

# State and Territory incidence and mortality trends

In 1996 the incidence of breast cancer was highest in Western Australia (97.1 per 100,000 woman-years) and lowest in the Northern Territory (69.8 per 100,000 woman-years) (Table 7). The Australian Capital Territory recorded the highest breast cancer death rate in 1996 (31.7 per 100,000 woman-years). Tables A6a–A7d (in Appendix 2) show age-standardised incidence and mortality rates, and their standard errors, from 1982 to 1996 for each State and Territory.

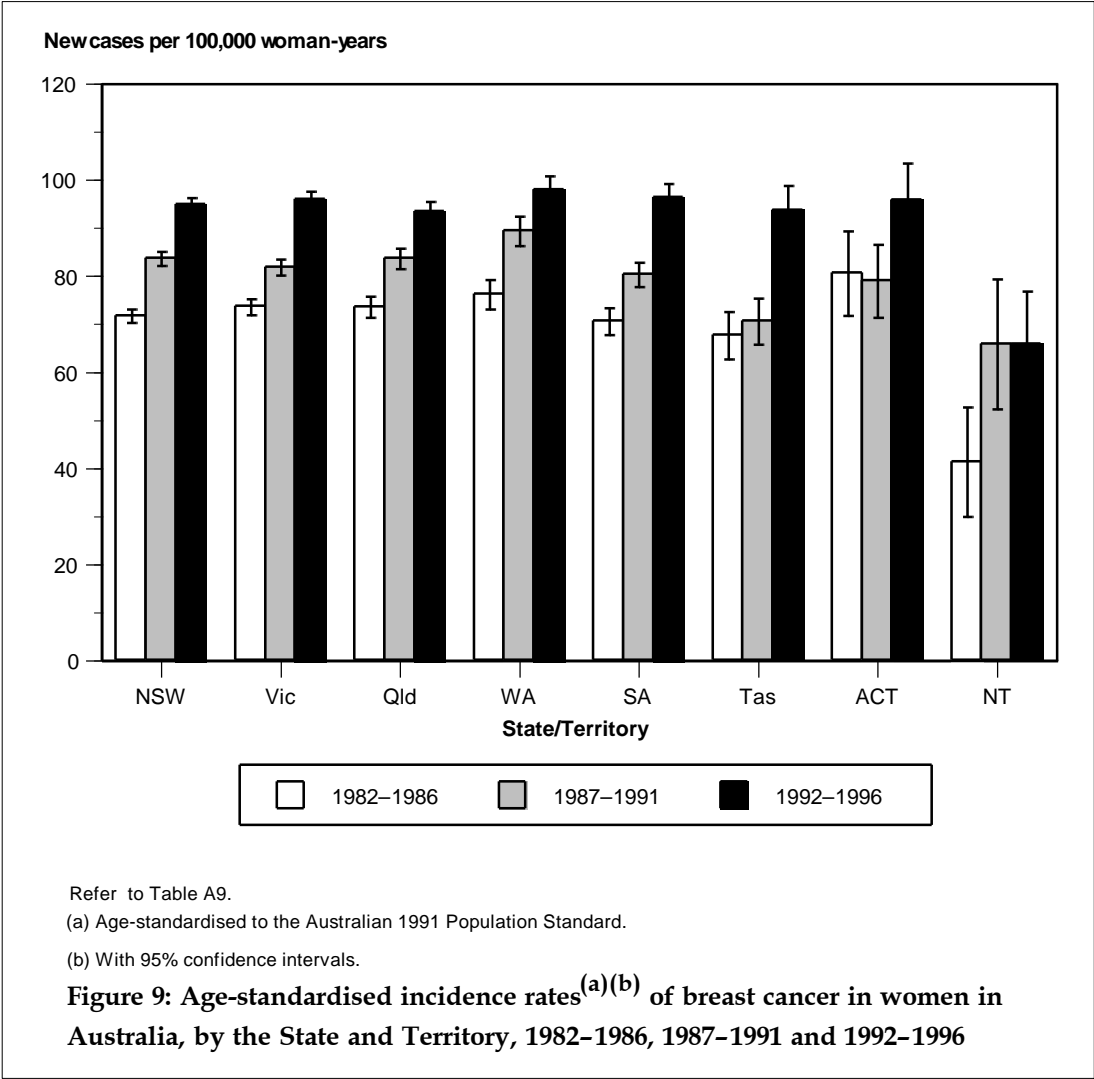
**Table 7: Numbers of new cases and deaths, and age-standardised incidence and mortality rates<sup>(a)</sup>, in each State and Territory, 1996 (95% confidence intervals)**

