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- 1 Global incidence and mortality of prostate cancer: analysis of temporal
- 2 patterns and trends in 36 countries
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22 Abstract

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Background

- 24 Prostate cancer (PCa) is one of the leading causes of mortality and morbidity globally, but its
- specific geographical patterns and temporal trends are under-researched.

26 **Objective**

- 27 To test the hypotheses that the incidence of PCa was higher and its mortality was lower in
- countries with higher socioeconomic development, and that the temporal trends of incidence
- 29 increased whilst mortality decreased with time.

Design, Settings and Participants

- Data on age-standardized incidence/mortality rates in 2012 were retrieved from the GLOBOCAN
- database. Temporal patterns were assessed for 36 countries obtained from the Cancer Incidence
- in Five Continents volumes I-X and the WHO mortality database. The correlation between the
- 34 incidence/mortality rates and socioeconomic indicators (Human Development Index [HDI] and
- 35 Gross Domestic Product [GDP]) was evaluated.

Outcome Measurements and Statistical Analysis

- 37 The average annual percent change of PCa incidence and mortality in the most recent 10 years
- 38 from join-point regression.

Results and Limitations

- 40 Reported incidence rates of PCa varied more than 25-fold worldwide in 2012, with the highest
- 41 incidence rates observed in Micronesia/Polynesia, the US and the European countries. The

42	mortality rates paralleled the incidence rates except for Africa, where the mortality rates were the		
43	highest. Countries with higher HDI (r=0.58) and GDP per capita (r=0.62) reported greater		
44	incidence rates. Based on figures in the recent 10 years, most countries experienced increases in		
45	incidence, with sharp rise in incidence rates in Asia, Northern and Western Europe. A substantial		
46	reduction in mortality rates was reported in most countries, except in some Asian countries and		
47	Eastern Europe where mortality increased. Figures in regional registries could be underestimated.		
48	Conclusions		
49	The incidence of PCa increased whilst its mortality decreased in most countries. In countries with		
50	higher socioeconomic development, the reported incidence was higher.		
51	Patient Summary		
52	The PCa incidence had high variation geographically and over time with smaller variations in		
53	mortality.		
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Introduction

Prostate cancer (PCa) is the second commonest diagnosed malignancy and the fifth leading cause of cancer mortality in men, accounting for a substantial public health burden [1]. Currently, the established risk factors for PCa include advanced age, black race, a family history of the disease, and certain genetic polymorphisms [2]. There is a strong prospect to reduce PCa induced mortality by screening [3, 4]. Hence, it is crucial to understand its global epidemiological trends.

Previous studies describing its international trends were based on figures from registries in early 2000s [5-7], did not take into account the socioeconomic development of each country when

comparisons were made [8, 9], or depended on model-based clustering [10]. Analyzing the patterns and temporal trends of PCa could quantify geographical variation, identify high-risk populations and delineate the extent of PSA testing uptake [9]. These epidemiological data could

also be linked to the future prospects of cancer prevention for policy-makers [11].

A survey based on the UK regional cancer registry found that a substantial socioeconomic gradient exists in the use of radiotherapy or surgery in men diagnosed with prostate cancer, as well as the application of screening tests for PCa [12]. The study calls for further correlations of the incidence and mortality patterns in countries with various degrees of socioeconomic development. Therefore, we tested the hypothesis that the incidence and mortality of PCa was associated with higher and lower levels of socioeconomic development and productivity, respectively, across different countries. In addition, a recent study [13] pinpointed a substantial increase in incidence but decrease in mortality of PCa in the US. However, it is unknown

whether similar trends might exist in other countries, and evaluation of its global incidence and mortality figures is one of the important research perspectives. Therefore, we sought to test the hypothesis that its global incidence showed an increasing trend and its mortality decreased in most countries.

Materials and Methods

Source of Data

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The incidence and mortality estimates for PCa (ICD-10 C61) were retrieved from the 106 107 GLOBOCAN database for 184 countries in 2012 [1]. We made reference to a recent epidemiological study on colorectal cancer and used similar methodology [11]. We obtained data 108 on the Human Development Index (HDI) and Gross Domestic Product (GPD) for each country in 109 2012 from the United Nations Human Development Report [14], which highlights the progress 110 111 on human development over the past quarter century by reporting the different statistical indexes. HDI is a composite index of life expectancy, education period, and income per capita indicators 112 113 [14]. We extracted the incidence and mortality figures from GLOBOCAN (2012) for the various 114 continents (Table 1), and plotted the age-standardized incidence and mortality against HDI and 115 GDP per capita of the same calendar year (**Figures 1a and 1b**). For temporal trend analysis, we 116 extracted incidence data for the high quality national population-based cancer registries from the 117 Cancer Incidence in Five Continents (CI5) series Volumes I-X [15], as well as the WHO 118 mortality database for mortality data for all 36 countries (Figure 2). There were 11 countries for 119 which more comprehensive, updated data were available (as compared with CI5), and hence were 120 used to replace the data from CI5 (for incidence) and the WHO mortality database (for mortality). 121 These include the US [16], New Zealand [17], Australia [18], the European Cancer Observatory [19], and the Nordic Cancer Registries [20]. 122 123 The incidence data were allocated into different categories according to the International Classification of Diseases 10th revision (ICD-10, C61), whereas mortality data were categorized 124 based on the ICD 9th (185) up to 1991 and 10th version (C61) thereafter. More developed regions 125 126 refer to all regions of Europe, Northern America, Australia/New Zealand and Japan. Less

developed regions include all regions of Africa, Asia (excluding Japan), Latin America and the Caribbean, Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia [1].

For mortality data, we made reference to the WHO mortality data series where data quality attained criteria of medium level or above [21], representing data with extensive coverage, high accuracy and completeness. Death certificates acted as the primary data source, and were compiled by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). We adopted agestandardized rate (ASR) using the world standard population [22].

Statistical Analysis

We employed joinpoint regression analysis to examine the incidence and mortality trends [23]. This technique fits a series of joined straight lines to the trend of ASR [23]. Logarithmic transformation of the rates was performed with computation of the standard errors based on binomial approximation. We specified a maximum number of three joinpoints as analysis options. To determine the direction and magnitude of the recent trends, the average annual percentage change (AAPC) and the respective 95% confidence intervals (C.I.) were evaluated for the last available 10 years. The AAPC was calculated as a geometrically weighted average of the various APCs from the joinpoint regression analysis by the joinpoint trend analysis software, with weights being equivalent to the length of each segment during the specified time interval [24]. We reported all data for the incidence and mortality trends in all countries where data were available. However, the most recent 10 years was chosen as the timeframe for evaluating temporal trend changes, as was considered a more commonly used time period adopted in previous publications on global epidemiology of colorectal cancer [13] and breast cancer [25]. In

describing the temporal trends, the terms increase or decrease was used based on the statistical
significance of AAPC when compared to zero. Any AAPC with 95% C.Is overlapping with zero
was considered stable, based on the same definition adopted by previous similar studies [13, 25].
The ASRs were plotted against the HDI and GDP per capita, respectively. The HDI was divided
into four distinct categories, including low (≤0.534), medium (0.534-0.710), high (0.710-0.796)
and very high (>0.796) [14]. Simple linear regression and correlation coefficients were
employed to examine their associations. We also assessed whether non-linear associations had
better goodness-of-fit. All p values<0.05 were regarded as statistically significant.

