



Cancer in Far North Queensland

The CCQ region of Far North Queensland covers nearly a quarter of Queensland (22% or 386,500 km²), including the most northern and north-west areas of the state. In 2014 it had a population of 280,461, which was 5.9% of Queensland's total population.

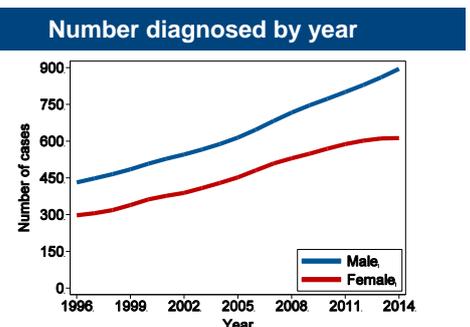
The major population centres are Cairns, Innisfail and Tully, while Cooktown and Weipa are important tourist and industrial centres in the region. The majority of Queensland's discrete Indigenous communities, for example Bamaga, are located in Far North Queensland.

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 (2014 data unless otherwise specified)	Far North Queensland	Queensland
Per cent of population who ...		
... are female	49.6%	50.2%
... are aged 50 years and over	23.8%	22.7%
... are Indigenous	18.5%	4.3%
... speak another language at home (2011 data)	13.7%	10.0%
... live in remote areas	11.5%	2.6%
... live within 2 hours drive of radiation treatment	84.4%	88.9%
... live more than 6 hours drive from radiation treatment	8.4%	1.9%
... live in disadvantaged areas	30.2%	18.0%
... live in affluent areas	6.4%	19.8%

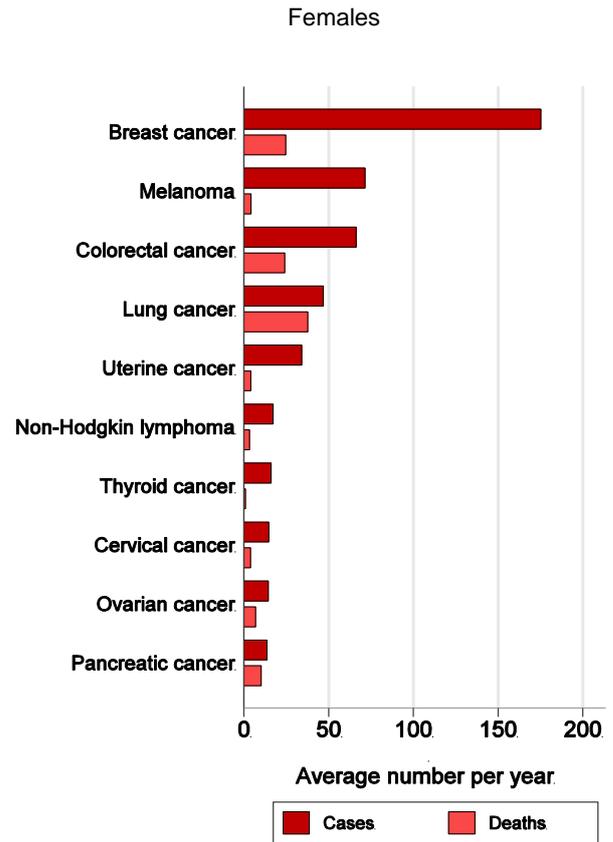
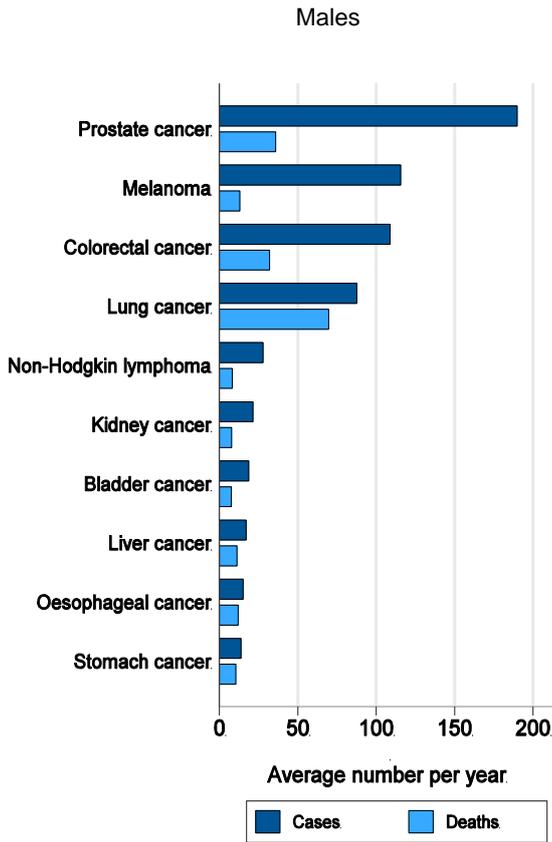
All Cancers*	Male	Female	Persons ¹
Number of new cases per year:	828	604	1432
Chance of diagnosis by age 80: ²	1 in 2.2	1 in 2.9	1 in 2.4
Median age at diagnosis:	66 yrs	62 yrs	65 yrs
Five-year relative survival:	64%	71%	67%
Number of deaths per year:	293	182	475
Percent deaths before age 80:	75%	72%	74%



