

Breast Cancer among Filipino Americans by Generations



Breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed in women in the US and Hawaii.

Filipinos are a major migrant group in the US
Estimated:
200,000 in Hawaii
1.7 million in California

Filipino immigrants experience high cancer rates

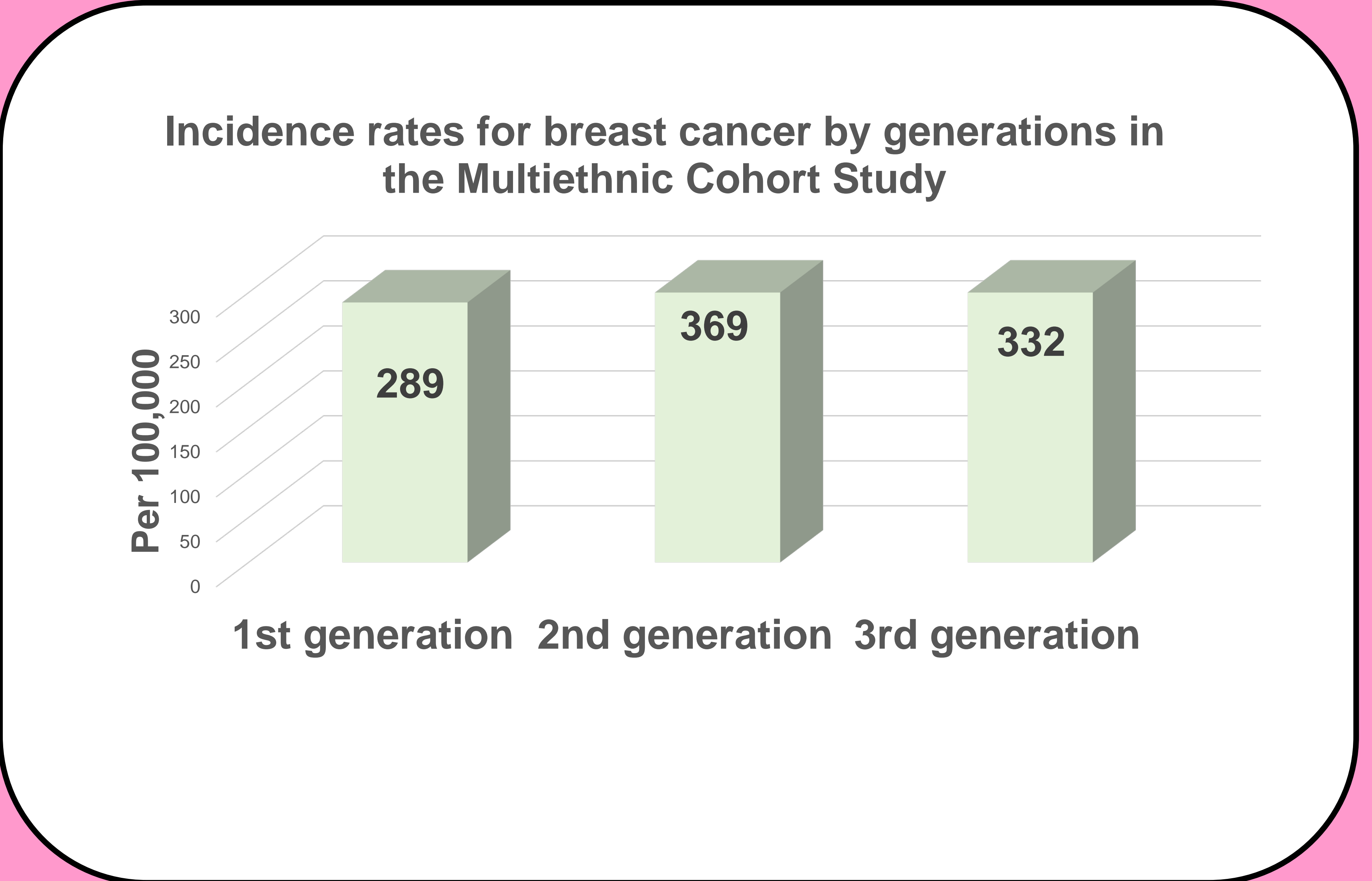
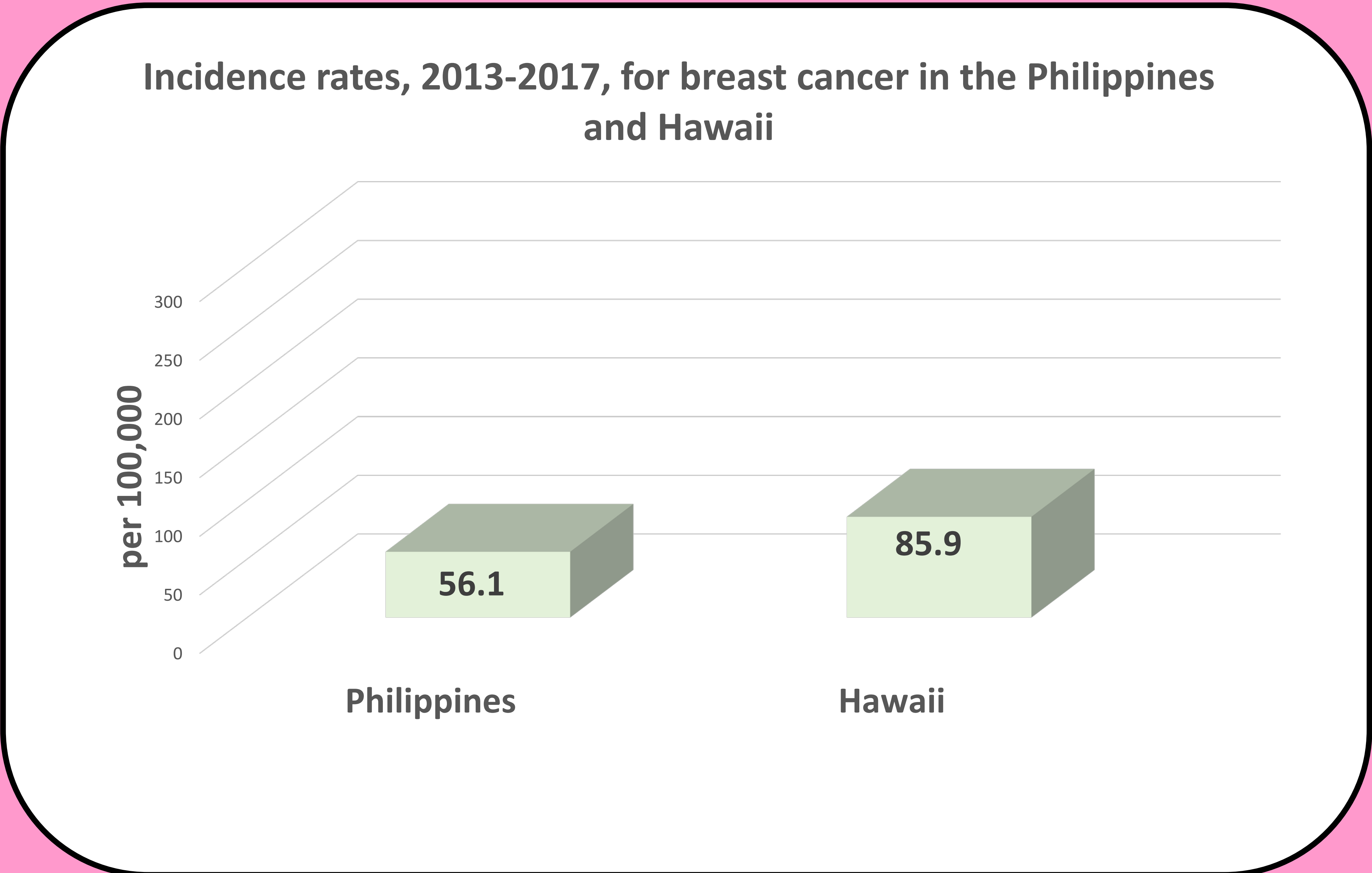
Migrant studies can help us understand how changes in lifestyle factors and exposures may contribute to cancer risk.