Results

169	Incidence and mortality of prostate cancer in 2012		
170	A total of 1.11 million new cases of PCa and 307,500 PCa-related deaths were reported in 2012		
171	(Table 1). The incidence rates of PCa varied more than 25-fold worldwide in 2012 [1]. The		
172	highest were found in Australia/New Zealand (ASR 111.6 per 100,000), North America (97.2)		
173	and Western Europe (94.4), and the lowest were reported in South-Central Asia (4.5) (Table 1).		
174	Southern Africa (61.8), Western Asia (28.0), North America (97.2), Western Europe (94.4), and		
175	Australia/New Zealand (111.6) were regions where the incidence figures were the most		
176	prominent when compared with other world regions in the same continent. When compared with		
177	the incidence figures estimated in 2008 [10], a sharp rise was observed in Western Asia (28.0 in		
178	2012 vs. 13.8 in 2008).		
179	PCa mortality rates varied more than 10-fold worldwide in 2012. Despite the much higher		
180	incidence in more developed than less developed regions (69.5 vs. 14.5), the difference in		
181	mortality figures was comparatively modest (10.0 vs. 6.6). The highest death rates were reported		
182	in the Caribbean (29.3). The lowest estimated mortality rates were found for most regions of		
183	Asia (3.8) and Northern Africa (7.0).		
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185	Correlation between incidence/mortality and socioeconomic development		
186	Figure 1a shows the correlation between PCa incidence/mortality and HDI based on simple		
187	linear regression analysis. The ASR of incidence increased with higher levels of HDI (r=0.58,		
188	p<0.001), whilst the ASR of mortality did not correlate with HDI (r=0.09, p=0.2). Similarly,		

higher incidence was associated with increasing GDP per capita (r=0.62, p<0.001) but there was 189 190 no significant correlation between mortality and GDP per capita (r=0.11, p=0.2) (**Figure 1b**). The significant associations between the ASR figures and HDI presented the best goodness-of-fit 191 when tested for linear relationship. 192 193 194 **Incidence and mortality trends** 195 There were 23 countries with increasing incidence trends, 3 countries with decreasing incidence, 196 and 10 countries with stable incidence. There were 5 countries with increasing mortality, 22 countries with decreasing mortality, and 11 countries with stable mortality trends. We identified 197 198 six groups of countries based on their temporal characteristics of incidence and mortality (**Table 2; Figure 2; Suppl Figure 1**). These included the below categories: 199 Group A: increasing incidence and increasing mortality 200 There were only three countries that reported increase in both incidence and mortality rates 201 202 (**Figures 3 and 4**). The Philippines, the only country with medium HDI included in this study, 203 encountered a drastic rise in incidence (AAPC=4.5, 95% C.I. 2.8, 6.3) and mortality (AAPC=11.4, 95% C.I. 9, 13.9). 204 Group B: increasing incidence and decreasing mortality 205 All countries in this group had very high HDI except Brazil. Among them, the highest incidence 206 was observed in Brazil (AACP=11.9, 95% C.I. 6.9, 17) and Japan (AAPC=8.8, 95% C.I. 5.9, 207

11.8). The reduction in mortality was most marked in France (AAPC=-3.9, 95% C.I. -4.2, -3.6).

210	Group C: increasing incidence and stable mortality
211	Lithuania (AAPC=21.4, 95% C.I. 16.1, 26.9) reported a very substantial increase in incidence,
212	followed by Estonia (AAPC=11.1, 95% C.I. 8.4, 13.9).
213	Group D: stable incidence and decreasing mortality
214	Most were countries with very high HDI; Canada (AAPC=-3.4, 95% C.I3.9, -2.9) and Austria
215	(AAPC=-3.1, 95% C.I3.8, -2.5) experienced the largest decline in mortality rates.
216	Group E: stable incidence and stable mortality
217	Three countries has stable trends for both incidence and mortality. These included Costa Rica,
218	Iceland, and Malta, with the first nation having high HDI.
219	Group F: decreasing incidence and decreasing mortality
220	Three countries that had very high HDI, namely Finland, Sweden and the United States, were
221	included in this category. The reduction in incidence and mortality was modest.
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Discussion

This study presented a comprehensive epidemiological analysis of the global profiles of PCa incidence and mortality based on high quality data. As of 2012, the Oceania, America and the European countries followed by Africa suffered from the highest incidence, whilst Asia was the least affected continent except Western Asia. The mortality rates paralleled that of the incidence figures except Africa, where the mortality rate was the highest. Countries with higher levels of human development and GDP per capita reported greater incidence but not mortality rates. The correlation coefficients of HDI (0.57) and GPD (0.62) for the incidence of PCa were high.

Taking into account the average change of incidence in the previous 10 years, a total of 24 and 5 (out of 36) countries, respectively, experienced increases in incidence and mortality rates. There were sharp rises in incidence rates in Europe, Asia and less developed countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Substantially lower mortality rates were observed for the majority of the countries with time, including Europe, and Northern America.

Several reasons could explain the wide geographical variations in PCa incidence and its temporal trends. Prostate screening, diagnostic ascertainment, and population risk factors have been attributed as potentially influential factors [11]. An increasing application of transurethral resection of the prostate and the use of prostate specific antigen (PSA) has likely been affecting the observed incidence of PCa in many more developed countries [11, 27]. In 1986, the US Food and Drug Administration has approved its use to monitor disease progression, and late in 1994 endorsed its application for prostate cancer screening among men aged 50 years or above [28]. Other possible influencers of the incidence figures include genetic, lifestyle, and environmental

factors, but none of them could cause an extremely rapid rise in incidence as observed in most countries, except prostate screening. A notable finding consists of the higher incidence of PCa in Africa, the Caribbean and Brazil, where the majority of the populations consists of Black and Mulatto individuals. This might be explained by the modulation of PCa risk via genetic disposition [30]. Major reasons for the declining mortality trends may include advances in treatment options for PCa, including radical prostatectomy, hormonal therapy and radiation therapy [10]. With the more extensive use of PSA to screen for the disease, more early stage malignancy could be identified and managed in a timely manner. Nevertheless, some nations such as the Philippines, the Russian Federation, and Belarus reported significantly increasing mortality rates. In particular, the mortality rates in Africa were very high. These figures might reflect limited healthcare services and accessibility to early screening and treatment. Another notable finding which requires future studies includes that countries with high HDI and GDP per capita were associated with higher incidence, but not with lower mortality of PCa despite better technology with more screening initiatives. There is a chance that not all countries with high HDI or GDP may have implemented screening programmes for long enough to allow mortality reduction to be realized, or that the uptake rate may not have been optimal. In addition, one of the possible explanations could be attribution bias due to potentially different healthcare systems for recording the causes of incidence and mortality.

