

## Cancer in Far North Queensland

The CCQ region of Far North Queensland covers nearly a quarter of Queensland (22% or 386,500 km<sup>2</sup>), including the most northern and north-west areas of the state. In 2015 it had a population of 282,790, which was 5.9% of Queensland's total population.

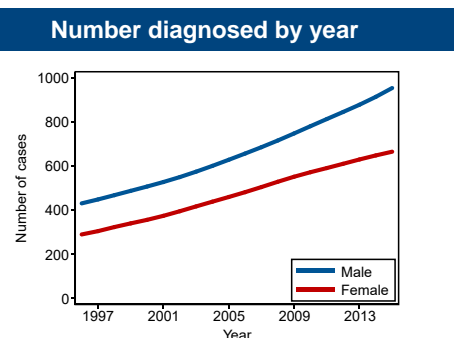
The major population centres are Cairns, Innisfail and Tully, while Cooktown and Weipa are important tourist and industrial centres in the region. The majority of Queensland's discrete Indigenous communities, for example Bamaga, are located in Far North Queensland.

The nearest radiation treatment centre for cancer patients in Far North Queensland is Cairns. There is also a radiotherapy facility located in Townsville. The CCQ Regional Office for Far North Queensland is located in Cairns.



Region Characteristics (2015 data unless otherwise specified)	Far North Queensland	Queensland
<b>Per cent of population who ...</b>		
... are female	49.7%	50.2%
... are aged 50 years and over	24.0%	22.8%
... are Indigenous	18.8%	4.4%
... speak another language at home (2011 data)	13.7%	10.0%
... live in remote areas	11.6%	2.6%
... live within 2 hours drive of radiation treatment	84.3%	89.2%
... live more than 6 hours drive from radiation treatment	8.4%	1.7%
... live in disadvantaged areas	30.1%	18.0%
... live in affluent areas	6.4%	19.8%

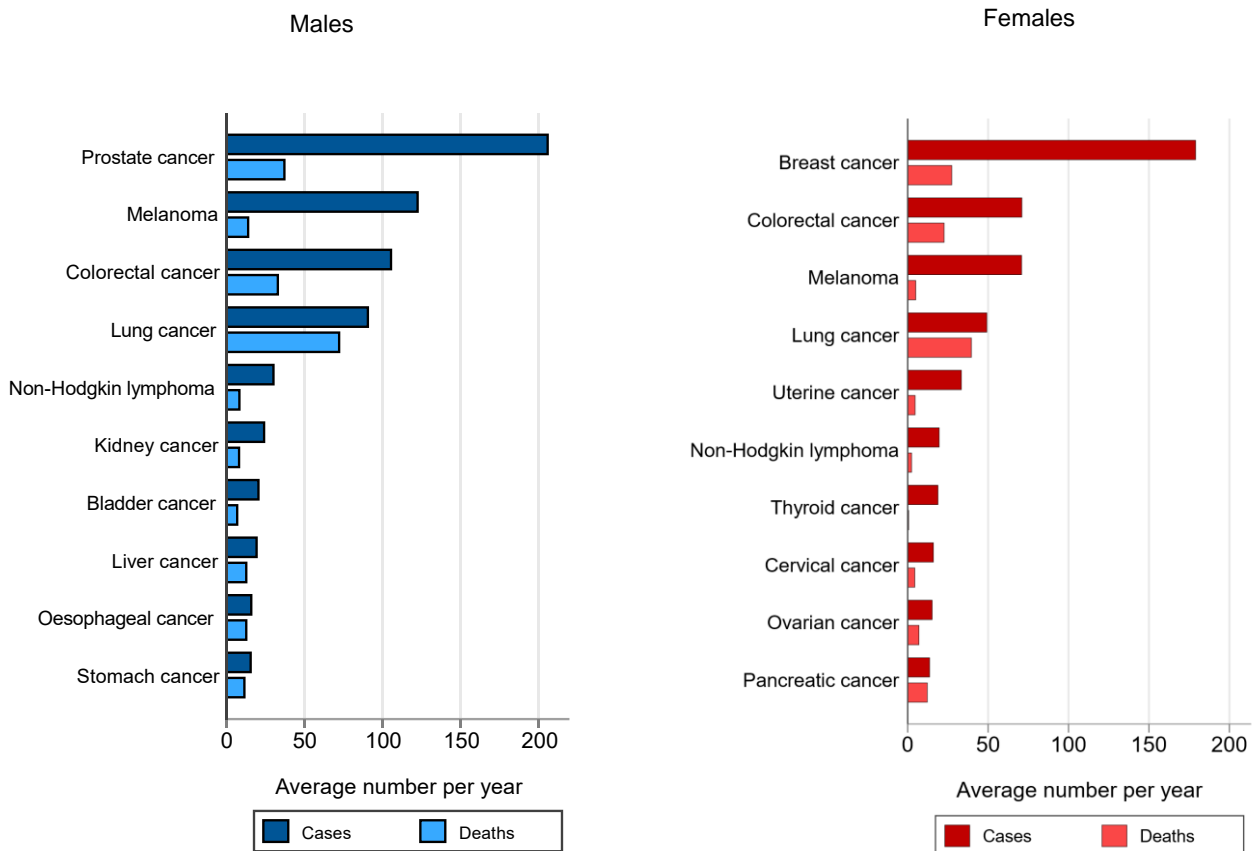
All Cancers*	Male	Female	Persons <sup>1</sup>
Number of new cases per year:	<b>876</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>1506</b>
Chance of diagnosis by age 80: <sup>2</sup>	<b>1 in 2.1</b>	<b>1 in 2.8</b>	<b>1 in 2.4</b>
Median age at diagnosis:	<b>66 yrs</b>	<b>63 yrs</b>	<b>65 yrs</b>
Five-year relative survival:	<b>65%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>67%</b>
Number of deaths per year:	<b>302</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>495</b>
Percent deaths before age 80:	<b>75%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>74%</b>



