

Glossary

AACR: Australasian Association of Cancer Registries.

ABS: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

ACT: Australian Capital Territory—a land-locked Territory of Australia situated within the State of New South Wales on the eastern seaboard, with a population of 308,057 (1998). Its capital city is Canberra, which is also Australia's capital city.

AIHW: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

AS rate (ASR): age-standardised rate. See Appendix B: Methods for definition.

Cancer (malignant neoplasm): a term used to describe one of several diseases which result when the process of cell division, by which tissues normally grow and renew themselves, becomes uncontrolled and leads to the development of malignant cells. These cancer cells multiply in an uncoordinated way, independently of normal growth control mechanisms, to form a tumour. This tumour may expand locally by invasion or systemically by metastasis via the lymphatic or vascular systems. If left untreated most malignant tumours will eventually result in death. (*See What is cancer? on page 1.*)

Cancer death: a death for which the underlying cause is indicated as cancer. Persons with cancer who die of other causes are not counted in the death statistics in this publication.

CI: confidence interval.

CNS: central nervous system.

Epidemiology: the quantitative study of the distribution and determinants of health-related states and events in populations, and the application of this study to the control of health problems.

ICD-9: International Classification of Disease—a coding system used to identify the primary site of the malignancy. This publication uses the ninth revision of the ICD classification.

Incidence: *see new cancer case*

ML: myeloid leukaemia.

Mortality: *see cancer death*

NCSCH: National Cancer Statistics Clearing House.

New cancer case: a person who has a new cancer diagnosed for the first time. One person may have more than one cancer and therefore may be counted twice in incidence statistics if it is decided that the two cancers are not of the same origin. This decision is based on a series of principles set out in more detail in a publication by Jensen et al. (1991).

NHL: non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

NOS: not otherwise specified.

NS: nervous system.

NMSC: non-melanocytic skin cancers.

NSW: New South Wales—a State of Australia on the eastern seaboard which has the largest capital city in Australia, Sydney, and a population of 6,333,515 (1998).

NT: Northern Territory—a Territory in the north of Australia, with a population of 189,937 (1998) and Darwin as its capital city.

PSA: prostate-specific antigen.

PYLL: person-years of life lost.

Qld: Queensland—a State in the north-east of Australia, with a population of 3,453,477 (1998) and Brisbane as its capital city.

SA: South Australia—a State in the southern part of Australia, with a population of 1,486,418 (1998) and Adelaide as its capital city.

SNOMED: Systematised Nomenclature of Medicine.

Tas: Tasmania—an island State in the south-east of Australia, with a population of 471,700 (1998) and Hobart as its capital city.

Vic: Victoria—a State in the south-east of Australia, with a population of 4,654,937 (1998) and Melbourne as its capital city.

WA: Western Australia—the western-most State of Australia, with a population of 1,829,145 (1998) and Perth as its capital city.

Data sources

National Cancer Statistics Clearing House database

Cancer is a notifiable disease in all States and Territories. The data are collected by cancer registries and include clinical and demographic information about people with newly diagnosed cancer. This information is obtained from hospitals, pathologists, radiation oncologists, cancer treatment centres and nursing homes.

The AIHW is responsible for the national collection of cancer incidence statistics through the National Cancer Statistics Clearing House. National statistics are available for all years from 1982 to 1998.

National mortality database

Registration of deaths in Australia is the responsibility of the State and Territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages. Information on the cause of death is supplied by the medical practitioner certifying the death or by a coroner. Other information about the deceased is supplied by a relative or other person acquainted with the deceased or by an official institution where the death occurred. Registration of death is a legal requirement in Australia, and compliance is virtually complete.

The Registrars provide deaths data to the ABS for coding and compilation into national statistics. The AIHW also holds these data without unique identifiers in a national mortality database.

New Zealand data

The incidence and mortality data for New Zealand was supplied by the New Zealand Health Information Service. Incidence data was supplied for 1997 and mortality data for 1998.

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Related publications

A list of related publications from State and Territory cancer registries follows.

New South Wales

Vajdic CM, Kricker A, Giblin M, McKenzie J, Aitken J, Giles GG & Armstrong BK 2001. Eye color and cutaneous nevi predict risk of ocular melanoma in Australia. *International Journal of Cancer* 15;92(6):906-12.

Marrett LD, Nguyen HL & Armstrong BK 2001. Trends in the incidence of cutaneous malignant melanoma in New south Wales, 1983–1996. *International Journal of Cancer* (in press).

Brennan P, Coates M, Armstrong B, Colin D & Boffetta P 2000. Second primary neoplasms following non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in New South Wales, Australia. *British Journal of Cancer* 82:1344–7.

Kricker A, Smoothy V & Armstrong BK 2000. Ductal carcinoma in situ in NSW women in 1995 to 1997. Sydney: NHMRC National Breast Cancer Centre.

Goumas C, Hughes AM, Kricker A, Smith D & Armstrong B 2000. Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in NSW, 1973 to 1996. *Cancer Information Update* no. 9. Sydney: NSW Cancer Council.

Coates MS & Tracey EA 2000. *Cancer in New South Wales. Incidence and mortality 1997*. Sydney: NSW Cancer Council.

Osborn M, Armstrong B, Kricker A & Coates M 1999. Current recording and registration practices for carcinoma in situ (CIS) of the breast in Australasian State and Territory cancer registries. Sydney: NHMRC National Breast Cancer Centre.

Coates M, Kricker A & Armstrong B 1999. Breast cancer in New South Wales in 1997. *Cancer Information Update* no. 7. Sydney: NSW Cancer Council, February.

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Lewis N, Nguyen H, Smith D, Coates M & Armstrong B 1999. Cancer maps for New South Wales: variation by Local Government Area 1991 to 1995. Sydney: NSW Cancer Council.

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- Smith DP & Armstrong BK 1998. Prostate-specific antigen testing in Australia and association with prostate cancer incidence in New South Wales. *Medical Journal of Australia* 169:17–20.
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