



Australian Government

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

# Cancer in Australia



Cancer is a leading cause of illness in Australia and has a major impact on individuals, families, and the health care system.

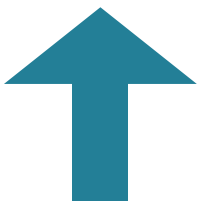
On average, 1 person will be **diagnosed** with cancer in Australia every **4 minutes**.



Around **3 of every 10 deaths** in Australia are **due to cancer**.



## Cancer survival rates continue to improve



Five-year survival from all cancers **increased** to:

**69%** in 2011–2015  
from  
**50%** in 1986–1990.



Compared with the rest of the world, people living in **Australia** are doing well when it comes to **surviving** cancer.

Some cancers have high 5-year survival rates

Testis  
98%

Thyroid  
97%

Prostate  
95%

But others have low 5-year survival rates

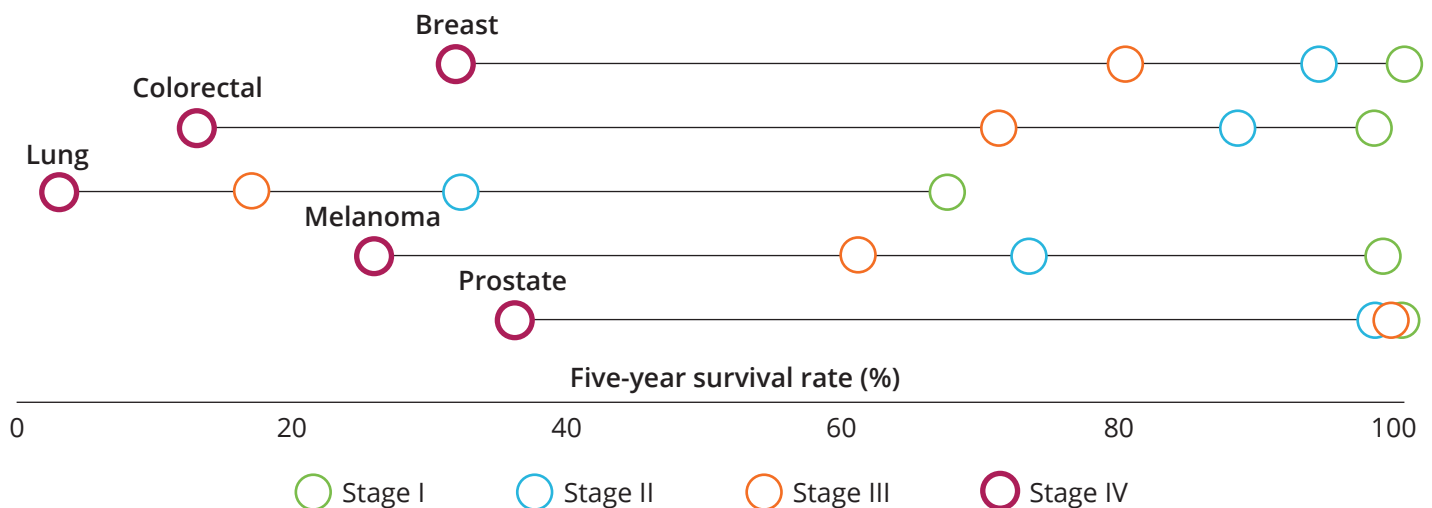
Mesothelioma  
6%

Pancreas  
10%

Lung  
17%

## Early detection is important

Cancer stage at diagnosis refers to the extent or spread of cancer at time of diagnosis—the lower the number (between I and IV), the less the cancer has spread and the better the chance of survival.



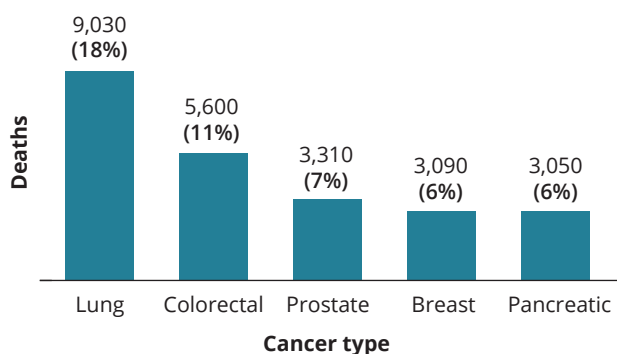
In 2019, we estimate that around 145,000 cancer cases will be diagnosed in Australia.

The most commonly diagnosed cancers and some of their associated risk factors are:

	Breast 19,540 new cases (13%)	Prostate 19,510 new cases (13%)	Colorectal 16,400 new cases (11%)	Melanoma 15,230 new cases (11%)	Lung 12,820 new cases (9%)
<b>Associated risk factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alcohol</li> <li>• Physical inactivity</li> <li>• Smoking</li> <li>• Overweight &amp; Obesity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smoking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alcohol</li> <li>• Diet</li> <li>• Physical inactivity</li> <li>• Smoking</li> <li>• Overweight &amp; Obesity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sun exposure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diet</li> <li>• Smoking</li> </ul>

In 2019, we estimate that around 50,000 people will DIE from cancer.

The most common causes of death from cancer will be:



By age 85...



1 in 2 will develop cancer.



1 in 5 will die from cancer.

Cancer impacts on many Australians, their families and the health care system.



Over 1 million people have been diagnosed with cancer at some point in their lives.

1 in 9 (over 1 million) hospitalisations were cancer-related in 2016-17.



For more information see the full report *Cancer in Australia 2019* or the accompanying *Cancer in Australia 2019: in brief*.



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