



CANCER IN AUSTRALIA¹

- An estimated 124,466 new cases of cancer were diagnosed in Australia in 2014 (excluding non-melanoma skin cancers).
- In 2014, an estimated 903,800 non-melanoma skin cancers were diagnosed nationally.² Non-melanoma skin cancers are the most frequently occurring cancer in Australia, but the least life-threatening.
- Apart from non-melanoma skin cancers, the most common cancers diagnosed in Australia are prostate (15%), colorectal (bowel) (12%), breast (13%), melanoma (10%) and lung cancer (9%).
- One in two men and one in three women are diagnosed with cancer before the age of 85.
- Three out of every 10 deaths in Australia are due to cancer.
- About 47,753 people were expected to die from cancer in Australia in 2017, an average of 130 deaths each day.
- Lung cancer (19%) is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths, followed by colorectal (9%), prostate (7%), breast (6%) and pancreatic (6%).
- The number of deaths due to cancer has steadily increased over time, due mainly to population growth and ageing; however the death rate (number of deaths per 100,000 people) has fallen by 20 per cent between 1982 and 2014.
- Two out of every three cancer patients will survive at least five years after diagnosis.
- The overall five-year relative survival for cancer has increased from 48 per cent (1984-1988) to 68 per cent (2009-2013), and survival rates have improved for many common cancers across this timespan.
- There were 1,090,513 cancer related hospitalisations reported in Australia during 2014-2015, accounting for one in 10 hospitalisations.
- In 2008-09, it was estimated that cancer cost the Australian health system more than \$4.5 billion (7 per cent of total health system expenditure on chronic disease).³

Additional details are available in the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report “[Cancer in Australia 2017](#)”.¹ Additional data are available [online](#).

For more information about cancer in Australia, please contact Cancer Council Information and Support on 13 11 20 or visit Cancer Council Australia’s website www.cancer.org.au.

References

1 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2017. *Cancer in Australia 2017*. Cancer series no 101, Cat. No. CAN 100. Canberra: AIHW.

2 Fransen M, Karahalios A, Sharma N, English DR, Giles GG, Sinclair RD, 2012. Non-melanoma skin cancer in Australia. *Med J Aust* 2012; 197: 565-568. doi: 10.5694/mja12.10654.

3 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2013. *Health system expenditure on cancer and other neoplasms in Australia, 2008-09*. Cancer series no. 81. Cat. no.78. Canberra: AIHW.

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