States and Territories	New cases			Deaths		
	Number	AS Rate (Aust 1991)	AS Rate (World)	Number	AS Rate (Aust 1991)	AS Rate (World)
New South Wales	3,352	96.1 (92.8–99.3)	79.0 (76.2–81.9)	885	24.1 (22.5–25.7)	18.3 (17.0–19.6)
Victoria	2,444	95.6 (91.8–99.4)	79.2 (75.9–82.4)	716	26.7 (24.7–28.7)	20.8 (19.1–22.4)
Queensland	1,661	94.1 (89.5–98.7)	76.7 (72.9–80.6)	426	23.6 (21.4–25.9)	18.2 (16.3–20.0)
Western Australia	875	97.1 (90.6–103.6)	78.8 (73.4–84.3)	216	23.3 (20.1–26.4)	17.7 (15.2–20.2)
South Australia	820	92.7 (86.2–99.1)	76.3 (70.8–81.9)	270	28.4 (25.0–31.9)	21.2 (18.4–24.0)
Tasmania	224	83.8 (72.7–94.9)	68.8 (59.4–78.3)	58	20.2 (14.9–25.5)	15.0 (10.8–19.2)
Australian Capital Territory	134	93.2 (76.9–109.5)	76.8 (63.4–90.2)	40	31.7 (21.7–41.8)	22.9 (15.4–30.4)
Northern Territory	46	69.8 (46.8–92.8)	60.2 (41.0–79.3)	9	23.0 (6.3–39.7)	17.9 (5.6–30.2)
<b>Australia</b>	<b>9,556</b>	<b>94.9</b> <b>(93.0–96.8)</b>	<b>78.0</b> <b>(76.4–79.6)</b>	<b>2,619</b>	<b>24.9</b> <b>(24.0–25.9)</b>	<b>19.1</b> <b>(18.3–19.9)</b>

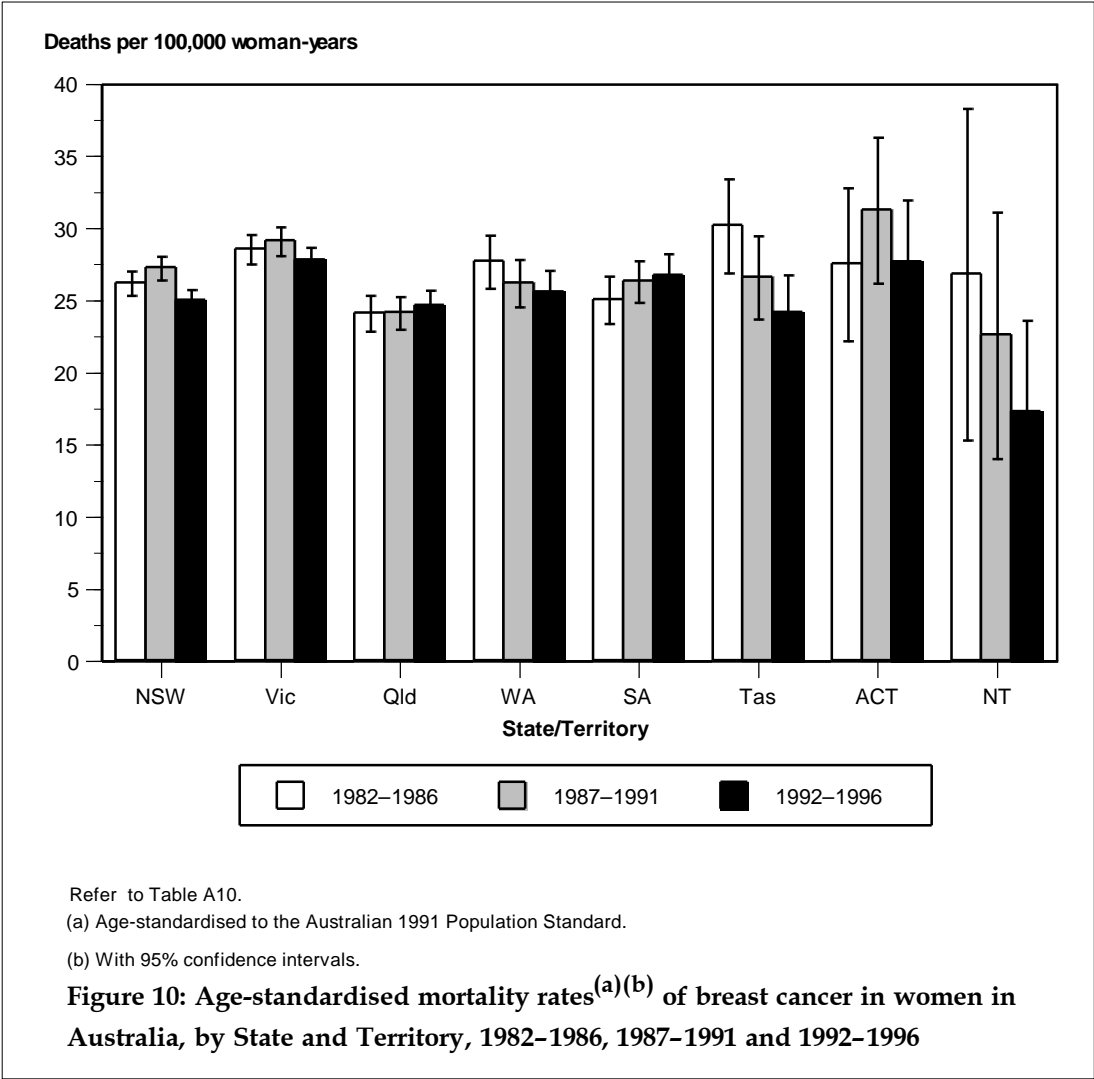
(a) Age-standardised rates are expressed per 100,000 woman-years and are age-standardised to the Australian 1991 Population Standard (AS Rate (Aust 1991)) and the World Standard Population (AS Rate (World)). See 'Methods' pages 3 and 4.