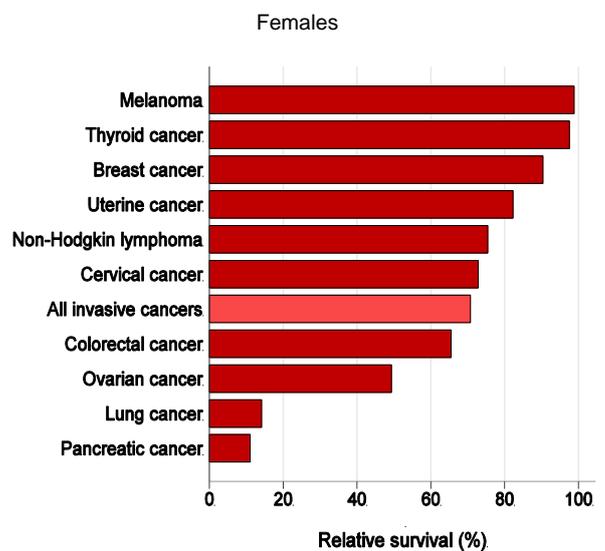
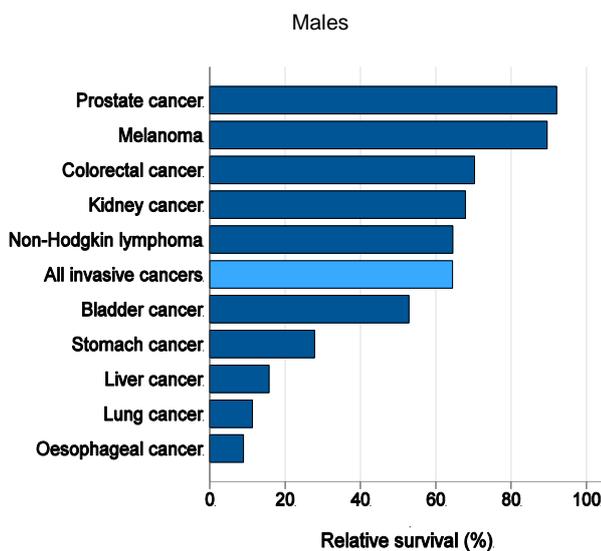
*See notes on page 4 for more details

1. Persons data may not equal the sum of males and females due to rounding.
2. 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, 2010-2014



Five-year relative survival in Far North Queensland by type of cancer and sex, 2010-2014



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 2010-2014.

