

Cancer incidence projections Australia 2002 to 2011

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The AACR was formed in November 1982 to provide a formal mechanism for promoting uniformity of collection, classification and collation of cancer data.

The purposes of the AACR are:

- to provide a continuing framework for the development of population-based cancer registration in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific islands
- to facilitate the exchange of scientific and technical information between cancer registries and to promote standardisation in the collection and classification of cancer data
- to facilitate cancer research both nationally and internationally
- to facilitate the dissemination of cancer information.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has joined with the AACR to produce national cancer statistics from the National Cancer Statistics Clearing House.

The National Cancer Strategies Group (NCSG) is a subcommittee of the National Health Priority Action Council formed in 1998 to provide expert advice to the Australian Government.

The role of the NCSG is to pursue strategies to improve the prevention, detection, treatment and management of cancer in Australia.

Please note that as with all statistical reports there is the potential for minor revisions of data in this report over its life. Please refer to the online version at <www.aihw.gov.au>.

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Australia 2002 to 2011

Ian McDermid

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Abbreviations and symbols

AACR	Australasian Association of Cancer Registries
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ASR	age-standardised rate (see Appendix B)
ASR(A2001)	age-standardised rate – standardised to the Australian Standard Population 2001 (see Appendix A)
ASR(W2000)	age-standardised rate – standardised to the WHO World Standard Population 2000 (see Appendix A)
BCC	basal cell carcinoma
DoHA	Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
ERP	estimated resident population (see Appendix A)
excl.	excluding
FDA	functional data analysis (see Appendix B)
n.p.	not published
HPV	human papilloma virus
ICD-10	International statistical classification of diseases and related health problems, 10th revision (WHO 1992)
ICD-O-2	International classification of diseases for oncology, 2nd edition (WHO 1990)
ICD-O-3	International classification of diseases for oncology, 3rd edition (WHO 2000)
NCCI	National Cancer Control Initiative
NCEPH	The Australian National University National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health
NCSCH	National Cancer Strategies Clearing House (see Appendix A)
NCSG	National Cancer Strategies Group
NHDC	National Health Data Committee
NHL	non-Hodgkin lymphoma
NHPA	National Health Priority Area
NMSC	non-melanoma skin cancers
NOHSC	National Occupational Health and Safety Commission
PSA	prostate-specific antigen
PI	prediction interval (see Appendix B)
SCC	squamous cell carcinoma
WHO	World Health Organization
..	not applicable

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Executive summary

This report presents projections of cancer incidence for Australia, excluding non-melanoma skin cancers (NMSC), to 2011.

Cancer incidence rates projected to remain stable

For women, the age-standardised incidence rate for all cancers, excluding NMSC is projected to increase by 2% from 393.3 per 100,000 women in 2001 to 402.9 per 100,000 in 2011, with a 95% prediction interval from 380.5 to 428.6.

For men, the age-standardised rate is projected to decrease by 1% from 541.4 per 100,000 men in 2001 to 538.3 per 100,000 in 2011, with a 95% prediction interval from 495.0 to 588.0.

Number of new cases of cancer to increase

The Australian population is ageing and cancer incidence rates are highest in the older age groups. Even with the relatively stable trends in the incidence rates, the projected increase in the Australian population, particularly the increased population in the older age groups, will lead to large increases in the total number of new cases of cancer.

For women, the number of new cases of cancer is projected to increase by 29% from 40,578 in 2001 to 52,356 in 2011, with a 95% prediction interval from 49,356 to 55,777. For men, the number of new cases of cancer is projected to increase by 32% from 47,820 in 2001 to 63,087 in 2011, with a 95% prediction interval from 58,122 to 68,752. Hence the total number of new cases of cancer is projected to increase by 31% from 88,398 in 2001 to around 115,400 in 2011.

Cancer of the cervix is the only cancer (out of the 60 cancers and groups of cancers for which projections were produced) where the number of new cases is projected to decrease; by 37% from 735 in 2001 to around 450 in 2011.

The most common cancers

For women, the most common cancers in 2001 were breast cancer (29% of all new cases), colorectal (14%), melanoma (10%) and lung (7%). For men, the most common cancers in 2001 were prostate cancer (23%), colorectal (15%), lung (11%) and melanoma (11%).

By 2011, it is projected that melanoma will have overtaken lung cancer as the third most common cancer for men. For women, the most common cancers in 2011 are projected to be breast cancer (28% of all new cases), colorectal (15%), melanoma (9%) and lung (8%). For men, the most common cancers in 2011 are projected to be prostate cancer (24%), colorectal (15%), melanoma (11%) and lung (10%).

Smoking-related cancers

In 1945 smoking rates in men were almost treble those in women, with almost three-quarters of men and a quarter of women smoking. Smoking rates have been declining since 1945 for men, but only since the mid-1970s for women, when almost a third of women smoked. In 2004, 22.5% of males and 18.8% of females aged over 14 years were current smokers.

Between 2001 and 2011, the incidence of smoking-related cancers is projected to decrease for men. For women, incidence of smoking-related cancers is projected to increase, but at a rate that slows towards the end of the projection period.

The age-standardised rates for women are projected to increase by 6% from 28.9 per 100,000 women in 2001 to 30.7 per 100,000 in 2011. The age-standardised rates for men are projected to decrease by 8% from 86.1 per 100,000 men in 2001 to 78.9 per 100,000 in 2011.