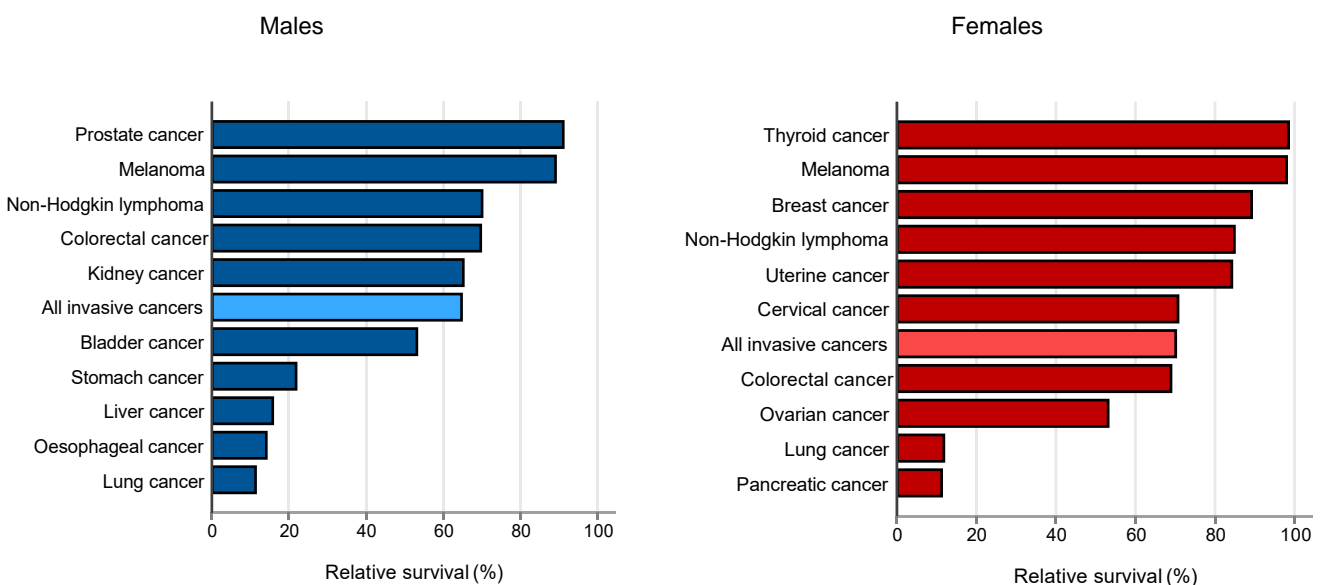
\*See notes on page 4 for more details

- Persons data may not equal the sum of males and females due to rounding.
- Cancers with a lifetime risk above 1 in 5 have the value provided to one decimal point.

