



Media backgrounder: Cancer in Canada

Canadian Cancer Statistics: A 2022 special report on cancer prevalence provides prevalence estimates by cancer type, sex, age, province/territory, duration, income and urban and rural status for adults in Canada, and by cancer type for childhood cancers. The report was developed by the Canadian Cancer Statistics Advisory Committee in collaboration with the Canadian Cancer Society, Statistics Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada.

About cancer prevalence

Cancer prevalence is the number of people living with a disease in a given population, either at a point in time or over a period of time. It includes both new cases and pre-existing cases. Prevalence can be expressed as counts or as proportions. Counts let us know the total number of people who are living with the disease, while proportions let us know the proportion of people in the population who are living with the disease. How the prevalence proportion is reported depends on how common the disease is. For example, prevalence proportions for common diseases may be reported per 1,000 people or as a per cent (per 100 people), while rarer conditions will be reported per 1 million people. Commonly, cancer prevalence proportions are reported per 100,000 people.

Report highlight: Over 1.5 million people in Canada are living with or beyond cancer

- This year's special report is the first time we have had access to prevalence data for a 25-year period.
- Previously estimated to be about 1 million since 2012 excluding Quebec, this finding highlights cancer's toll on the healthcare system and the critical need to advance research that will help improve Canadians' health and well-being.
- Approximately 60% of the 1.5 million people were diagnosed 5 to 25 years ago. This high number of people living long-term with or beyond cancer has implications for planning healthcare and supportive services.
- The number and proportions of people living with or beyond cancer in 2-, 5- and 10-year windows since diagnosis has been increasing over time.

Other key findings from the report

- 1 in 24 people in Canada had been diagnosed with cancer within the previous 25 years
- Close to 18,000 people were living with or beyond a childhood cancer diagnosis
- Breast, prostate and colorectal cancers are the most prevalent cancers. Combined, they account for almost half of all prevalent cancers
- Bladder, liver and esophageal cancers are 3 times more prevalent in males than females, while thyroid cancer is 3 times more prevalent in females
- For all cancers combined, two- and five-year prevalence was higher among those living in rural areas compared to urban areas



Canadian
Cancer
Society

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. Cancer incidence and mortality data are from the Canadian Cancer Registry and the Canadian Vital Statistics Death databases, respectively, which are maintained at Statistics Canada. The data originate from the provincial and territorial cancer registries and vital statistics registrars. Statistics Canada completed all analyses related to this report, except for analysis by income and urban/rural status which were completed by the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer. The Public Health Agency of Canada completed the French translation of this report. The Canadian Cancer Society coordinates the production and dissemination of this publication and supports it with charitable funds. For more than 35 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 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 shape a healthier society. No other organization does all that we do to make lives better today and transform the future of cancer forever. Help us make a difference. Call 1-888-939-3333 or visit cancer.ca today.

For more information, please contact:

[Hailey Mellon](#)

Communications Coordinator

416 294 9699