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This study presented and analyzed the most up-to-date epidemiological data on PCa, yet some limitations should be addressed. Firstly, failure or under-reporting of PCa diagnosis could lead to bias in cancer registration especially in relatively less-developed nations [26]. Figures in regional cancer registries could be underestimated owing to limited local facilities, and the precision of

data in these local/regional data is generally lower than that of national data. On the contrary, in countries where estimates were based on a single cancer registry in more urbanized, resource privileged areas, the presented figures could be overestimated if the countries consist of extensive rural populations. In addition, only one-third and one-fifth of the world's countries, respectively, reported incidence and mortality data of high quality. The quality of mortality data in terms of coverage, accuracy, and completeness varies substantially from country to country [29]. Also, the analysis of relationship between socioeconomic measures and the epidemiological figures could be confounded by detection and attribution biases, such as that introduced by the inaccuracy of death certificates and differences in case ascertainment or reporting mechanisms across different countries. Hence, one might not conclude that there exists a definite correlation between the incidence/mortality figures and the country-specific socioeconomic development; rather, the analysis presented a preliminary finding where countries with higher HDI/GDP were found to have higher PCa incidence. Lastly, despite our best efforts to analyze the most recent figures, the data used are from 2012 at the latest and the most contemporary situations will need further updates.

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Conclusion

The incidence rates of PCa increased in most countries examined in this study, and the mortality rates declined in most countries, especially in more developed nations. With population ageing and population growth, clinicians and policy-makers might expect a further substantial rise in incidence trends not only attributable to ageing population alone. The absolute incidence of PCa will continue to increase much more than the curves in this paper imply. Even in countries with

stable age-standardised incidence and mortality, the number of men diagnosed with and dying of prostate cancer will substantially increase. Hence, more healthcare resources are needed to cope with the treatment of patients diagnosed with PCa, in particular for the more resource-deprived countries. Future studies should explore the underlying reasons for these epidemiological trends as well as the associations between the incidence/mortality figures and other socioeconomic measures.

Author Contributions

MCSW, BWG, HHXW, JJYS conceived the study. All authors contributed to the study design.

MCSW and FDHF retrieved the data and composed the graphs. BWG provided statistical advice.

FDHF and CL conducted the statistical analysis. MCSW and HHXW wrote the first draft of the report. SYSW, ACFN and JJYS critically revised the manuscript. All authors contributed to the interpretation of the data and the writing and editing of the report. We acknowledge the statistical advice from the Centre for Biostatistics Research and Head of the Division of Biostatistics, the Chinese University of Hong Kong for quality control of the analyses performed. We also thank Ms Sze Yeung, Miss Yan Liang, Mr. Winson TL Li and Ms. Shannon TS Li for their preparation of the graphics.

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400	Figure Legends
401	Figure 1a Correlation between age-standardised prostate cancer incidence (upper panel) and
402	mortality (lower panel) and Human Development Index (HDI)
403	Figure 1b Correlation between age-standardised prostate cancer incidence (upper panel) and
404	mortality (lower panel) and Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
405	Figure 2 Temporal trends in the incidence and mortality of prostate cancer in the most recent 10
406	years according to country
407	Figure 3 The Average Annual Percent Change (AAPC) of prostate cancer incidence in the most
408	recent 10 years
409	Figure 4 The Average Annual Percent Change (AAPC) of prostate cancer mortality in the most
410	recent 10 years
411	Supplementary Figure 1 Findings from the joinpoint regression analysis of the global incidence
412	and mortality rates of prostate cancer
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Table 1 The estimated incidence and mortality of prostate cancer according to world area, 2012

World regions	Vorld regions Population size Incidence		ence	Mortality	
J	(male, thousands)	n	ASR	n	ASR
Africa	549,445	59,493	23.2	42,802	17.0
Eastern Africa	180,243	17,187	23.3	13,866	18.7
Middle Africa	69,179	6,892	27.0	5,900	24.2
Northern Africa	106,147	7,548	10.6	5,000	7.0
Southern Africa	29,735	10,266	61.7	3,759	24.4
Western Africa	164,141	17,600	25.1	14,277	21.2
Asia	2,179,003	196,190	9.4	82,676	3.8
Eastern Asia	813,296	118,583	10.5	37,553	3.1
South-Eastern Asia	305,225	26,451	11.2	15,841	6.7
South-Central Asia	933,786	29,327	4.5	18,860	2.9
Western Asia	126,697	21,829	28.0	10,422	13.1
America	303,514	412,739	75.0	85,425	13.1
Caribbean	20,951	18,719	79.8	7,970	29.3
Central America	82,227	18,983	28.4	8,957	12.1
South America	200,336	114,701	60.1	34,386	16.6
North America	173,209	260,336	97.2	34,112	9.8
Europe	355,275	400,364	61.3	92,328	11.3
Central and Eastern	138,249	65,432	31.3	25,862	11.6
Europe					
Northern Europe	49,574	81,696	85.0	18,099	14.5
Southern Europe	74,900	91,355	58.6	20,229	9.1
Western Europe	92,553	161,881	85.8	28,138	10.7
Oceania	18,859	26,130	101.9	4,250	13.0
Australia/New Zealand	13,632	25,296	111.6	3,930	12.9
Melanesia	4,628	482	22.7	253	13.3
Micronesia/Polynesia	258	352	72.3	67	13.7
More developed	604,008	741,966	68.0	142,014	10.0
regions*					
Less developed regions*	2,975,297	352,950	14.5	165,467	6.6
World	3,579,305	1,094,916	30.6	307,481	7.8

ASR=Age standardized rate per 100,000. Source: GLOBOCAN 2012 [1]. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10 or 100, and may not add up to the total. The population size of the world regions were retrieved from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, United Nations. Available at: http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Download/Standard/Population/

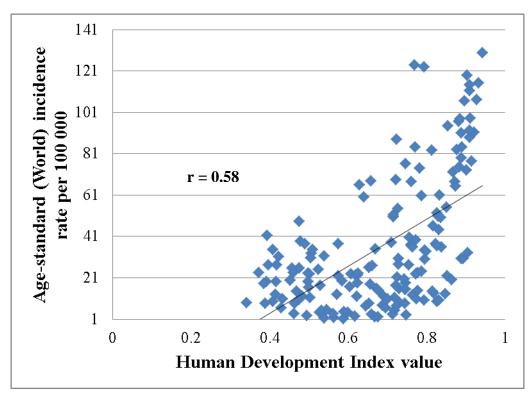
^{*}More developed regions refer to Europe, Northern America, Australia/New Zealand and Japan. Less developed regions include all regions of Africa, Asia (except Japan), Latin America and the Caribbean plus Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia.

