancer. Researchers looked at all their data from 1988 to 2007.

Researchers found that of these patients, Latinos had a 15 percent lower risk of death than their white counterparts and this held true for both U.S.- and foreign-born Latinos. Moreover, Latinos retained these higher odds despite facing higher poverty rates and more obstacles to health than other groups.

What's giving Latinos this boost? It may be that Latinos are equipped with cancer fighting genetic factors and enjoy environmental advantages, like lower rates of tobacco use.

"This is important because it shows that our findings are indicative of the Hispanic population in general and not specific to specific groups of Hispanics," said lead study author Ali Saeed, an MD/PhD candidate at UM.

The study's authors also added that white patients had a slightly higher likelihood of survival than their black peers and that Latinos were more likely to be diagnosed with a less serious form of lung cancer.

"Our findings will motivate researchers and physicians to understand why Hispanics have more favorable outcomes and may shed light on potential environmental factors and/or genetic factors that can explain our observations," Saeed said.

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