

CANCER FACTS

Cancer Diagnoses, Deaths, Survival and Prevalence

This fact sheet contains the latest available cancer data, which is for the year 2017 for Queensland data, 2018 for Australian cancer deaths data, and 2016 for Australian cancer diagnosis data, unless otherwise stated.

Queensland^{1,2}

- Total new cancers diagnosed in 2017: 30,121³.
- Number of keratinocyte cancers (non-melanoma skin cancer): 63,625 (2018 estimated data)⁴.
- Total deaths from cancer in 2017: 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 72 per cent (2013-2017: 70 per cent for males, 74 per cent for females). This has improved over time from 53 per cent in the 1980s (48 per cent for males, 59 per cent for females).
- There were an estimated 252,737 people living in Queensland at the end of 2017 who had been diagnosed with an invasive cancer³ since 1988.

Most common cancers in Queensland^{1,2}

The five **most common** cancers in Queensland **men** (2017)

Number	Cancer site	Number of new cases	Age-standardised rate (per 100,000)	Approximate lifetime risk (to age 85)
1	Prostate	4281	151.0	1 in 5
2	Melanoma	2493	94.6	1 in 9
3	Colorectal	1765	66.7	1 in 11
4	Lung	1578	58.2	1 in 13
5	Lymphoma	768	28.8	1 in 29

Leading causes of **cancer deaths** in Queensland **men** (2017)

Number	Cancer site	Number of deaths	Age-standardised rate (per 100,000)
1	Lung	1122	41.9
2	Prostate	647	25.4
3	Colorectal	632	24.5
4	Pancreas	307	11.6
5	Melanoma	251	9.6

The five **most common** cancers in Queensland **women** (2017)

Number	Cancer site	Number of new cases	Age-standardised rate (per 100,000)	Approximate lifetime risk (to age 85)
1	Breast	3533	126.0	1 in 8
2	Melanoma	1684	61.3	1 in 17
3	Colorectal	1464	50.1	1 in 14
4	Lung	1202	40.4	1 in 20
5	Lymphoma	561	20.0	1 in 40

Leading causes of **cancer deaths** in Queensland **women** (2017)

Number	Cancer site	Number of deaths	Age-standardised rate (per 100,000)
1	Lung	740	24.4
2	Breast	583	20.0
3	Colorectal	527	16.9
4	Pancreas	270	8.9
5	Ovary	175	5.9

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

Cancer Diagnoses, Deaths, Survival and Prevalence

Australia^{5,6}

- There were 135,133 new cases of cancer diagnosed in Australia in 2016 (74,003 males and 61,130 females)³. Each year the number of people diagnosed with cancer increases, mainly due to population growth and ageing.
- There were 47,310 deaths from cancer in Australia in 2018 (26,699 males and 20,611 females).
- Cancer is one of the top 20 leading causes of deaths in Australia and it was responsible for about 19 per cent of deaths overall (2019 data)⁶.
- Cancer was the leading cause of deaths in men in 2018:

All malignant cancers	21.6 per cent
Ischaemic heart disease (heart attack)	12.2 per cent
Dementia and Alzheimer's disease	6.1 per cent
- Cancer was the leading cause of death in women in 2018:

All malignant cancers	18.3 per cent
Dementia and Alzheimer's disease	11.8 per cent
Ischaemic heart disease (heart attack)	9.2 per cent

Most common cancers in Australia

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

Number	Cancer site	Number of new cases	Age-standardised rate (per 100,000)	Approximate lifetime risk (to age 85) <i>Estimated</i>
1	Prostate	19,305	140.7	1 in 6
2	Melanoma	8,455	65.1	1 in 13
3	Colorectal	8,390	64.2	1 in 12
4	Lung	6,933	52.5	1 in 13
5	Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	3,032	23.3	1 in 33

Leading causes of **cancer deaths** in Australian **men** (2018)

Number	Cancer site	Number of deaths	Age-standardised rate (per 100,000)
1	Lung	5000	35.5
2	Prostate	3264	23.5
3	Colorectal	2870	20.7
4	Pancreas	1596	11.5
5	Liver	1414	10.0

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

Number	Cancer site	Number of new cases	Age-standardised rate (per 100,000)	Approximate lifetime risk (to age 85) <i>Estimated</i>
1	Breast	17354	125.9	1 in 8
2	Colorectal	6962	47.6	1 in 16
3	Melanoma	6030	43.5	1 in 21
4	Lung	5283	35.8	1 in 20
5	Uterus	2743	19.2	1 in 42

Leading causes of **cancer deaths** in Australian **women** (2018)

Number	Cancer site	Number of deaths	Age-standardised rate (per 100,000)
1	Lung	3586	22.4
2	Breast	2999	19.0
3	Colorectal	2466	14.6
4	Pancreas	1481	9.0
5	Ovary	968	6.1

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

1. Queensland Cancer Register, 2020. Unpublished data (1982–2017).
2. Queensland Cancer Statistics On-Line, 2020. Viertel Cancer Research Centre, Cancer Council Queensland (qcsol.cancerqld.org.au). Based on data released by the Queensland Cancer Register (1982–2017; released July 2020).
3. Excludes keratinocyte or non-melanoma skin cancers such as Basal cell carcinoma (BCC) and Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC)
4. Pandeya N, Olsen CM and Whiteman DC, The incidence and multiplicity rates of keratinocyte cancers in Australia. *Med J Aust* 2017; 207 (8): 339-343. || doi: 10.5694/mja17.00284 (<https://www.mja.com.au/journal/2017/207/8/incidence-and-multiplicity-rates-keratinocyte-cancers-australia>)
5. Cancer data in Australia (web report), Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), Last updated 02 Jun 2020 <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/cancer/cancer-data-in-australia/contents/summary>.
6. Australian Bureau of Statistics. Causes of Death, Australia, 2019. Released 23/10/2020. Canberra: ABS (<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/health/causes-death/causes-death-australia/latest-release>)

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