Table 2 Trends in Prostate Cancer incidence and mortality in the most recent 10 years: six groups of temporal pattern

Group A: incidence ↑, mortality↑	Bulgaria*, Philippines*, Singapore
(3 countries)	
Group B: incidence↑, mortality↓	Brazil*, Czech Republic, France, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan,
(12 countries)	Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, The United Kingdom
Group C: Incidence ↑, mortality	China, Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal, Slovakia,
stable (8 countries)	Slovenia
Group D: Incidence stable,	Australia, Austria, Colombia*, Canada, Denmark, New
mortality↓ (7 countries)	Zealand, Norway
Group E: Incidence stable,	Costa Rica×, Iceland, Malta
mortality stable (3 countries)	
Group F: incidence ↓, mortality↓	Finland, Sweden, United States
(3 countries)	

^{*}Medium Human Development Index (HDI); *High HDI. All remaining countries had very high HDI. (Low HDI refers to HDI \leq 0.534; Medium HDI refers to 0.534 < HDI \leq 0.710; High HDI refers to 0.710 < HDL \leq 0.796; and Very high HDL refers to HDI > 0.796)

Figure 1a Correlation between age-standardised prostate cancer incidence (upper panel) and mortality (lower panel) and Human Development Index (HDI)



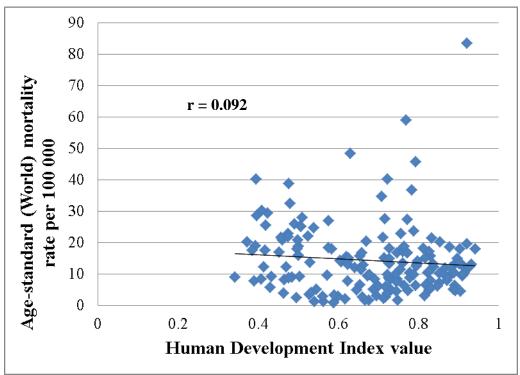
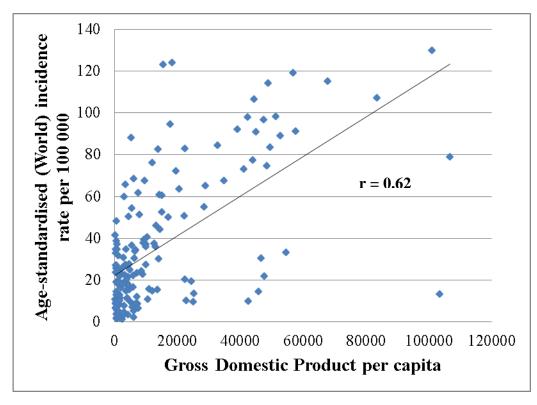


Figure 1b Correlation between age-standardized prostate cancer incidence (upper panel) and mortality (lower panel) and Gross Domestic Product (GDP)



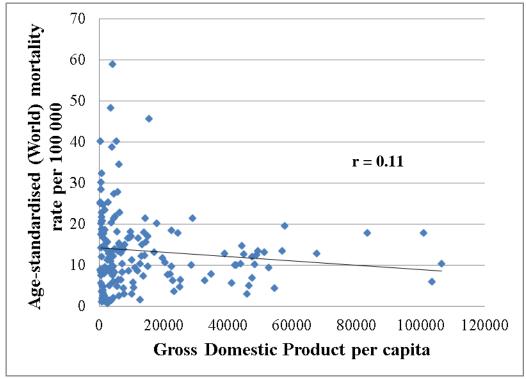
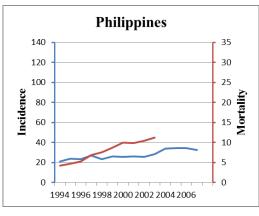
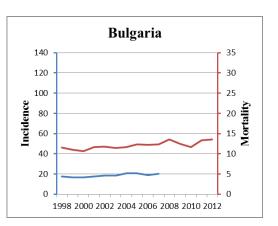
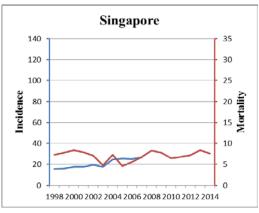


Figure 2 Temporal trends in the incidence and mortality of prostate cancer in the most recent 10 years according to country

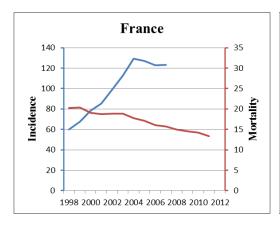
Group A: Increasing incidence and mortality

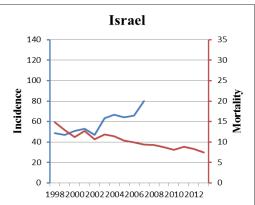


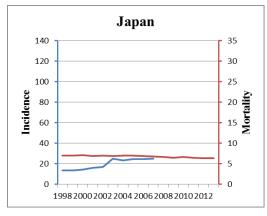


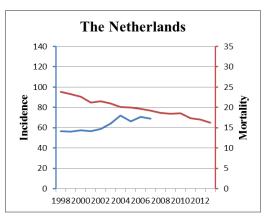


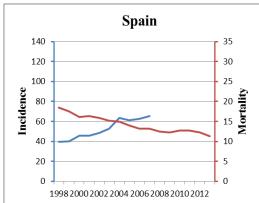
Group B: Increasing incidence and decreasing mortality

