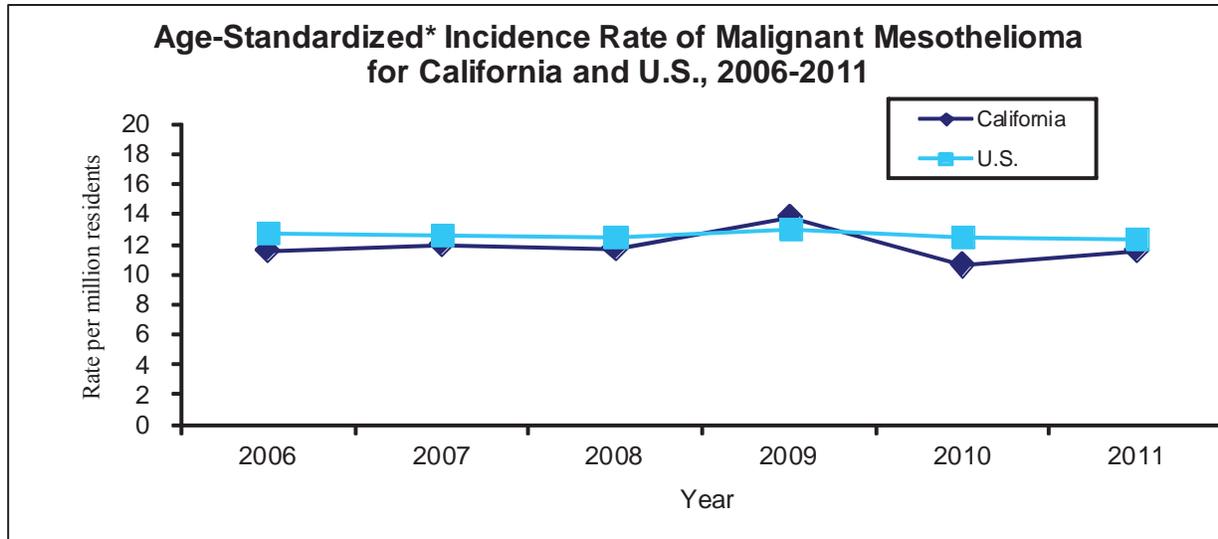


## Incidence of Malignant Mesothelioma

Mesothelioma is a rare but highly fatal cancer of the thin membranes surrounding the chest cavity or abdominal cavity. The only well-established risk factor for mesothelioma is exposure to asbestos fibers. Prior asbestos exposure, primarily in the workplace, has been reported in 62 to 85 percent of all mesothelioma cases. Mesothelioma is a disease of long latency, typically with 20-40 years between exposure and onset of disease. The California Cancer Registry collects data on newly diagnosed cancer cases. Since some cases of mesothelioma are not due to work-related exposure, and Cancer Registry completeness varies, these data may over- or underestimate the true incidence of work-related malignant mesothelioma.



Year	California						U.S.
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2011
Age-Standardized* Rate of Malignant Mesothelioma per Million Residents	11.5	11.9	11.7	13.8	10.6	11.5	12.4
Number of Malignant Mesothelioma Cases	297	309	311	373	292	332	3108

\* Age-standardized rates provide an estimate of what the rates of each condition would be if the age distribution in California were the same as the age distribution in the U.S. as a whole; this allows comparison between states.

Data Sources: State of California Cancer Registry, U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates