

Fact Sheet

Cancer in Australia¹

- ✦ An estimated 113,700 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in Australia in 2010.
- ✦ The most common cancers in Australia (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer) are prostate, colorectal (bowel), breast, melanoma and lung cancer.
- ✦ 1 in 2 men and 1 in 3 women are diagnosed with cancer before the age of 85.
- ✦ Cancer is a leading cause of death in Australia – 43,600 people are expected to die from cancer in 2010.
- ✦ Almost 15,000 more people die each year from cancer than 30 years ago, due mainly to population growth and ageing, however the death rate (number of deaths per 100,000 people) has fallen by 16 per cent.
- ✦ More than 60 per cent of cancer patients will survive at least five years after diagnosis.
- ✦ The overall five-year survival rate for cancer has increased from 47 per cent (1982-1986) to 61 per cent (1998-2004), and many common cancers have improved survival rates across this timespan.
- ✦ An estimated 451,000 people will be diagnosed with non-melanoma skin cancer in 2010 (the most frequently occurring cancer in Australia, but the least life-threatening).²
- ✦ Cancer was responsible for one in 10 hospitalisations in Australia during 2007-08, and 2008-09.
- ✦ In 2004-05, cancer cost \$3.8 billion in direct health system costs (7.2 per cent).²
- ✦ \$378 million was spent on cancer research in 2004-05, 22 per cent of all health research expenditure in Australia.²

The most recent published national cancer incidence and mortality figures are available in the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report *Cancer in Australia: an overview, 2010* (published December 2010). Additional data are available on-line.

The report can be viewed on the [AIHW](http://www.aihw.gov.au) website.

For more information about cancer in Australia, please contact the Cancer Council Helpline on 13 11 20 or visit Cancer Council Australia's website www.cancer.org.au.

Disclaimer: The information in this publication should not be used as a substitute for advice from a properly qualified medical professional who can advise you about your own individual medical needs. It is not intended to constitute medical advice and is provided for general information purposes only. Information on cancer, including the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of cancer, is constantly being updated and revised by medical professionals and the research community.

¹ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare & Australasian Association of Cancer Registries 2010. *Cancer in Australia: an overview, 2010*. Cancer series no. 60. Cat. no. CAN 56. Canberra: AIHW.

² Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. 2010. *Australia's health 2010*. Australia's health series no. 12. Cat. no. AUS 122. Canberra: AIHW.

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