

## CANCER INCIDENCE, MORTALITY, SURVIVAL AND PREVALENCE

*This fact sheet contains the latest available cancer data, which is for the year 2015 for Queensland data, 2016 for Australian mortality data, and 2015 for Australian incidence data unless otherwise stated.*

### Queensland<sup>1,2</sup>

- Cancers diagnosed: 27,788 (excludes keratinocyte skin cancers such as basal and squamous cell cancers).
- Number of keratinocyte skin cancer cases (estimated 2015 data): 362,809 (37 per cent of Australian total).<sup>3</sup>
- Total deaths from cancer: 8853.
- One in two Queensland men and one in two Queensland women will develop cancer in their lifetime (approximate lifetime risk to age 85).
- The five-year relative survival for invasive cancer is 71 per cent (2011-2015: 70 per cent for males, 73 per cent for females). This has improved over time from 53 per cent in the 1980s (47 per cent for males, 59 per cent for females).
- There were an estimated 232,567 people living in Queensland at the end of 2015 who had been diagnosed with an invasive cancer (excludes keratinocyte skin cancer) since 1986.

### Australia<sup>4,5</sup>

- There were 131,452 new cases of cancer diagnosed in Australia (71,959 males and 59,493 females). Each year the number of people diagnosed with cancer increases, mainly due to population growth and ageing.
- There were 45,782 deaths from cancer in Australia (25,910 males and 19,872 females).
- Cancer combined was the leading cause of death and was responsible for 28 per cent of deaths overall in 2017.
- Cancer was the leading cause of death in men:

All malignant cancers	30.8 per cent
Ischaemic heart disease (heart attack)	12.7 per cent
Dementia and Alzheimer's disease	5.9 per cent

- Cancer was the leading cause of death in women:

All malignant cancers	25.3 per cent
Dementia and Alzheimer's disease	11.4 per cent
Ischaemic heart disease (heart attack)	10.4 per cent

<sup>1</sup> Queensland Cancer Register, 2018. Unpublished data (1982-2015).

<sup>2</sup> Queensland Cancer Statistics On-Line, 2018. Viertel Cancer Research Centre, Cancer Council Queensland ([qcsol.cancerqld.org.au](http://qcsol.cancerqld.org.au)). Based on data released by the Queensland Cancer Register (1982-2015; released November 2018).

<sup>3</sup> 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 ([https://www.mja.com.au/sites/default/files/issues/197\\_10\\_191112/fra10654\\_appendix.pdf](https://www.mja.com.au/sites/default/files/issues/197_10_191112/fra10654_appendix.pdf))

<sup>4</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2018 Cancer Data in Australia; Australian Cancer Incidence and Mortality (ACIM) books. Canberra: AIHW. <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/cancer/cancer-data-in-australia/>.

<sup>5</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics. 2018. *Causes of Death, Australia, 2017*. Cat. no. 3303.0 Canberra: ABS.

## Most common cancers

### Queensland<sup>1,2</sup>

The five **most common** cancers in Queensland **men** (2015)

Number	Cancer site	Number of new cases	Age-standardised rate (per 100,000)	Approximate lifetime risk (to age 85)
1	Prostate	3987	149.1	1 in 5
2	Melanoma	2190	87.8	1 in 10
3	Colorectal	1728	69.3	1 in 11
4	Lung	1478	58.7	1 in 12
5	Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	541	22.0	1 in 34

Leading causes of **cancer deaths** in Queensland **men** (2015)

Number	Cancer site	Number of deaths	Age-standardised rate (per 100,000)
1	Lung	1082	43.3
2	Prostate	645	27.4
3	Colorectal	609	24.9
4	Pancreas	272	10.8
5	Melanoma	217	9.1

The five **most common** cancers in Queensland **women** (2015)

Number	Cancer site	Number of new cases	Age-standardised rate (per 100,000)	Approximate lifetime risk (to age 85)
1	Breast	3321	124.8	1 in 8
2	Melanoma	1559	59.4	1 in 16
3	Colorectal	1486	54.4	1 in 14
4	Lung	998	35.9	1 in 20
5	Uterine	526	19.1	1 in 42

Leading causes of **cancer deaths** in Queensland **women** (2015)

Number	Cancer site	Number of deaths	Age-standardised rate (per 100,000)
1	Lung	725	26.2
2	Breast	563	20.3
3	Colorectal	486	17.0
4	Pancreas	234	8.3
5	Ovary	171	6.1

Note: Rates are age-standardised to the Australian standard population (2001). Unknown primary site cancers were not included.

## Most common cancers (cont.)

### Australia<sup>4</sup>

The five **most common** cancers in Australian men (2015)

Number	Cancer site	Number of new cases	Age-standardised rate (per 100,000)	Approximate lifetime risk (to age 85)
1	Prostate	18,878	140.9	1 in 6
2	Colorectal	8573	67.2	1 in 11
3	Melanoma	7990	63.1	1 in 13
4	Lung	6779	52.8	1 in 13
5	Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	2836	22.4	1 in 35

Leading causes of **cancer deaths** in Australian men (2016)

Number	Cancer site	Number of deaths	Age-standardised rate (per 100,000)
1	Lung	5023	38.2
2	Prostate	3248	25.2
3	Colorectal	2936	22.7
4	Pancreas	1500	11.4
5	Liver	1231	9.2

The five **most common** cancers in Australian women (2015)

Number	Cancer site	Number of new cases	Age-standardised rate (per 100,000)	Approximate lifetime risk (to age 85)
1	Breast	16,852	124.4	1 in 8
2	Colorectal	7031	48.7	1 in 16
3	Melanoma	5704	42.0	1 in 22
4	Lung	5009	34.6	1 in 21
5	Uterus	2723	19.3	1 in 42

Leading causes of **cancer deaths** in Australian women (2016)

Number	Cancer site	Number of deaths	Age-standardised rate (per 100,000)
1	Lung	3387	22.5
2	Breast	2976	19.9
3	Colorectal	2439	15.4
4	Pancreas	1411	9.0
5	Ovary	938	6.2

Note: Rates are age-standardised to the Australian standard population (2001).

Unknown primary site cancers were not included.

**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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