

Information on Recent Release of Flin Flon Cancer Data

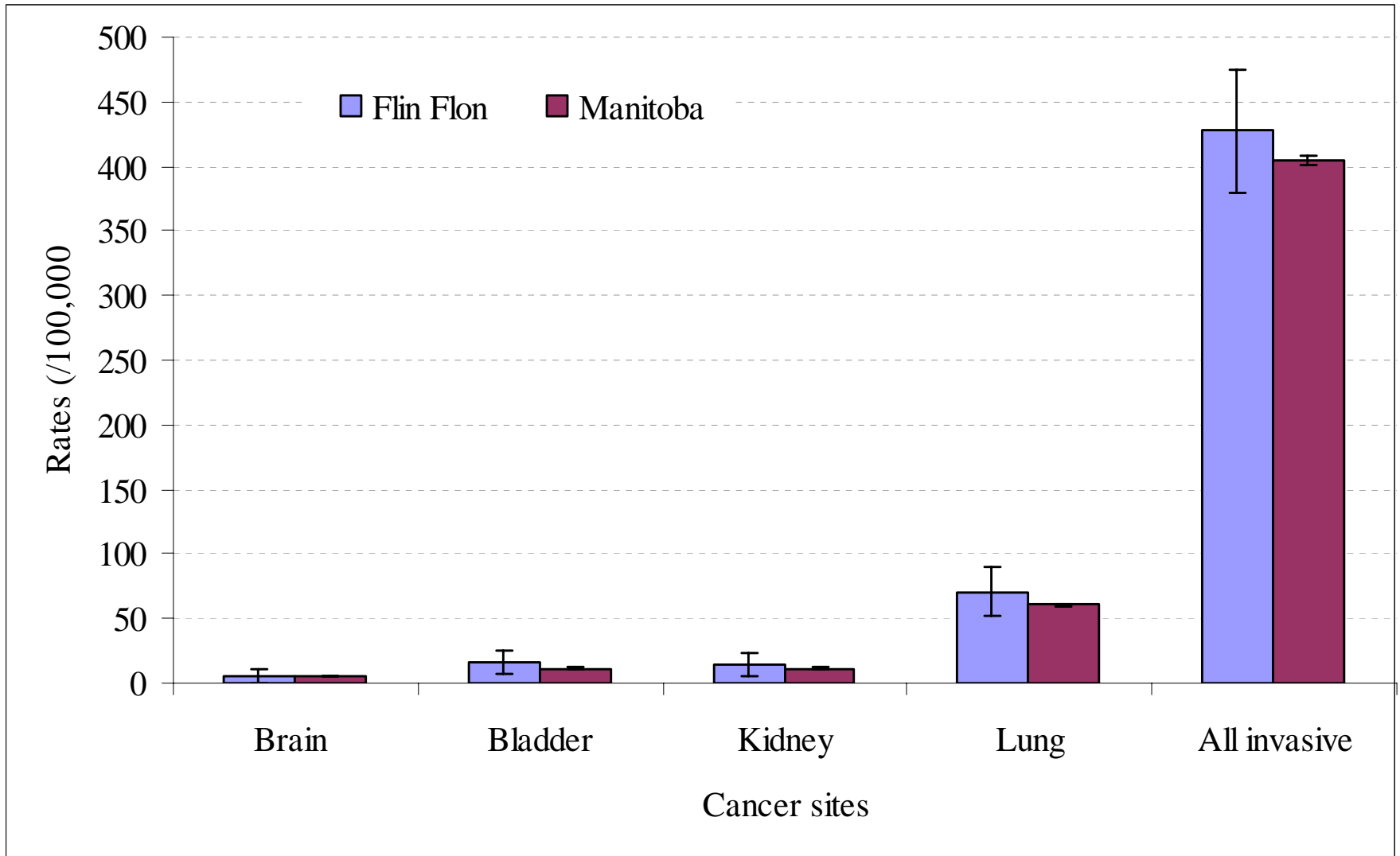
Background

- Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act request data sent to CAC – January 8, 2008. The request was for the total number of cases for selected cancers over 10 years for Manitoba and Flin Flon.
- In order to compare populations, adjustment for differences in the age of the population is necessary. An older population would have more cancer cases.

Numbers of Cancer Cases from 1996 to 2005 as per the FIPPA Request

Site	Number of New Cases in Flin Flon	Number of New Cases in Manitoba
Brain	3	733
Bladder	12	1555
Kidney	11	1522
Lung	56	8100

Age Standardized Rates for Flin Flon and Manitoba: Average Annual Rates based on 1996 to 2005 data



Interpretation

- The numbers of cancer cases in Flin Flon are small and vary within wide confidence limits. (See line bars I - I)
- Cancer rates in Flin Flon are higher than the provincial average for bladder, kidney and lung cancer. However, due to small numbers it is difficult to draw conclusions, as the difference may occur by chance.
- These cancers have many causes, including smoking.
- These numbers represent individuals who were residents of Flin Flon at the time of diagnosis.

What is happening now?

- Manitoba Health and Healthy Living and Saskatchewan Health are combining data from Flin Flon and Creighton and looking at cancer rates and other conditions
- The Health Risk Assessment will also help provide information on whether exposure to heavy metals in Flin Flon may pose a health risk.

Then What?

- The results of these studies will help determine if preventative measures and/or further studies are necessary.