Age-standardised incidence rates of breast cancer have generally increased over time in each State and Territory (Figure 9). The largest increase has been in the Northern Territory, where rates rose sharply from 41.4 per 100,000 woman-years in 1982–1986 to 65.8 per 100,000 woman years in 1992–1996 (a relative increase of 59%). In the 1982–1986 period the rate in the Northern Territory may have been affected by low ascertainment of

breast cancer cases but since 1986 ascertainment has been high. Nevertheless, incidence and mortality rates in the Northern Territory are generally low compared with the other States and the Australian Capital Territory. The second largest increase was observed for Tasmania, where rates rose by 38% between 1982-1986 and 1992-1996 (from 67.7 to 93.5 per 100,000 woman-years). The relatively small populations in the Northern Territory and Tasmania mean that mammographic screening can have a large impact by detecting a small number of cases.

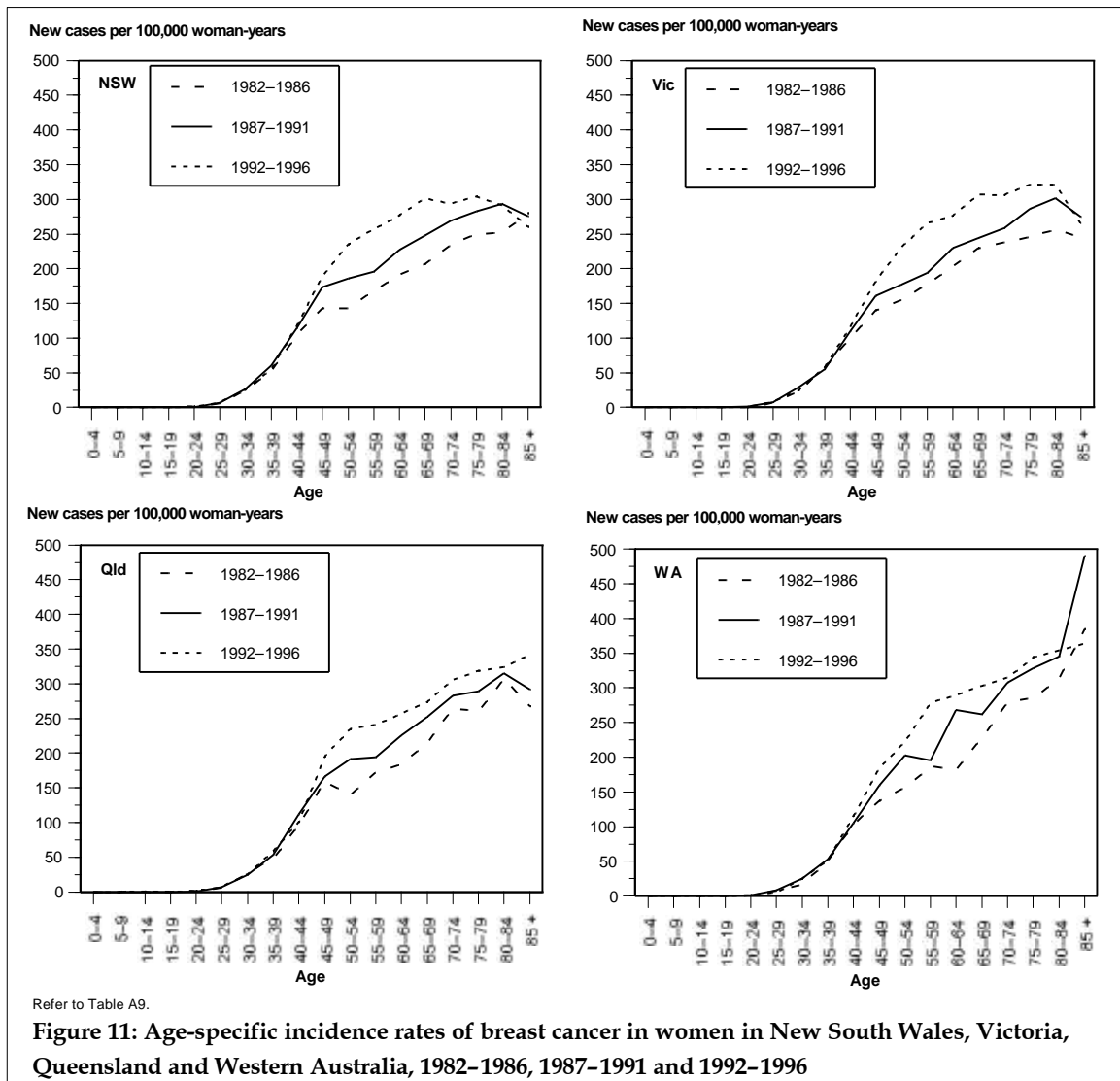


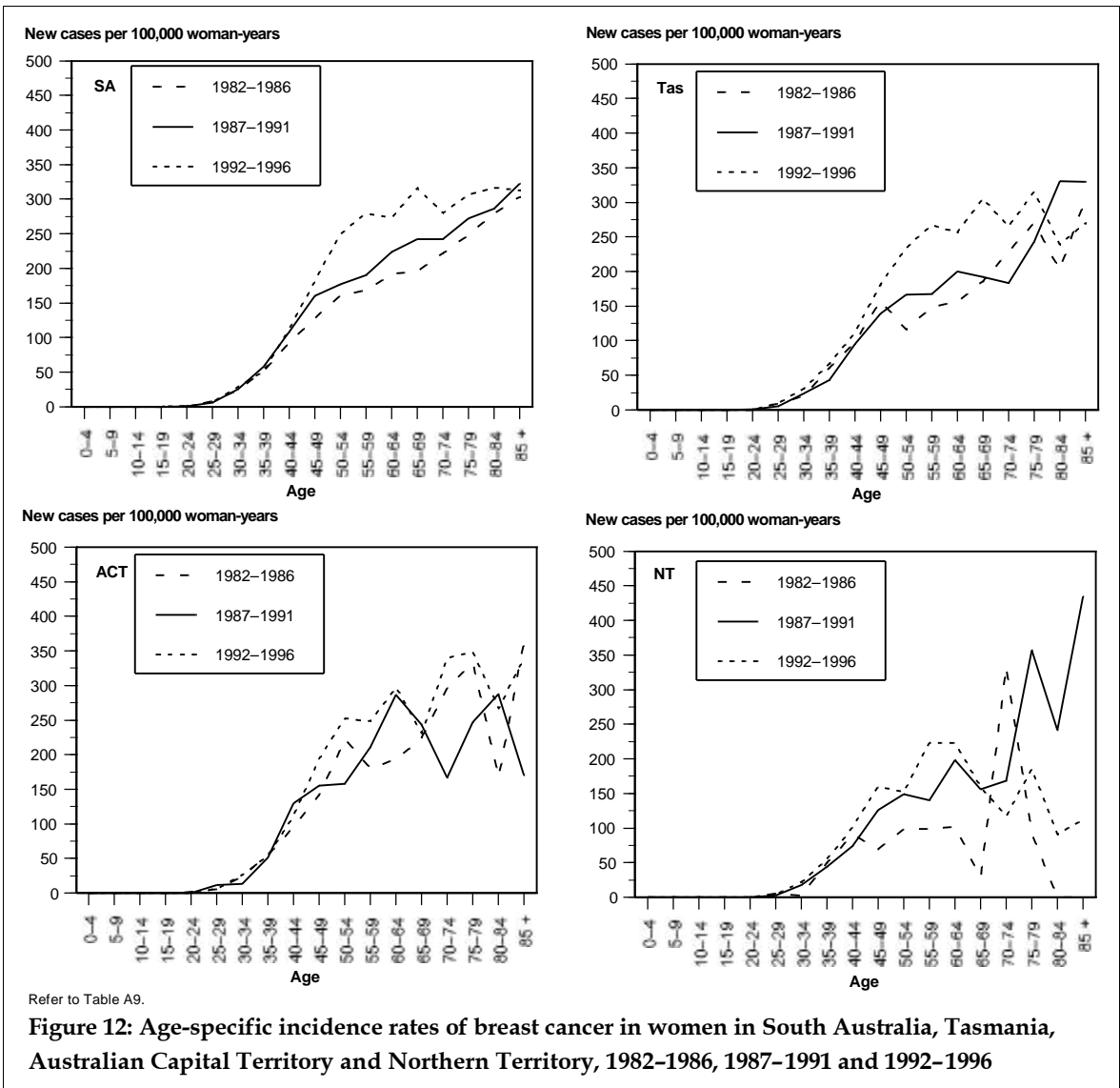
Mortality rates fell between 1987–1991 and 1992–1996 in New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory (Figure 10). Death rates in Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory show greater changes than those in the other States, but this is in part due to the greater variability of rates based on small numbers.