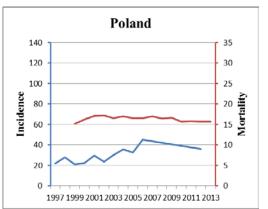


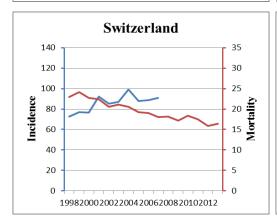


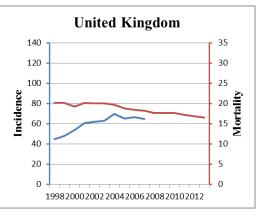




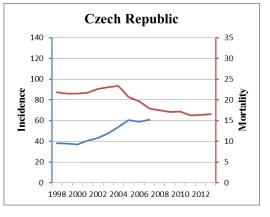


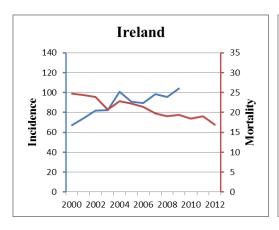


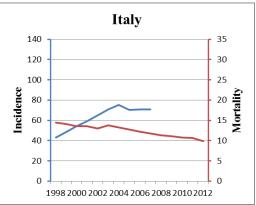




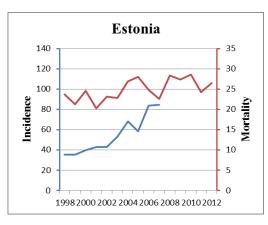


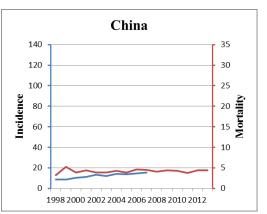


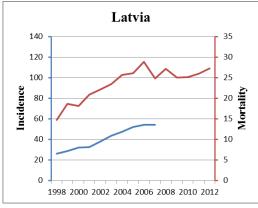


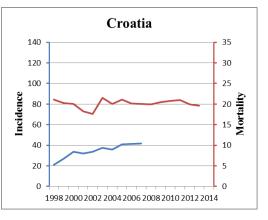


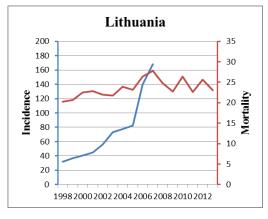
Group C: Increasing incidence and stable mortality

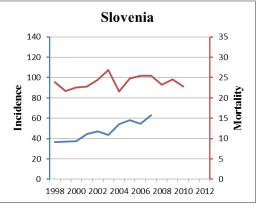


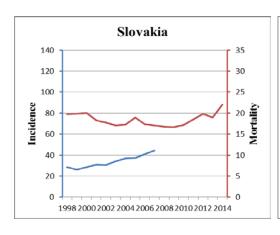


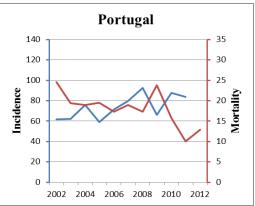




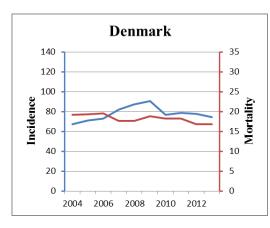


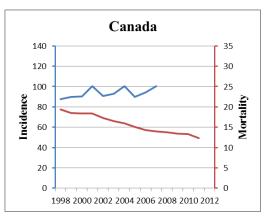


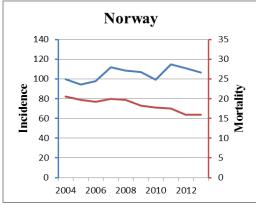


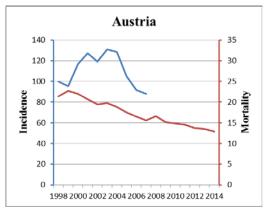


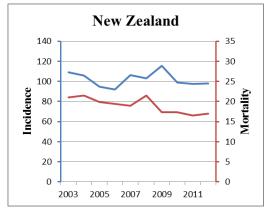
Group D: Stable incidence and decreasing mortality

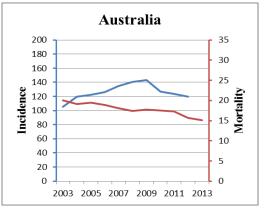


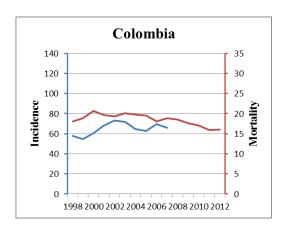




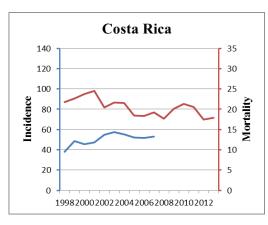


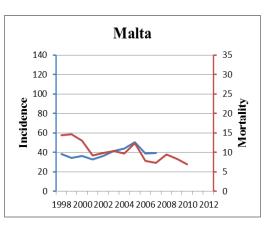


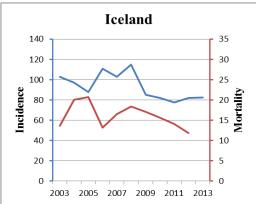




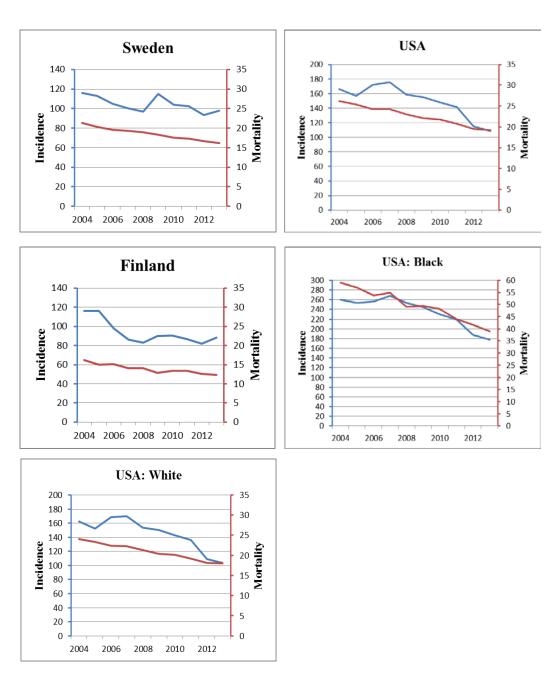
Group E: Stable incidence and mortality







Group F: Decreasing incidence and mortality



All figures were expressed as Age-standardized rate (ASR) per 100,000. The blue line refers to incidence and red line refers to mortality. All data for incidence and mortality were retrieved from the Cancer Incidence in Five Continents series I-V and the WHO mortality database, respectively, except for US, Australia, New Zealand, Bulgaria, Ireland, Portugal, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden where country-specific registries were used as more comprehensive and updated data were available [16-20].

