

Statistics

Cancer incidence & mortality in Tasmania¹

* Note: *Non-melanoma skin cancers are not included*

Last updated: 24 November 2020

- In 2017, there were 3,476 new cases of cancer diagnosed and 1,268 cancer-related deaths among Tasmanian residents.
- In 2017, the risk of developing cancer by the age of 75 was 1 in 3 for males and 1 in 4 for females. By the age of 85, the risk was 1 in 2 for both males and females.
- The most commonly diagnosed cancers in Tasmania in 2017 (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer) were prostate, colorectal, breast and lung cancers and melanoma of the skin.
- The most common cancer-related deaths in Tasmania in 2017 were from lung, colorectal, pancreatic, breast and prostate cancers.

Cancer incidence & mortality in Tasmania, compared to the rest of Australia^{2,3}

- Tasmania has the second highest rate of cancer diagnosis (495 per 100,000) in Australia, adjusting for age and size of the population, after Queensland.
- Tasmania has the second highest rate of death from cancer (180 per 100,000), after the Northern Territory.
- Tasmania has one of the highest age-standardised mortality rates in Australia for:
 - colorectal cancer (23 per 100,000)
 - lung cancer (35 per 100,000)
 - prostate cancer (28 per 100,000)

For more Tasmanian statistics, visit the [Tasmanian Cancer Registry](#)

National cancer statistics

- Cancer is a leading cause of death in Australia – around 50,000 people died from cancer in 2019. Cancer accounts for about 3 in 10 deaths in Australia⁴.
- Nearly 21,500 more people die each year from cancer than in 1982. This is mainly due to population growth. More than 4 in 5 deaths from cancer occur in people over 60 years of age⁵.
- Around 69% of people diagnosed with cancer in Australia will survive more than five years after diagnosis.
- The 5-year survival rate for “all cancers combined” has increased from 50% in 1986-1990 to 69% in 2012-2016⁶.

- Around 417,000 cases of non-melanoma skin cancers were treated in 2010⁷, with 2,094 people dying from non-melanoma skin cancer in 2018⁸.
- Cancer in Australia costs around \$6.3 billion each year in direct health system costs⁹.
- Over \$1.77 billion was spent on cancer research between 2006 and 2011 in Australia, and over \$252 million was spent between 2016 and 2018. The Australian Government was the largest contributor, at 60% and 74% in the respective periods.^{10,11}

For more national cancer statistics, visit:

- [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare cancer statistics](#)
- [Australian Bureau of Statistics](#)

Global cancer statistics¹²

- The World Health Organisation estimates that Australia and New Zealand were ranked the countries with the world's highest age-standardised incidence rates for all-cancers (including non-melanoma skin cancer) in 2018, at 468 per 100,000 and 438 per 100,000 respectively.
- Ireland, Hungary, USA, Belgium, France, Denmark, Norway and The Netherlands were ranked the eight next highest countries for cancer incidence in the world.
- Excluding non-melanoma skin cancer, Australia ranks the 7th-highest country globally for new cancer diagnoses (2018 data) at 320.5 per 100,000.

For more global cancer statistics, visit the [World Cancer Research Fund cancer facts & figures](#)

References

¹ Stokes B, Albion T, Otahal P, Venn A. *Cancer in Tasmania: Incidence and Mortality 2017*. Menzies Institute for Medical Research Tasmania, Hobart, November 2019

² Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2019. *Cancer in Australia 2019*. Cancer series no. 119. Cat. no. CAN 123. Canberra: AIHW.

³ AIHW Cancer Data in Australia (Book 6: State & Territory Supplementary Tables); Last updated 13 Nov 2020; Viewed 20 Nov 2020; available at <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/cancer/cancer-data-in-australia/data>

⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics. *Causes of Death, Australia, 2019*. 3303.0. Commonwealth of Australia: Canberra, Australia, Latest release: 23 Oct 2020, viewed 20 Nov 2020, available at: <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/health/causes-death/causes-death-australia/latest-release>

⁵ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2019. *Cancer in Australia 2019*. Cancer series no. 119. Cat. no. CAN 123. Canberra: AIHW.

⁶ *ibid.*

⁷ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2014, Skin Cancer in Australia, AIHW submission (number 16) to the Australian Parliament Standing Committee on Health, p. 3 available at: https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Health/Skin_Cancer/Submissions

⁸ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, General Record of Incidence of Mortality (GRIM) books; last updated 07 Aug 2020, viewed 23 Nov 2020; available at: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/life-expectancy-deaths/grim-books/contents/data-visualisation>

⁹ Goldsbury DE, Yap S, Weber MF, Veerman L, Rankin N, Banks E, et al. (2018) Health services costs for cancer care in Australia: Estimates from the 45 and Up Study. PLoS ONE 13(7): e0201552. Available at <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0201552>

¹⁰ Cancer Australia, 2015. *Cancer Research in Australia: an overview of funding initiatives to support cancer research capacity in Australia 2006 to 2011*, Cancer Australia, Surry Hills NSW.

¹¹ Cancer Australia, 2016. *Cancer Research in Australia 2016 to 2018: opportunities for strategic research investment*; viewed 24 Nov 2020; available at <https://canceraustralia.gov.au/research-data/research/cancer-research-australia>

¹² W.H.O., International Agency for Research on Cancer, 2018. Cancer Today; Data tables for cancer incidence visualization by country; viewed 24 Nov 2020; available at: <http://gco.iarc.fr/today/home> and <https://www.wcrf.org/dietandcancer/cancer-trends/data-cancer-frequency-country>