# State and Territory incidence rates by age

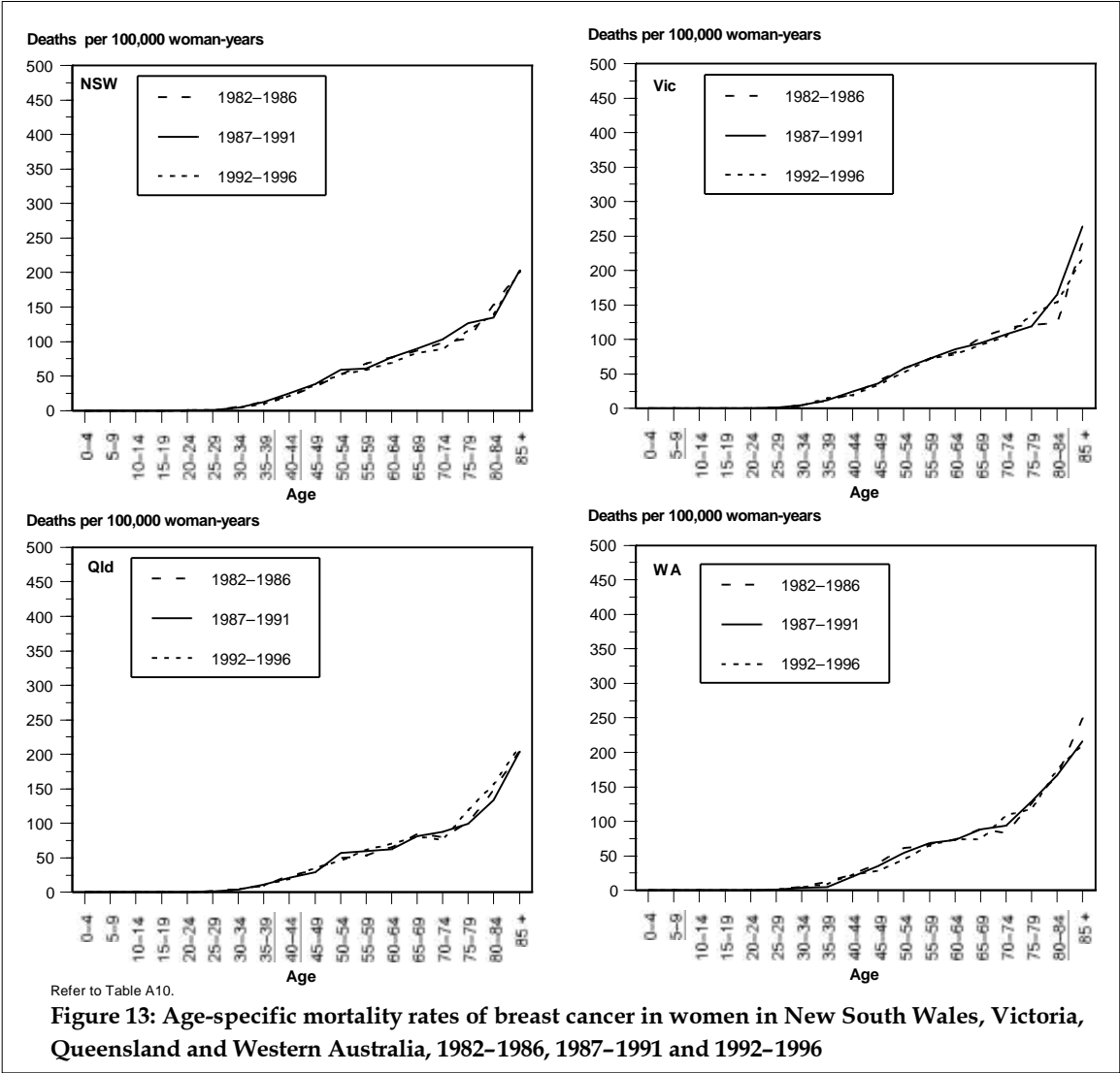
The patterns of breast cancer incidence by age in each State and Territory in 1982–1986, 1987–1991 and 1992–1996 were generally similar to those for Australia as a whole (Figures 11 and 12).