Figure 3 The Average Annual Percentage Change (AAPC) of prostate cancer incidence in the most recent 10 years

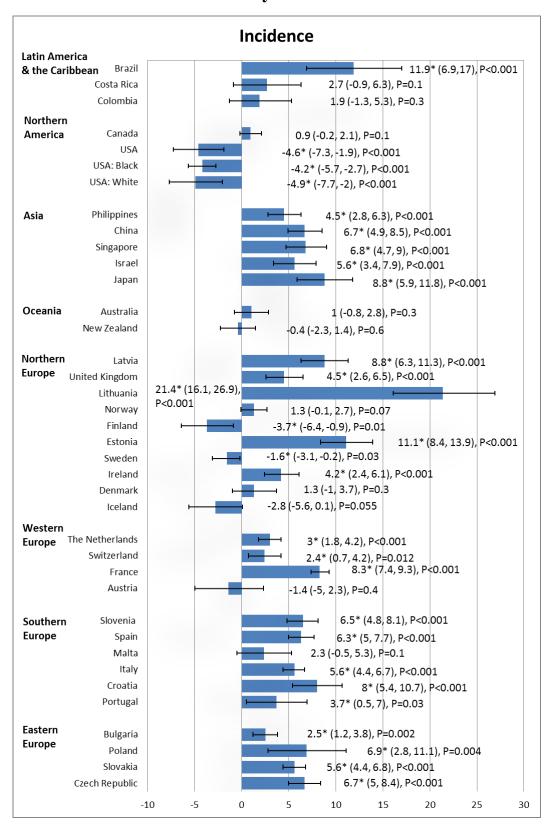
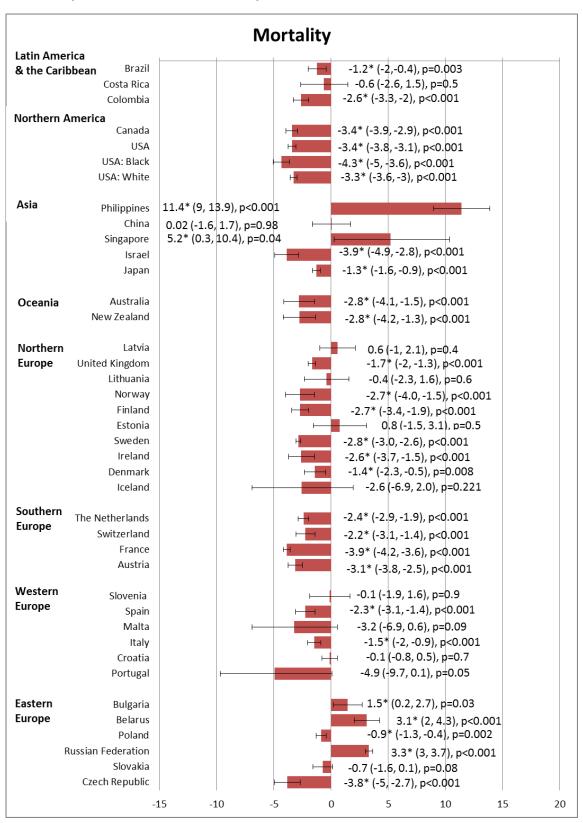
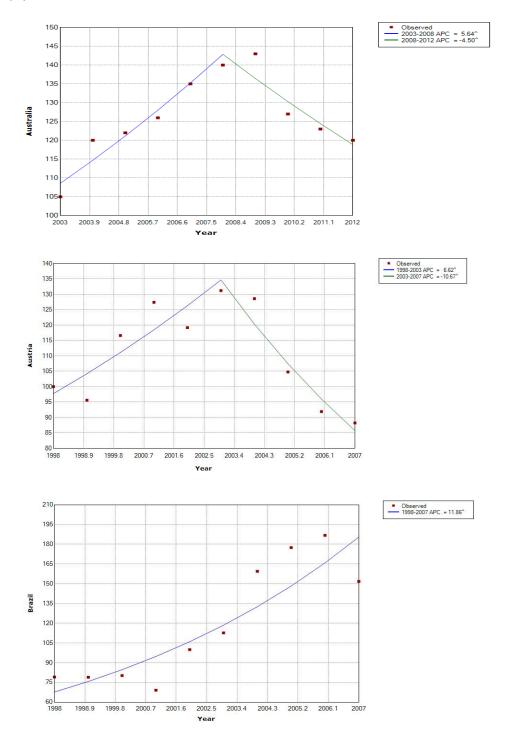


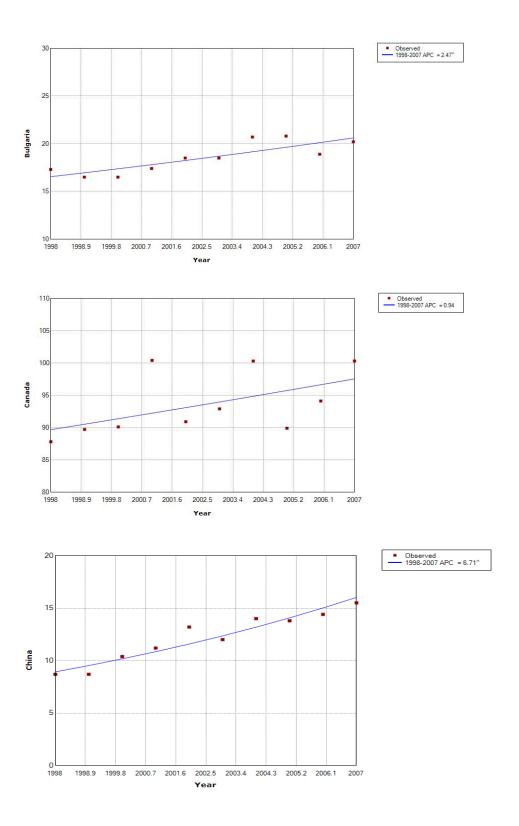
Figure 4 The Average Annual Percentage Change (AAPC) of prostate cancer mortality in the most recent 10 years

