Cancer in Africa
Epidemiology and Prevention

Edited by D.M. Parkin, J. Ferlay, M. Hamdi-Chérif, F. Sitas,
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Epidemiology and Prevention
The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) was established in 1965 by the World Health Assembly, as an independently financed organization within the framework of the World Health Organization. The headquarters of the Agency are at Lyon, France.

The Agency conducts a programme of research concentrating particularly on the epidemiology of cancer and the study of potential carcinogens in the human environment. Its field studies are supplemented by biological and chemical research carried out in the Agency's laboratories in Lyon, and, through collaborative research agreements, in national research institutions in many countries. The Agency also conducts a programme for the education and training of personnel for cancer research.

The publications of the Agency are intended to contribute to the dissemination of authoritative information on different aspects of cancer research. Information about IARC publications and how to order them, is available via the Internet at: http://www.iarc.fr/

Cover illustration: Crowd in Abengourou, Ivory Coast. (N 6°44' W 3°29'). Africa has 800 million inhabitants, 13% of all humanity. This colourful crowd, enthusiastically waving to the photographer, was photographed in Abengourou, in eastern Côte d'Ivoire. These children and adolescents remind us of the country's youthfulness; as in most of the African continent, 40% of the population is under 15 years of age. The country's birth rate is 5.1 children per woman, which is representative of the average for the continent (the world average is 2.8). Modernization and the development of cultural and socioeconomic programmes are gradually reducing the birth rate, but it will take several decades for the African population to stabilize. The ravages of the AIDS epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa (home to 70% of the total 36.1 million people infected in the world) will have a severe impact on the region's demography: every day in Africa 6000 people die of AIDS virus and another 11 000 become infected.

From: EARTH FROM ABOVE: An aerial portrait of our planet.
Since 1990, Yann Arthus-Bertrand has flown over hundreds of countries. His aerial photographs, which cannot be dissociated from their captions, invite all of us to reflect upon the Earth's evolution and the future of its inhabitants. A report through words and images which makes us aware that, not only are we individually responsible for our planet, we must also decide what we bequeath to future generations, together.

Web site : www.yannarthusbertrand.org
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