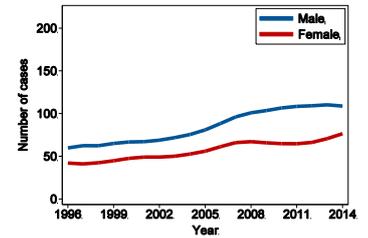
Facts about the most common cancers

Colorectal Cancer



	Male	Female	Persons ¹
Number of new cases per year:	109	66	175
Chance of diagnosis by age 80:	1 in 13	1 in 21	1 in 15
Median age at diagnosis:	68 yrs	69 yrs	69 yrs
Five-year relative survival:	70%	65%	69%
Number of deaths per year:	32	24	56
Percent deaths before age 80:	76%	61%	70%

Number diagnosed by year

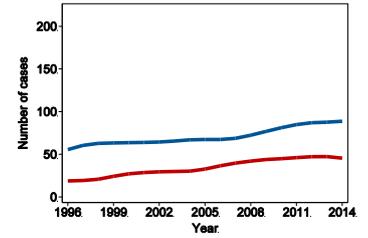


Lung Cancer



	Male	Female	Persons ¹
Number of new cases per year:	88	47	134
Chance of diagnosis by age 80:	1 in 15	1 in 26	1 in 18
Median age at diagnosis:	68 yrs	67 yrs	68 yrs
Five-year relative survival:	11%	14%	12%
Number of deaths per year:	70	38	107
Percent deaths before age 80:	82%	82%	82%

Number diagnosed by year

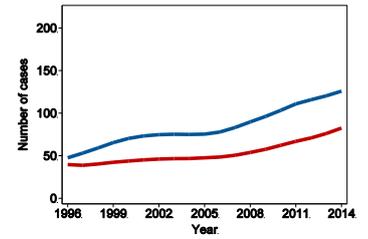


Melanoma



	Male	Female	Persons ¹
Number of new cases per year:	116	71	187
Chance of diagnosis by age 85:	1 in 13	1 in 20	1 in 16
Median age at diagnosis:	64 yrs	59 yrs	63 yrs
Five-year relative survival:	90%	99%	93%
Number of deaths per year:	13	**	**
Percent deaths before age 80:	77%	71%	76%

Number diagnosed by year

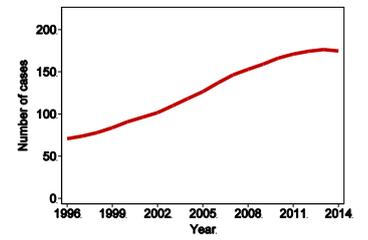


Female Breast Cancer



	Female
Number of new cases per year:	175
Chance of diagnosis by age 80:	1 in 9
Median age at diagnosis:	58 yrs
Five-year relative survival:	90%
Number of deaths per year:	25
Percent deaths before age 80:	83%

Number diagnosed by year

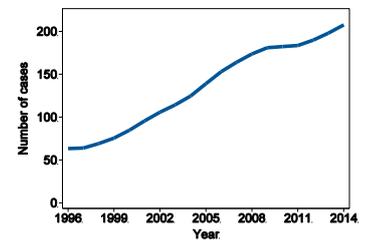


Prostate Cancer



	Male
Number of new cases per year:	190
Chance of diagnosis by age 80:	1 in 7
Median age at diagnosis:	67 yrs
Five-year relative survival:	92%
Number of deaths per year:	36
Percent deaths before age 80:	50%