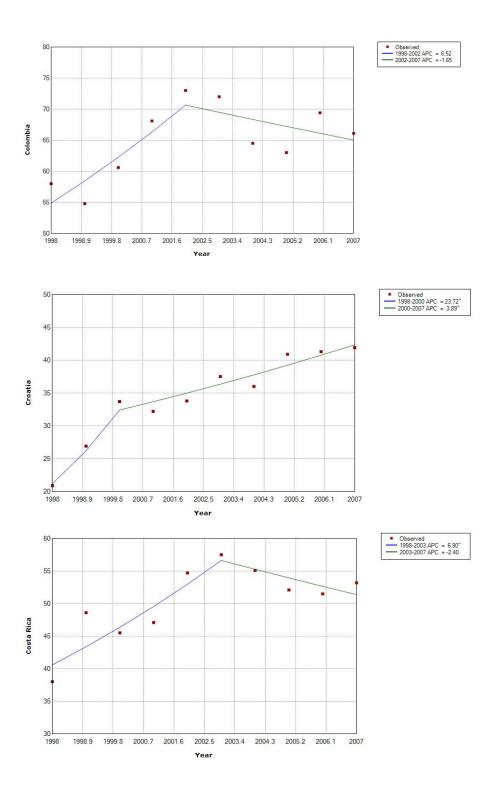


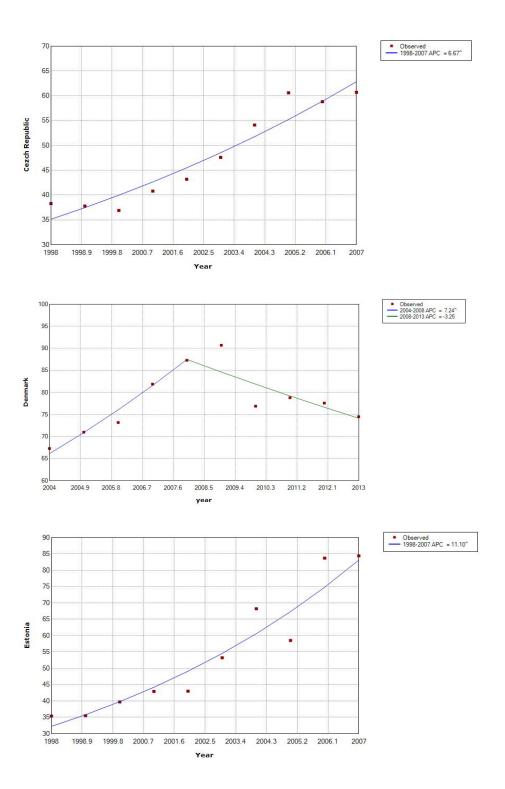
Supplementary Figure 1 Findings from the joinpoint regression analysis of the global incidence and mortality rates of prostate cancer