### The 10 most common cancers diagnosed in Far North Queensland by sex, 2011-2015



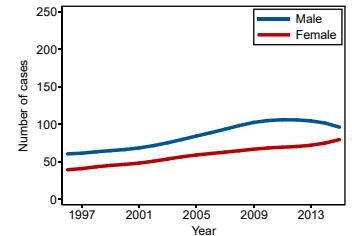
### Five-year relative survival in Far North Queensland by type of cancer and sex, 2011-2015



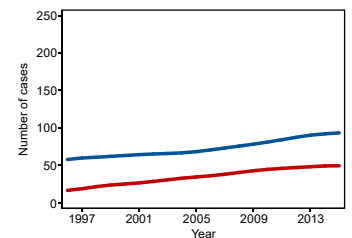
Note: Relative survival calculated using the period method, for persons aged 0-89 years at diagnosis. Data are for "at risk" cases in the period 2011-2015.

**Facts about the most common cancers**
**Colorectal Cancer**

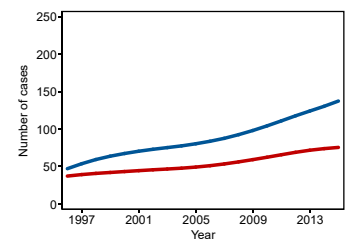

	Male	Female	Persons <sup>1</sup>
Number of new cases per year:	105	71	176
Chance of diagnosis by age 80:	1 in 14	1 in 20	1 in 16
Median age at diagnosis:	69 yrs	70 yrs	69 yrs
Five-year relative survival:	70%	69%	70%
Number of deaths per year:	33	23	56
Percent deaths before age 80:	72%	60%	67%

**Number diagnosed by year**

**Lung Cancer**

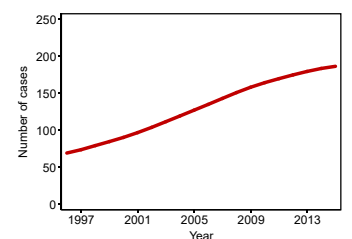

	Male	Female	Persons <sup>1</sup>
Number of new cases per year:	91	49	140
Chance of diagnosis by age 80:	1 in 15	1 in 27	1 in 19
Median age at diagnosis:	68 yrs	67 yrs	68 yrs
Five-year relative survival:	11%	12%	12%
Number of deaths per year:	72	40	112
Percent deaths before age 80:	81%	82%	82%


**Melanoma**

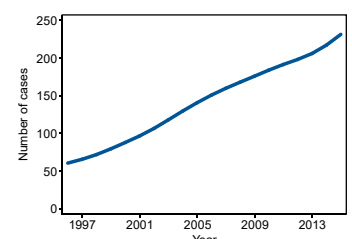

	Male	Female	Persons <sup>1</sup>
Number of new cases per year:	122	71	193
Chance of diagnosis by age 85:	1 in 12	1 in 20	1 in 15
Median age at diagnosis:	64 yrs	60 yrs	63 yrs
Five-year relative survival:	89%	98%	93%
Number of deaths per year:	14	5	19
Percent deaths before age 80:	74%	76%	75%


**Female Breast Cancer**


	Female
Number of new cases per year:	179
Chance of diagnosis by age 80:	1 in 9
Median age at diagnosis:	59 yrs
Five-year relative survival:	89%
Number of deaths per year:	27
Percent deaths before age 80:	82%


**Prostate Cancer**


	Male
Number of new cases per year:	206
Chance of diagnosis by age 80:	1 in 7
Median age at diagnosis:	67 yrs
Five-year relative survival:	91%
Number of deaths per year:	37
Percent deaths before age 80:	54%



See notes on page 4 for more details. Cancers with a lifetime risk above 1 in 5 have the value provided to one decimal point.