Number diagnosed by year



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 ^a		Five-year relative survival ^c (%)	Mortality ^a	
	Average number per year	Annual rate ^b (per 100,000)		Average number per year	Annual rate ^b (per 100,000)
Males					
All invasive cancers	828	593 [575,612]	64 [63,66]	293	225 [213,237]
Prostate cancer	190	131 [122,140]	92 [89,95]	36	31 [27,36]
Melanoma	116	82 [76,90]	90 [85,93]	13	10 [8,13]
Colorectal cancer	109	80 [74,88]	70 [65,75]	32	25 [21,29]
Lung cancer	88	63 [57,69]	11 [8,15]	70	51 [46,57]
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	28	20 [17,24]	64 [54,73]	8	6 [4,8]
Kidney cancer	21	15 [12,18]	68 [57,77]	8	6 [4,8]
Bladder cancer	19	15 [12,18]	53 [39,66]	8	7 [5,9]
Liver cancer	17	12 [9,15]	16 [8,27]	11	8 [6,11]
Oesophageal cancer	15	11 [8,13]	9 [3,18]	12	8 [6,11]
Stomach cancer	14	11 [8,13]	28 [16,41]	10	8 [6,10]
Females					
All invasive cancers	604	440 [425,457]	71 [69,73]	182	139 [130,148]
Breast cancer	175	124 [116,132]	90 [88,93]	25	18 [15,21]
Melanoma	71	52 [47,58]	99 [95,101]	**	**
Colorectal cancer	66	50 [45,56]	65 [59,71]	24	19 [15,22]
Lung cancer	47	35 [30,39]	14 [10,19]	38	29 [25,33]
Uterine cancer	34	24 [20,28]	82 [74,89]	**	**
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	17	13 [10,16]	75 [63,85]	**	**
Thyroid cancer	16	12 [9,14]	98 [90,101]	**	**
Cervical cancer	15	11 [8,14]	73 [59,83]	**	**
Ovarian cancer	14	11 [8,14]	49 [35,62]	7	6 [4,8]
Pancreatic cancer	14	11 [8,13]	11 [4,22]	10	8 [6,11]
Persons^d					
All invasive cancers	1432	518 [506,530]	67 [66,68]	475	180 [173,188]
Prostate cancer	190	n.a.	92 [89,95]	36	n.a.
Melanoma	187	67 [63,72]	93 [90,96]	**	**
Female breast cancer	175	n.a.	90 [88,93]	25	n.a.
Colorectal cancer	175	66 [61,70]	69 [65,72]	56	22 [19,25]
Lung cancer	134	49 [45,53]	12 [10,15]	107	40 [37,43]
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	45	17 [14,19]	69 [61,76]	**	**
Uterine cancer	34	n.a.	82 [74,89]	**	**
Kidney cancer	33	12 [10,14]	70 [61,77]	11	4 [3,5]
Pancreatic cancer	27	10 [8,12]	5 [2,11]	22	8 [7,10]
Bladder cancer	25	10 [8,12]	52 [41,64]	10	4 [3,5]

Notes:

- Incidence and mortality data are averaged over the 5 year period from 2010-2014.
- 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 2010-2014
- 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

- All cancer data are sourced from the Queensland Cancer Registry. The access and use of these data for reporting purposes is subject to strict confidentiality and privacy constraints.
- Census and population data were obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.
- Population death data used in relative survival calculations were obtained from the Australian Coordinating Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
- All calculations were performed using Stata v14.2.
- Trend lines for incidence numbers have been smoothed using the 'Lowess' method.
- Remote areas are defined by the Remoteness Areas 2011 classification (combines Remote and Very Remote).
- 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.
- '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 SEIFA Index of Advantage and Disadvantage obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.
- 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.

Cancer Council Queensland does not warrant that the information in this publication is correct, up to date or complete nor that it is suitable for any particular purpose. Your use of the information in this publication is at your own risk. To the fullest extent permitted by law, Cancer Council Queensland does not accept any liability for any reliance placed on information that is not correct, complete or up to date, or that is not suited to the purpose for which it was relied upon. If any warranty or guarantee cannot by law be excluded, then, to the extent permitted by law, Cancer Council Queensland's liability for such warranty or guarantee is limited, at Cancer Council Queensland's option, to supplying the information or materials again or paying the cost of having the information or materials supplied again.