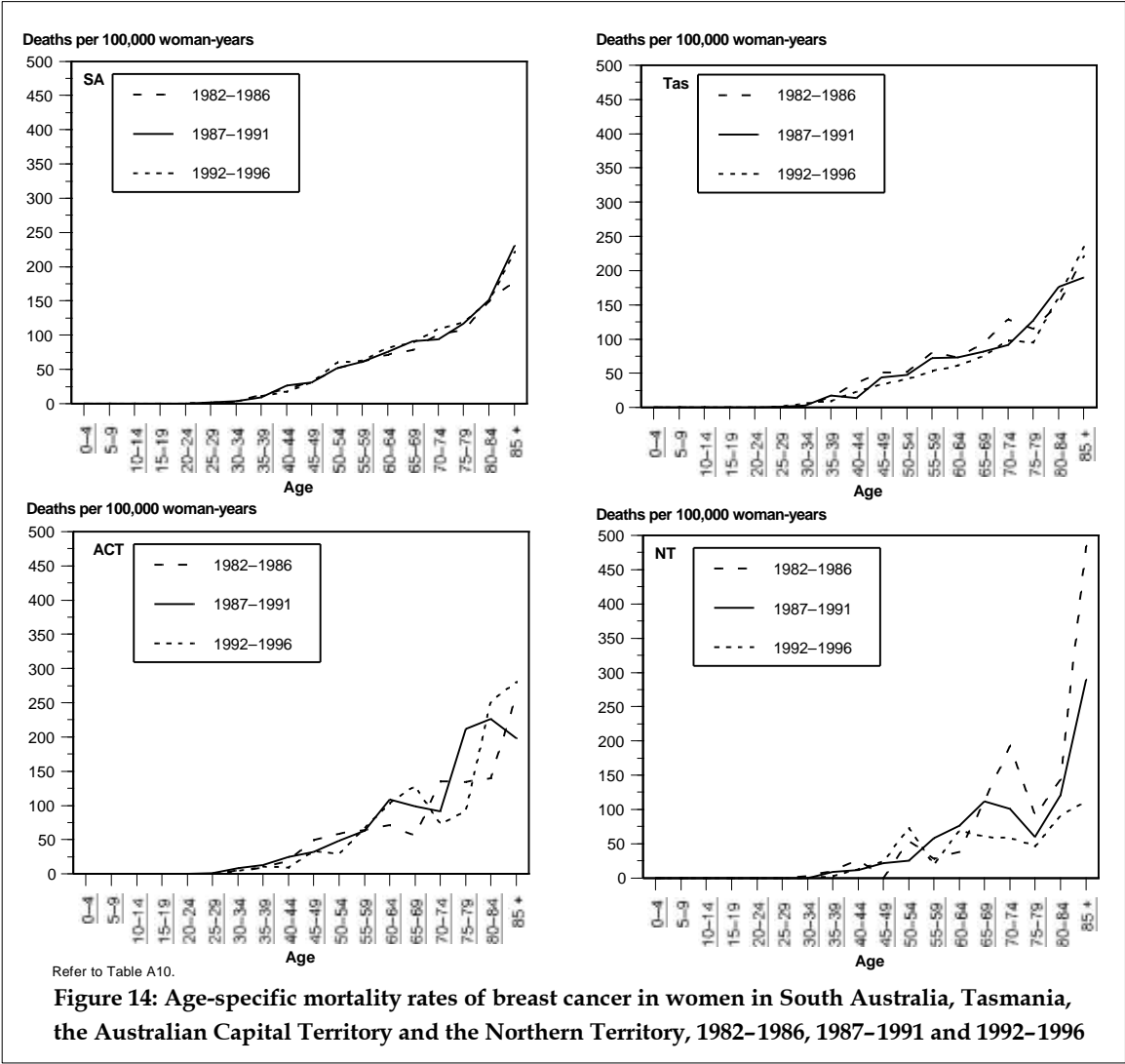




# State and Territory mortality rates by age

Age-specific death rates from breast cancer have changed very little over time and show similar patterns in each State and Territory (Figures 13 and 14). Death rates in the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory show more variability than those in the States but