

A health survey of Japanese Americans in Seattle. T. Namekata* (Battelle Human Affairs Research Centers, Seattle, WA 98105), S. Hinohara, H. Takagi, C. Greenway, N. Doba, H. Yanai, and M. Mizuguchi.

A 1985 questionnaire survey of the health status and life habits of 740 Japanese Americans in Seattle, Washington indicates higher prevalence rates for certain diseases compared to prevalence rates in US whites and native Japanese. The study sample comprises 350 males and 390 females aged 14-85 years. A comparative survey of 1,001 females in Nakai-machi, Japan indicates a difference in the prevalence of hypertension between the Japanese and Seattle samples; 9.1% of the Japanese women were hypertensive, compared to 15.6% of the Japanese American women. Similarly, the rates for peptic ulcer and diabetes were higher among Japanese American women (peptic ulcer, 3.3% in Japan vs. 4.4% in Seattle; diabetes, 1.7% in Japan vs. 2.1% in Seattle). In the comparison with the US white population, 30.6% of the Japanese American men and 15.6% of the Japanese American women had hypertension, compared to 18.8% and 24.4% of US white men and women, respectively. Similarly, the prevalence of diabetes among the Seattle Japanese American population was higher, particularly for males (total 5.1%, females 2.1%, males 8.6%), than that for US whites (total 1.9%, females 2.4%, males 1.6%). For the Seattle Japanese Americans, higher rates were also noted for arthritis (15.4% vs. 1.3% in US whites) and hearing disorders (10.6% vs. 7.0% in US whites). In all, this preliminary survey analyzed 36 illnesses and related life habit factors by sex and age in order to consider the role of cross-cultural factors in disease prevalence.

Am J of Epidemiol, 124 (3) , September, 1986:
515