Increase in risk from acculturation

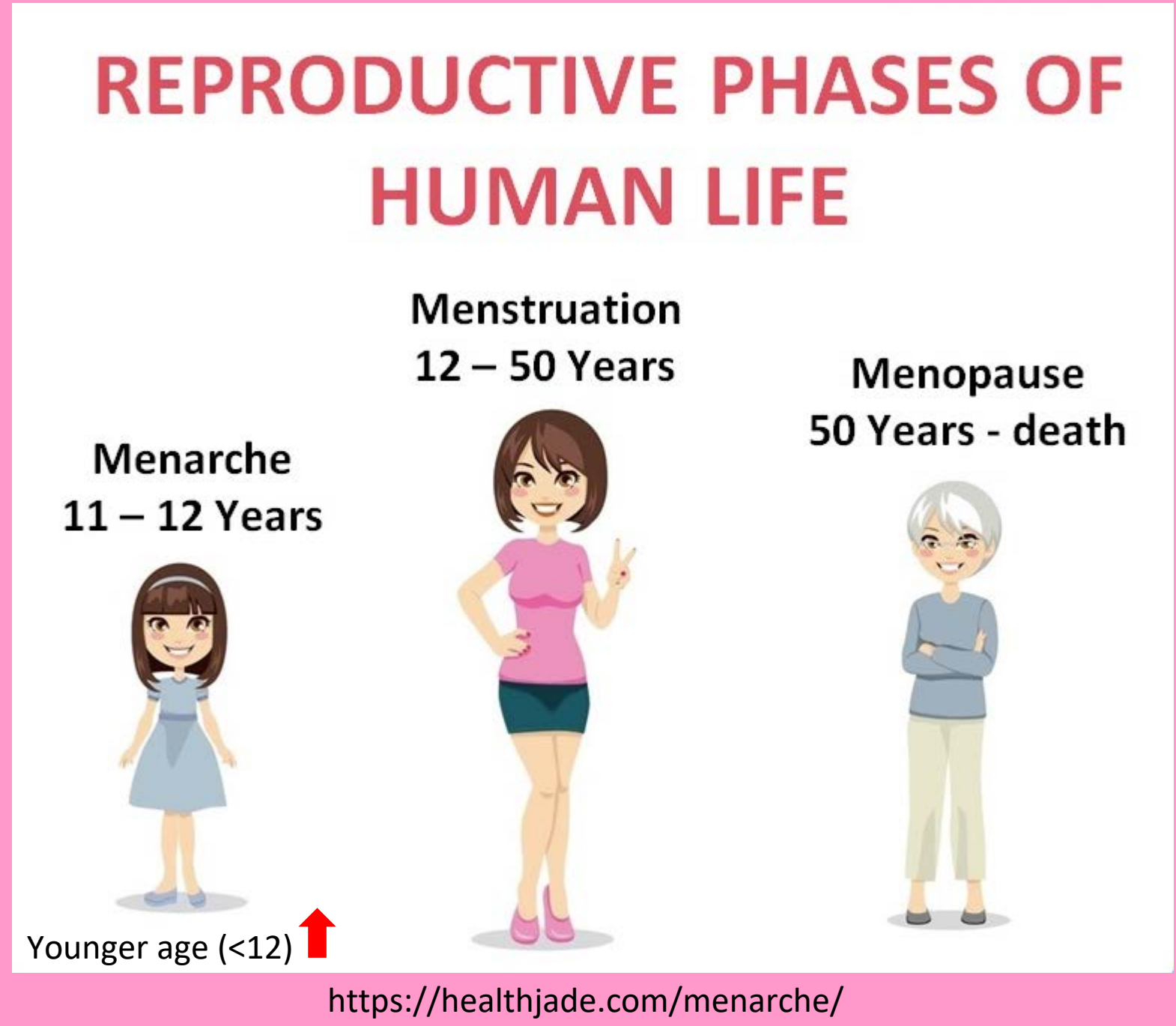
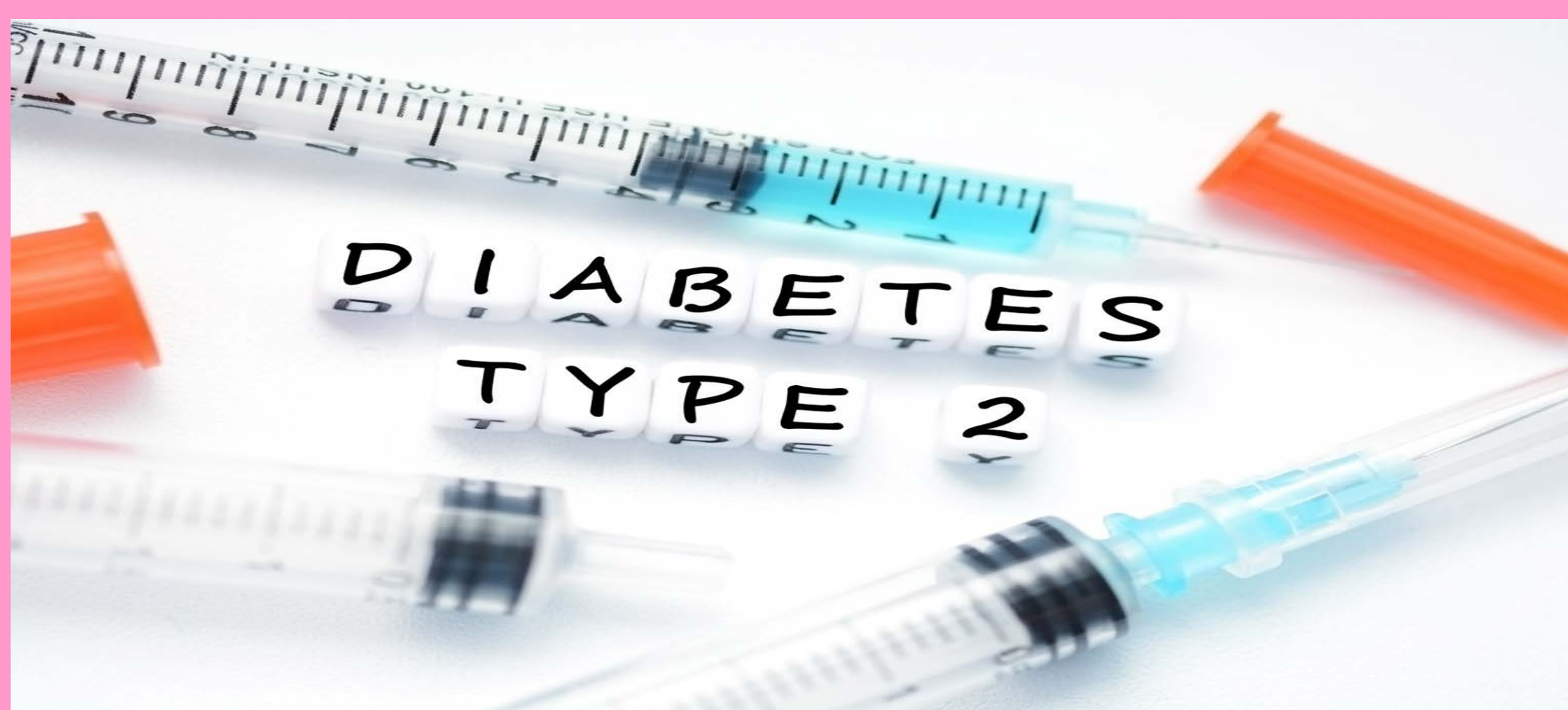
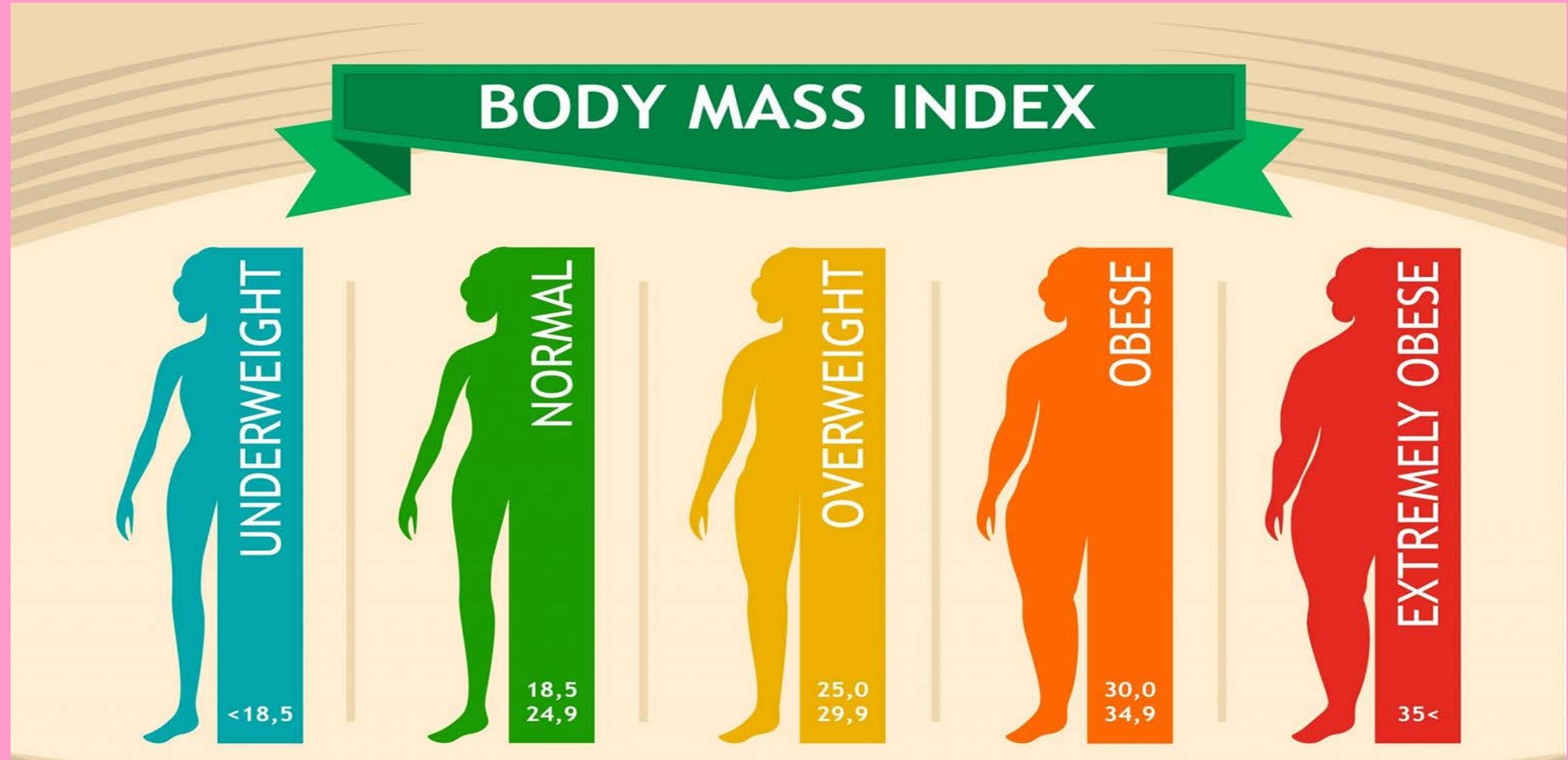
- Migrants adopt aspects of the culture and behavior of the host country
- Examples :
 - Eating a Westernized diet resulting in overweight and obesity
 - Smoking and alcohol consumption

The Multiethnic Cohort (MEC) Study

- Over 215,000 men and women in Hawaii and California participated.
- 5,529 Filipino women
- Generational status was defined as :
 - 1st: both parents born in the Philippines
 - 2nd: one parent born in the US and one in the Philippines
 - 3rd (3 or more generations): both parents born in the US.



Contributors to breast cancer



Compared to 1st generation, 3rd generation Filipino women in the Multiethnic Cohort (MEC) study had a 37% higher breast cancer risk