this is due to the relatively small numbers of deaths.





# Urban and rural incidence rates

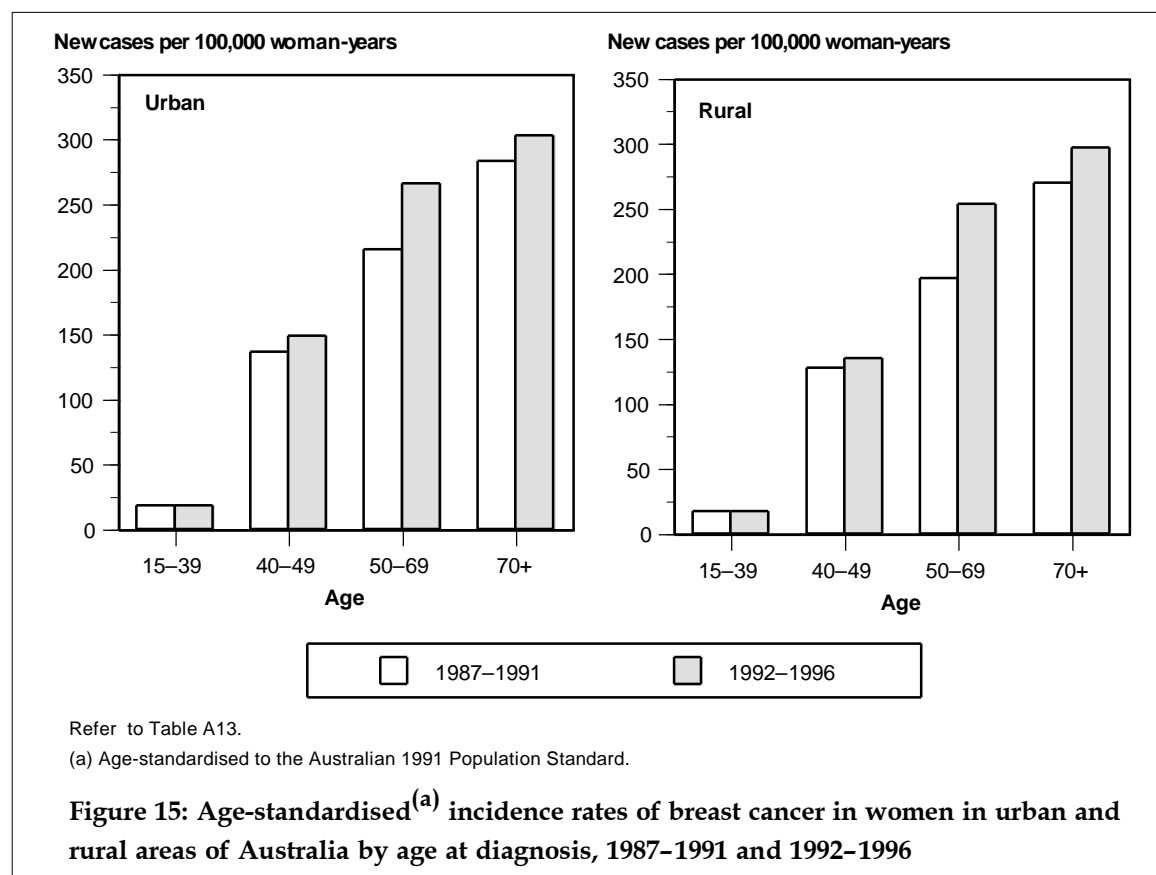
Overall, breast cancer incidence rates were higher in urban Australia than in rural areas during 1987–1991 and 1992–1996 (Table 8). During the two 5-year periods, incidence rates increased by 14% in urban areas and by 16% in rural areas.

