



Media backgrounder: Prostate cancer in Canada

Canadian Cancer Statistics 2021 provides comprehensive, up-to-date statistics on the burden of cancer in Canada and is released by the Canadian Cancer Society in collaboration with Statistics Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada. The report revealed that since its peak in 1995, the prostate cancer death rate has declined by 50%.

About prostate cancer

Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer and third leading cause of cancer related death in Canadian men. Prostate cancer starts in the cells of the prostate – a small gland that is part of the male reproductive and urinary system. A cancerous (malignant) tumour is a group of cancer cells that can grow into and destroy nearby tissue. It can also spread (metastasize) to other parts of the body.

Current estimates of prostate cancer cases and deaths

- Prostate cancer is expected to represent about 20% of all cancer cases diagnosed among males in 2021.
- In 2021, an estimated 24,000 Canadians are expected to be diagnosed with prostate cancer and 4,500 men are expected to die of the disease.
- An estimated 1 in 8 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime. An estimated 1 in 29 men will die of prostate cancer.
- 91% of individuals diagnosed with prostate cancer will survive at least five years. Survival is nearly 100% if the cancer is detected before it has spread.
- Prostate cancer is one of the least preventable cancers, making advancements in prostate cancer treatment so important.

Report highlight: Prostate cancer death rate cut in half since peak 26 years ago

- At its peak in 1995, the prostate cancer death rate was 45.1 per 100,000 males. Now, 26 years later, the death rate sits at 22.7 per 100,000 males.
- This progress for people with prostate cancer is a testament to significant advancements in research leading to life-saving treatments.

About Canadian Cancer Statistics

Canadian Cancer Statistics is developed through a collaboration of the Canadian Cancer Society, Statistics Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada. with data provided by the provincial and territorial cancer registries. Statistics Canada completed all analyses related to projecting incidence and mortality and all analyses related to survival. The Public Health Agency of Canada completed analyses related to assessing trends over time and estimating the probability of developing and dying of cancer.

The Canadian Cancer Society coordinates the production and dissemination of this publication and supports it with charitable funds. For more than 30 years, this publication has been providing information that helps decide what support and services are needed and what research should be done. It also helps assess the impact of prevention, early detection



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and treatment. For more information about Canadian Cancer Statistics, visit cancer.ca/statistics.

About the Canadian Cancer Society

The Canadian Cancer Society works tirelessly to save and improve lives. We fund the brightest minds in cancer research. We provide a compassionate support system for all those affected by cancer, from coast to coast and for all types of cancer. As the voice for Canadians who care about cancer, we work with governments to establish health policies to prevent cancer and better support those living with the disease. No other organization does all that we do to improve lives today and to change the future of cancer forever.

For more information, please contact:

[Jessica Abdilla](#)

Communications Specialist
Canadian Cancer Society
437-266-8972