

CANCER IN NEW SOUTH WALES: INCIDENCE, MORTALITY AND PREVALENCE 2005

Key findings

- In 2005, 34,227 people were diagnosed with cancer in NSW. Cancers of the prostate, bowel, breast, melanoma and lung were the most common and responsible for 61% of all new cases.
- This figure is expected to increase to 37,550 in 2007.
- The number of deaths from cancer in 2005 was 12,513, with 12,998 projected for 2007.
- Lung cancer is now responsible for the same proportion of cancer deaths in females as breast cancer, with 32% of all cancer deaths in women.
- Prostate cancer is increasing, with a lifetime risk of one in five for men, and is now responsible for 31% of cases in men.
- There were more than 221,000 cancer survivors in NSW at the end of 2004. Of these, 64% had breast cancer, melanoma, prostate or bowel cancer.
- Five-year survival improved from 49% of all cases in 1980 to 63% of cases in 2004.
- Cancer death rates have fallen by 16% in men and 11% in women over the past 10 years.

- A number of cancers still have poor outlook with unacceptable survival, including lung, oesophageal, brain and mesothelioma.

Prevalence

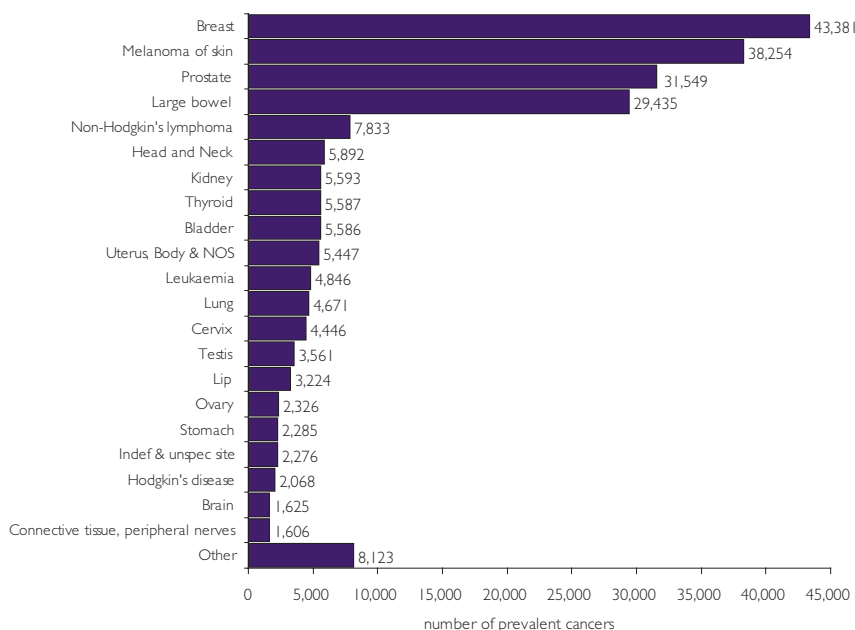
There were 221,602 individuals in NSW: 106,519 men (46%) and 115,083 women (52%) alive at 31 December 2004, who had been diagnosed with at least one cancer between 1980 and 2003.

This equated to 3.3% of the NSW population in 2004 (3.2% of men and 3.4% of women).

In 2005, 34,227 people were diagnosed with cancer in NSW; and 12,513 people died from cancer. Cancers of the prostate, bowel, breast, lung and melanoma were responsible for 61% of all new cases.

There were 221,602 individuals alive at the end of 2004 who were diagnosed between 1980 and 2003.

Figure 1 Cancer prevalence in NSW at December 2004



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Prevalence continued

Of this group, the majority of people had a prior diagnosis of breast, prostate, melanoma and bowel cancer. These four cancer types were responsible for 64% of the total prevalence.

Breast cancer had the highest prevalence and accounted for 20% of total cancer prevalence in NSW for the 25 years of follow up. Melanoma ranked second overall, with 17% of prevalence. Prostate and bowel cancers had 14% and 13% respectively. The prevalence of all other individual cancer types was 4% or less.

Most people (57%) living with cancer were aged 65 years or older.

Most people (57%) living with cancer had a previous case of cancer that was localised at diagnosis.

In NSW, 20% of prevalence cases were diagnosed at two years; and 42% were diagnosed at five years.

There were 92,357 (42%) people alive who had at least one cancer diagnosed five years prior to the index date of December 2004. There were a further 8,518 cases of cancer that represented a diagnosis of two or more cancers in the same individual.

Prostate cancer was the most prevalent cancer at five years.

Trends in incidence rates

Between 1996 and 2005, age-standardised incidence rates showed no significant change for all cancers in men, but rose by 7% in women.

There were changes in incidence rates for specific cancers:

In men:

Melanoma of the skin **rose** by 16%, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma by 8%, oesophageal cancer by 19%, testicular cancer by 20% and thyroid cancer by 40%.

Lung cancer **declined** by 19%, stomach cancer by 24%, head and neck cancer by 19%, bladder cancer by 19% and lip cancer by 44%.

In women:

Melanoma of the skin **rose** by 24%, lung cancer by 15%, uterine cancer by 18%, thyroid cancer by 84% and liver cancer by 133%.

Stomach cancer **declined** by 20%, cervical cancer by 42% and lip cancer by 29%.

Trends in mortality rates

Between 1996 and 2005, age-standardised mortality rates declined for all cancers by 16% in men and 11% in women.

Changes in specific cancer mortality rates were:

In men:

Bowel cancer deaths **declined** by 21%, lung cancer and prostate cancer by 21% and 19% respectively, bladder cancer by 22%, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma by 25%, head and neck cancer by 24%, stomach cancer by 35%, leukaemia by 21% and cancer of ill-defined and unknown primary site by 22%.

Liver cancer deaths **rose** by 44%.

In women:

Bowel cancer deaths **declined** by 22%, stomach cancer by 23%, breast by 18%, cervical cancer by 47%, kidney cancer by 29%, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma by 32% and leukaemia by 18%.

Liver cancer deaths **rose** by 111% and mesothelioma by 54%.

Find out more

You can download the latest report from the Cancer Institute NSW: *Cancer in New South Wales: Incidence, Mortality and Prevalence 2005* from our website:

www.cancerinstitute.org.au

Access data about your Area Health Service from the NSW Cancer Statistical Reporting module at:

www.statistics.cancerinstitute.org.au