As observed for Australia as a whole, incidence rates increased with age in both urban and rural areas (Figure 15). For each age group, rates were higher in urban areas than in rural areas and were higher in 1992–1996 than in 1987–1991.

**Table 8: New cases of breast cancer and age-standardised incidence rates per 100,000 woman-years in urban and rural Australia, 1987–1991 and 1992–1996 (95% confidence intervals)**

	New cases		Age-standardised incidence rates <sup>(a)</sup>			
	1987–1991	1992–1996	1987–1991 (Aust 1991)	1992–1996 (Aust 1991)	1987–1991 (World)	1992–1996 (World)
Urban	25,975	32,767	83.5 (82.5–84.5)	95.4 (94.3–96.4)	67.6 (66.7–68.5)	78.2 (77.3–79.1)
Rural	9,443	12,566	77.8 (76.2–79.4)	90.5 (88.9–92.1)	62.7 (61.4–64.1)	73.9 (72.5–75.2)

(a) Age-standardised rates are expressed per 100,000 woman-years and are age-standardised to the Australian 1991 Population Standard (Aust 1991) and the World Standard Population (World). See 'Methods' pages 3 and 4.



# Urban and rural mortality rates

Breast cancer mortality rates in urban Australia were very similar to those in rural areas over both 5-year periods (Table 9). In contrast with incidence, death rates fell between 1987–1991 and 1992–1996, with rural areas experiencing a larger decline (7%) than urban areas (3%).

The pattern of breast cancer mortality by age in urban and rural areas was consistent with that for Australia (Figure 16). At each age, except for women aged 70 years and over in 1992–1996, mortality rates in urban areas were similar to those in rural areas.

**Table 9: Number of deaths from breast cancer and age-standardised mortality rates<sup>(a)</sup> per 100,000 woman-years in urban and rural Australia, 1987–1991 and 1992–1996 (95% confidence intervals)**

	Deaths		Age-standardised mortality rates <sup>(a)</sup>			
	1987–1991	1992–1996	1987–1991 (Aust 1991)	1992–1996 (Aust 1991)	1987–1991 (World)	1992–1996 (World)
Urban	8,681	9,339	27.1 (26.5–27.6)	26.1 (25.5–26.6)	20.9 (20.4–21.3)	19.9 (19.5–20.4)
Rural	3,369	3,622	27.0 (26.1–27.9)	25.1 (24.3–26.0)	20.6 (19.9–21.4)	19.3 (18.6–19.9)

(a) Age-standardised rates are expressed per 100,000 woman-years and are age-standardised to the Australian 1991 Population Standard (Aust 1991) and the World Standard Population (World). See 'Methods' pages 3 and 4.