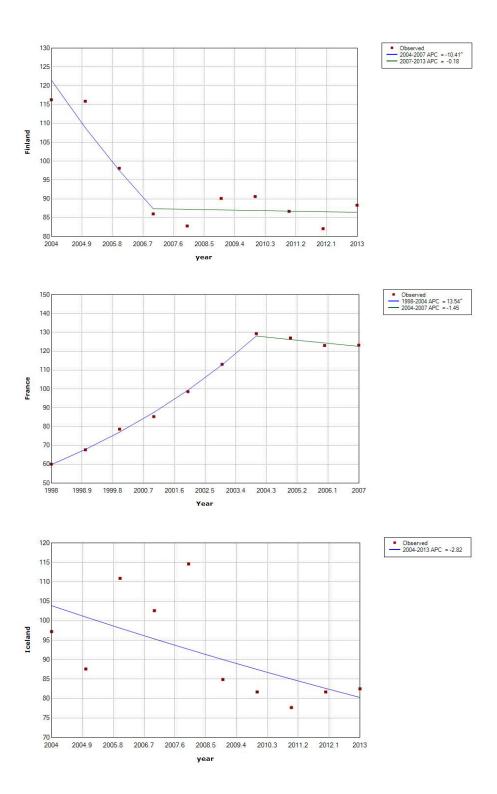
(A). Incidence

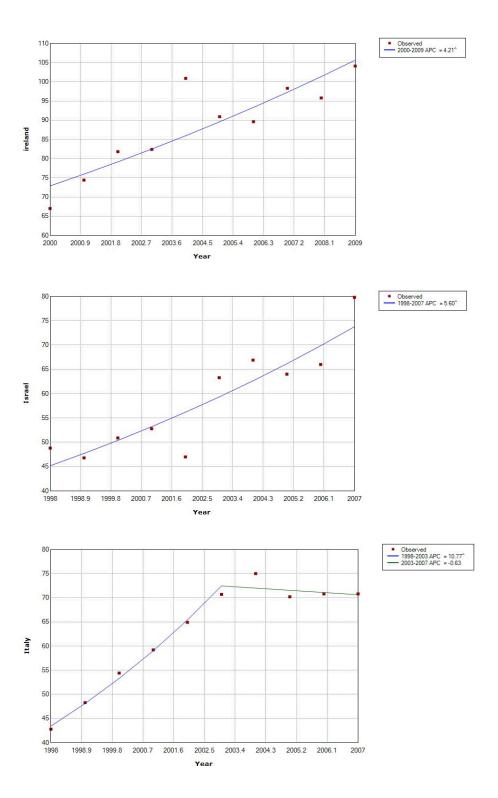


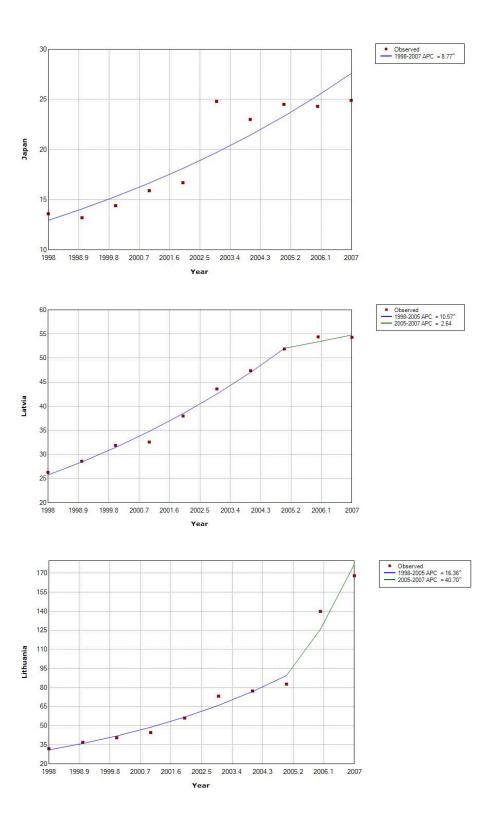


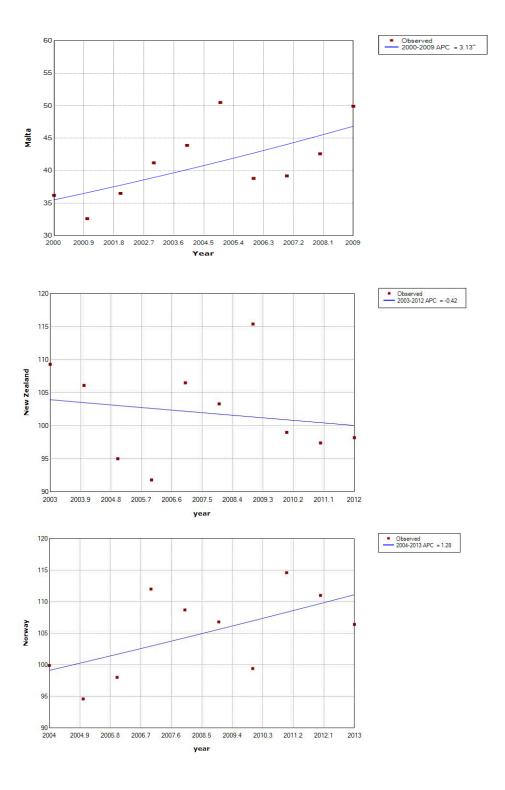


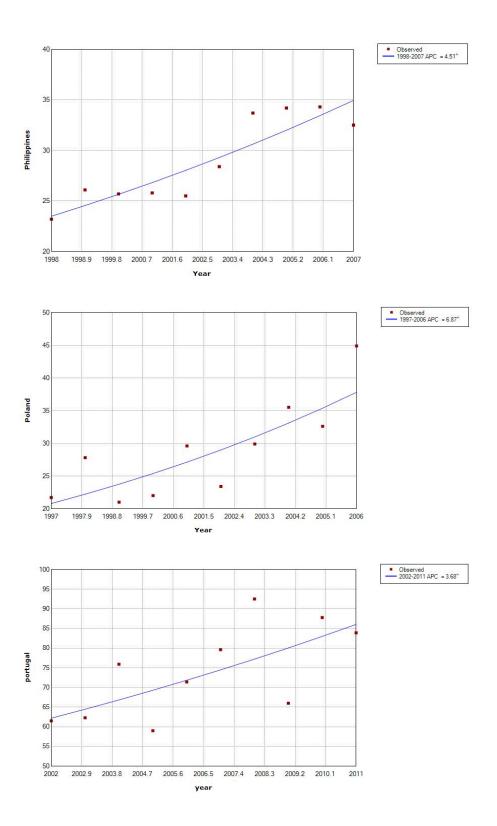


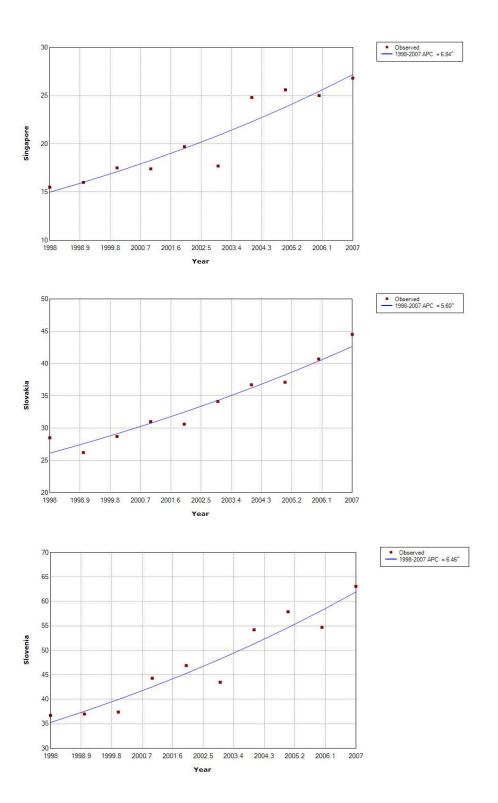


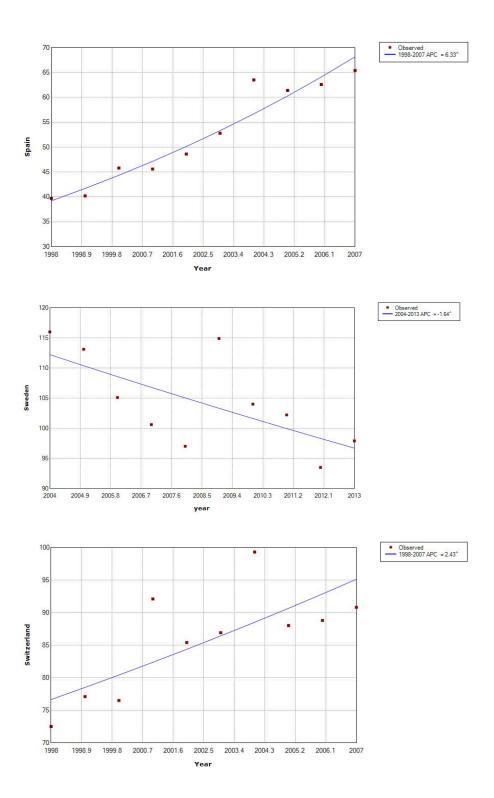


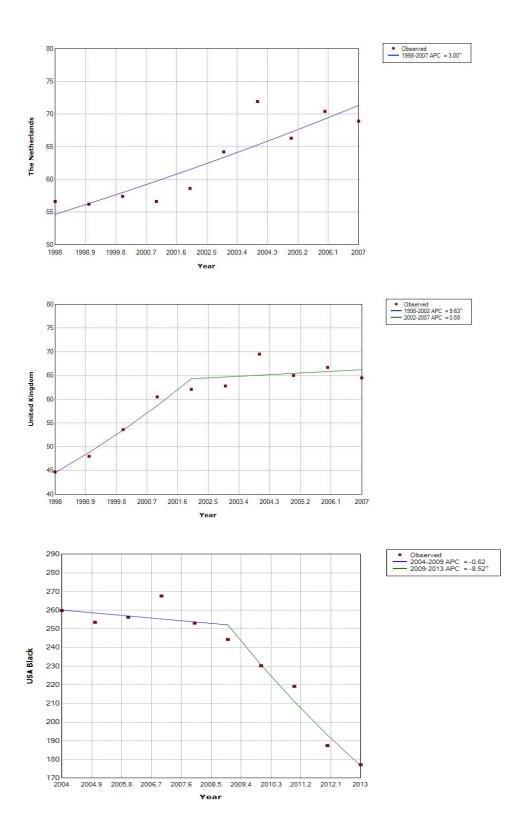


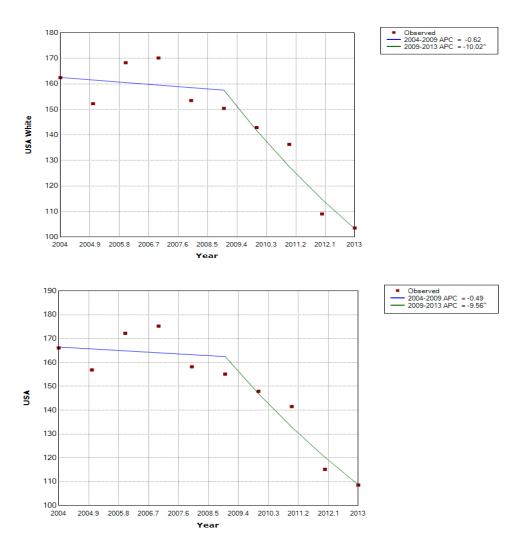












(B) Mortality

