

CANCER INCIDENCE, MORTALITY, SURVIVAL AND PREVALENCE

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

Queensland^{1,2}

- Cancers diagnosed: 28,823 (excludes non-melanoma skin cancers).
- Number of non-melanoma skin cancer cases (estimated 2015 data): 362,809 (37 per cent of Australian total).³
- Total deaths from cancer: 9207.
- 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 (2012-2016: 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 242,390 people living in Queensland at the end of 2016 who had been diagnosed with an invasive cancer (excludes non-melanoma skin cancer) since 1987.

Australia^{4,5}

- 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 (2017 data).⁵
- 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

¹ Queensland Cancer Register, 2019. Unpublished data (1982-2016).

² Queensland Cancer Statistics On-Line, 2019. Viertel Cancer Research Centre, Cancer Council Queensland (qcsol.cancerqld.org.au). Based on data released by the Queensland Cancer Register (1982-2016; released July 2019).

³ 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)

⁴ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2019 Cancer Data in Australia; Australian Cancer Incidence and Mortality (ACIM) books. Canberra: AIHW. <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/cancer/cancer-data-in-australia/>.

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

Most common cancers

Queensland^{1,2}

The five **most common** cancers in Queensland men (2016)

Number	Cancer site	Number of new cases	Age-standardised rate (per 100,000)	Approximate lifetime risk (to age 85)
1	Prostate	3915	143.3	1 in 5
2	Melanoma	2331	91.3	1 in 9
3	Colorectal	1786	69.6	1 in 11
4	Lung	1503	57.9	1 in 12
5	Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	618	24.4	1 in 31

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

Number	Cancer site	Number of deaths	Age-standardised rate (per 100,000)
1	Lung	1142	44.4
2	Prostate	651	26.8
3	Colorectal	591	23.8
4	Pancreas	299	11.7
5	Melanoma	226	9.1

The five **most common** cancers in Queensland women (2016)

Number	Cancer site	Number of new cases	Age-standardised rate (per 100,000)	Approximate lifetime risk (to age 85)
1	Breast	3510	128.4	1 in 7
2	Melanoma	1631	60.5	1 in 16
3	Colorectal	1413	50.0	1 in 15
4	Lung	1113	39.1	1 in 18
5	Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	499	17.6	1 in 45

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

Number	Cancer site	Number of deaths	Age-standardised rate (per 100,000)
1	Lung	689	23.9
2	Breast	581	20.3
3	Colorectal	514	17.3
4	Pancreas	257	8.6
5	Ovary	170	5.7

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

Most common cancers (cont.)

Australia⁴

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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