

THE EMERGING BURDEN OF LYMPHOMA IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA: GEOGRAPHIC DISPARITIES AND HIV ASSOCIATED PATTERNS FROM GLOBOCAN 2022

J. Niba¹, E. Sanji², I. Idim², R.S Abouem³
1. Ndando University Institute and Clinic (NIC), Limbe, CM
2. Magnolia Regional Health Center, Corinth, MS
3. Omni Allergy, Immunology and Asthma, Atlanta, GA



INTRODUCTION

Rising lymphoma burden in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)
Major drivers: Delayed diagnosis, inadequate pathology infrastructure, limited treatment access, and infection-associated oncogenesis
Contemporary pan-African lymphoma epidemiology still poorly understood

AIM

Evaluate the burden, regional disparities, and association between HIV prevalence and lymphoma incidence in SSA, using GLOBOCAN 2022 estimates

METHOD

- Ecological, population-based analysis
- Incidence, mortality, ASIRs, and ASMRs for SSA countries extracted.
- Eastern, Western, Middle, and Southern Africa regions compared.
- Survival disparities and health-system constraints assessed using MIRs
- National adult HIV prevalence (UNAIDS, World bank) correlated with lymphoma incidence using Spearman correlation

CONCLUSIONS

More favorable MIR with HL, while NHL dominates regional burden.
Strong correlation between HIV prevalence and lymphoma incidence (NHL > HL).
High MIR countries likely faced with delayed diagnosis, inadequate pathology capacity, limited access to treatment, and infrastructure deficiencies

RESULTS

- In 2022, SSA recorded 41,426 new cases (82.7% NHL) and 25,162 related deaths (87.3% NHL) – Nigeria had the highest burden
- Overall MIR = 0.61 (**0.64 vs 0.45** for NHL and HL respectively)
- Significant positive correlation between national HIV prevalence and lymphoma ASIRs (Spearman $\rho=0.545$, $p<0.001$)