1. Persons data may not equal the sum of males and females due to rounding.

**More details on the top 10 cancers diagnosed**

Type of cancer	Incidence <sup>a</sup>		Five-year relative survival <sup>c</sup> (%)	Mortality <sup>a</sup>	
	Average number per year	Annual rate <sup>b</sup> (per 100,000)		Average number per year	Annual rate <sup>b</sup> (per 100,000)
<b>Males</b>					
All invasive cancers	876	606 [587,624]	65 [63,67]	302	222 [210,233]
Prostate cancer	206	136 [127,144]	91 [88,94]	37	30 [26,35]
Melanoma	122	84 [77,91]	89 [85,93]	14	10 [8,13]
Colorectal cancer	105	76 [69,82]	70 [65,75]	33	25 [21,29]
Lung cancer	91	63 [57,69]	11 [8,15]	72	51 [46,57]
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	30	22 [18,26]	70 [60,79]	8	6 [4,8]
Kidney cancer	24	17 [14,20]	65 [54,75]	8	6 [4,8]
Bladder cancer	21	16 [13,19]	53 [40,66]	7	6 [4,8]
Liver cancer	19	13 [10,16]	16 [8,27]	13	9 [7,11]
Oesophageal cancer	16	11 [8,13]	14 [7,24]	13	9 [7,11]
Stomach cancer	16	11 [9,14]	22 [13,33]	12	8 [6,11]
<b>Females</b>					
All invasive cancers	630	446 [431,462]	70 [68,72]	194	141 [132,150]
Breast cancer	179	124 [115,132]	89 [87,92]	27	19 [16,23]
Colorectal cancer	71	52 [47,58]	69 [63,75]	23	17 [14,20]
Melanoma	71	50 [45,56]	98 [94,101]	5	4 [2,5]
Lung cancer	49	35 [31,40]	12 [8,17]	40	29 [25,33]
Uterine cancer	33	23 [19,27]	84 [77,90]	**	**
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	20	14 [11,17]	85 [74,93]	**	**
Thyroid cancer	19	13 [11,16]	99 [91,101]	**	**
Cervical cancer	16	12 [9,14]	71 [58,81]	**	**
Ovarian cancer	15	11 [9,14]	53 [39,66]	7	5 [4,7]
Pancreatic cancer	14	10 [8,13]	11 [5,21]	12	9 [7,12]
<b>Persons</b>					
All invasive cancers	1506	528 [516,540]	67 [66,68]	495	181 [173,188]
Prostate cancer	206	n.a.	91 [88,94]	37	n.a.
Melanoma	193	67 [63,72]	93 [90,95]	19	7 [6,8]
Female breast cancer	179	n.a.	89 [87,92]	27	n.a.
Colorectal cancer	176	64 [60,69]	70 [66,73]	56	21 [19,24]
Lung cancer	140	49 [46,53]	12 [9,14]	112	40 [37,44]
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	50	18 [16,20]	76 [68,82]	**	**
Kidney cancer	34	12 [10,14]	70 [61,77]	11	4 [3,5]
Uterine cancer	33	n.a.	84 [77,90]	**	**
Pancreatic cancer	29	10 [9,12]	7 [3,12]	25	9 [8,11]
Thyroid cancer	28	10 [8,12]	97 [90,100]	**	**

- Notes:
- Incidence and mortality data are averaged over the 5 year period from 2011-2015.
  - Incidence and mortality rates have been directly age-standardised to the 2001 Australian Standard population, with 95% confidence intervals shown in brackets.
  - Five-year relative survival calculated using the period method, for persons aged 0-89 years at diagnosis, with 95% confidence intervals shown in brackets. Estimates are for "at risk" cases in the period 2011-2015
  - Persons data may not equal the sum of males and females due to rounding.
- Symbols:
- \*\* Incidence or mortality counts that averaged less than five per year (and the corresponding rates) have been suppressed to protect confidentiality. Counts and rates for persons have also been suppressed when necessary.
- n.a. = not applicable (rates for persons not applicable for sex-specific cancers).

#### Methodology

1. All cancer data are sourced from the Queensland Cancer Register. The access and use of these data for reporting purposes is subject to strict confidentiality and privacy constraints.
2. Census and population data were obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.
3. Population death data used in relative survival calculations were obtained from the Australian Coordinating Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
4. All calculations were performed using Stata v14.2.
5. Trend lines for incidence numbers have been smoothed using the 'Lowess' method.
6. Remote areas are defined by the Remoteness Areas 2011 classification (combines Remote and Very Remote).
7. Travelling times to radiation treatment are calculated using spatial and road network software, and are approximate based on the shortest road distances at the recommended speed limits.
8. 'Affluent areas' are the 20% of most advantaged Statistical Areas 2 (SA2s) and 'Disadvantaged areas' are the 20% of most disadvantaged SA2s as defined by the 2011 SEIFA Index of Advantage and Disadvantage obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.
9. Relative survival compares overall survival among those diagnosed with cancer to the expected survival of the general population, taking into account age, sex and year of diagnosis.

**Disclaimer:** The information in this publication should not be used as a substitute for advice from a properly qualified medical professional who can advise you about your own individual medical needs. It is not intended to constitute medical advice and is provided for general information purposes only. Information on cancer, including the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of cancer, is constantly being updated and revised by medical professionals and the research community.

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