From the

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Dear De Soulim,

There has already been a fairly extensive collection of cancer statistics — but no all-inclusive one. The trouble is that a non-selective aggregation of statistics without detailed examination to decide which are reliable can be more misleading than otherwise. You might care to look at "Cancer Incidence in 5 Continents", Volumes 1 & 2, published by Springer Verlag on behalf of the U.I.C.C., my book on "The Prevention of Cancer: Pointers from Epidemiology", published by the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust, London; my article "Cancer in Five Continents", Proc. Roy. Soc. Med., 65, 49-55 (1972), and Durham and Boilar's article in J. nat. Cancer Inst., 41, 155 (1968).

A number of people have attempted correlations between selected sets of data and various indices of national economy and life. They seldom show anything beyond a general correlation of many cancers with a high economic standard of living. What is needed is an idea of some new factors to examine.

Richard Doll