Figure 1: Lymphoma Incidence, SSA

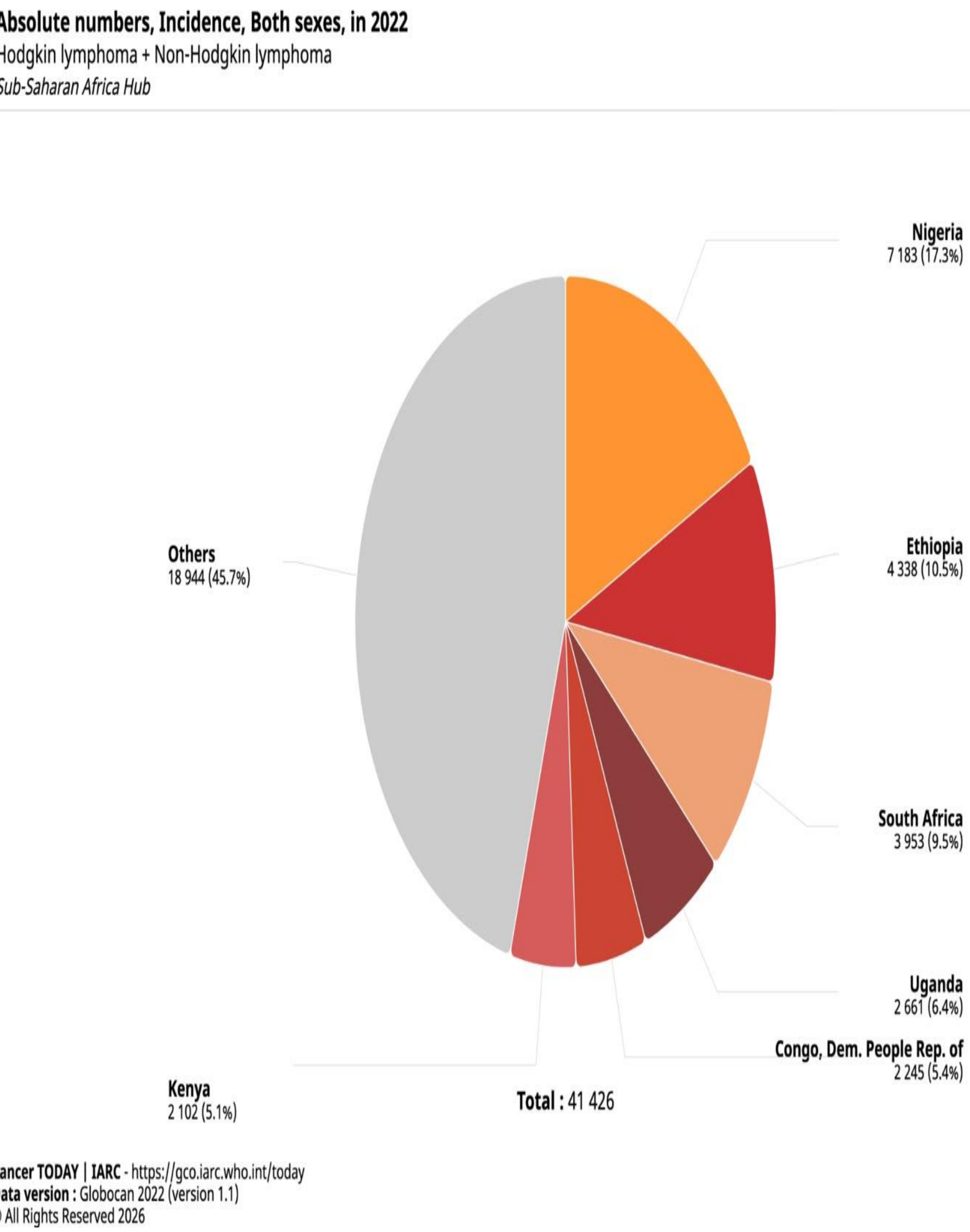
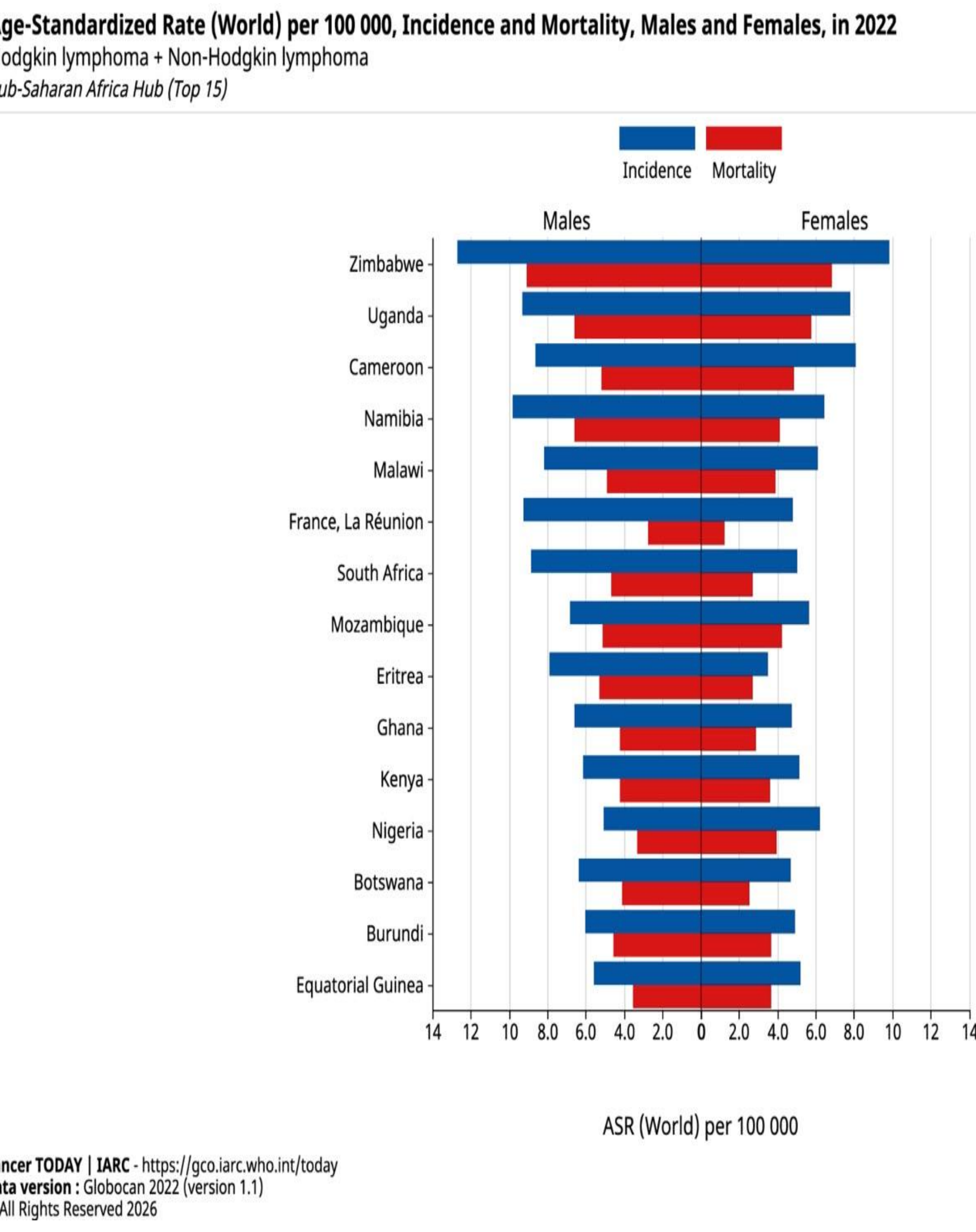


Figure 2: Age-Standardized Rate per 100000, Incidence and Mortality, Males and Females, 2022



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors appreciate all team members for their valuable contributions to this study. Special thanks to Eric Sanji, MD for his visionary leadership in hematologic oncology research

CONTACT INFORMATION

Eric Sanji Wah
University of Tennessee Health Sciences Centre
esanji@uthsc.edu
3465544741

REFERENCES

- Kundu R, Kal N, Singh A, Jagadeesh D. Global Incidence, Mortality and Risk Factors of Hodgkins and Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma 1990-2021: A Global Health Data Study. Blood. 2024 Nov 5;66th ASH Annual Meeting Abstracts144:6360.
- Baissa OT, Ben-Shushan T, Paltiel O. Lymphoma in Sub-Saharan Africa: a scoping review of the epidemiology, treatment challenges, and patient pathways. Cancer Causes Control. 2025 Mar 1;36(3):199–230.
- Andero ET, Oshikanlu B, Ojetunde AO, Habeebu MY, Aina-Tolofari F, NSIA-LUTH Cancer Centre. Lymphoma in sub-Saharan Africa: Report from an oncology centre in Nigeria. J Clin Oncol. 2025 Jun;43(16_suppl):e19038–e19038.