



Media backgrounder: Cancer in Canada

Canadian Cancer Statistics 2023 provides comprehensive, up-to-date estimates of new cancer cases and deaths for 2023, as well as updated estimates of survival. 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.

Current estimates of new cases and deaths

- About 2 in 5 Canadians are expected to be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime. About 1 in 4 Canadians are expected to die from cancer.
- In 2023, an estimated 239,100 Canadians are expected to be diagnosed with cancer and 86,700 are expected to die of the disease.
- In 2023, approximately 27 people will be diagnosed with cancer and nearly 10 will die of cancer every hour of every day.
- Since the cancer death rate peaked in 1988, it has decreased almost 32% overall (39% in males and 26% in females).
- Cancer is the leading cause of death in Canada, accounting for 26% of all deaths.
- Over 1,000 children, ages 0 to 14, are expected to be diagnosed with cancer this year (1,050).
- The number of new cancer cases and deaths each year is rising steadily because the Canadian population is growing and aging.

Other key findings in the report

- Probability of developing cancer over a lifetime is 45% and similar for males and females.
- In males, the largest decreases in incidence were for: colorectal (-4.0% per year since 2014), lung (-2.6% per year since 2012), leukemia (-2.0% per year since 2011).
- In females, the largest decreases in incidence were for: colorectal (-3.1% per year since 2014), thyroid (-2.6% per year since 2012), ovarian (-2.6% per year since 2014).
- The largest significant increase in incidence in males was for melanoma (2.2% per year since 1984).
- Among females, cervical cancer is now the fastest increasing cancer (3.7% per year since 2015), marking the first significant increase in cervical cancer incidence since 1984. In 2023, 1,550 people in Canada are expected to be diagnosed with cervical cancer.
- The probability of dying from cancer is slightly higher for males (24%) than females (21%).
- In males, the largest decreases in mortality after lung (-4.3% per year since 2014) were for: bladder (-3.4% per year since 2016), kidney and renal pelvis (-3.1% per year since 2014), melanoma (-2.6% per year since 2013).
- In females, the largest decreases in mortality after lung (-4.1% per year since 2016) were for: Hodgkin lymphoma (-3.2% per year since 1984), colorectal (-3.1% per year since 2014), melanoma (-3.0% per year since 2014)



Common cancers

There are more than 100 different types of cancer, but 4 of them – lung, breast, colorectal and prostate – are expected to account for almost half (46%) of all new cancer cases diagnosed in Canada in 2023.

Breast cancer

- Breast cancer continues to be the most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second leading cause of cancer related death among women in Canada.
- An estimated 29,400 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in Canada in 2023 and approximately 5,400 women are expected to die of the disease. More than 80% of breast cancers occur in women who are 50 and over.
- 1 in 8 Canadian women is expected to be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime and 1 in 36 is expected to die of breast cancer.
- Since its peak in 1986, the breast cancer death rate has decreased 48% in females. This reduction likely reflects research progress that has led to improvements in screening and treatment for breast cancer.
- 5-year breast cancer survival is 89%, up from 82% in the early 1990s.
- The ComPARE study found about 28% of breast cancer cases in females can be prevented.

Colorectal cancer

- Colorectal cancer is expected to be the 4th most commonly diagnosed cancer and the 2nd leading cause of cancer related death in Canada.
- An estimated 24,100 Canadians will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer in 2023 and 9,300 will die of the disease.
- It is estimated that about 1 in 16 men and 1 in 18 women will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer during their lifetime.
- The 5-year survival rate for colorectal cancer is about 67%.
- Colorectal cancer death rates are going down for both men and women, likely a result of research that has led to increased understanding of risk factors, improvements in screening and advancements in treatment.

Prostate cancer

- Prostate cancer is expected to represent about 21% of all cancer cases diagnosed among males in 2023.
- In 2023, an estimated 25,900 men in Canada are expected to be diagnosed with prostate cancer and 4,900 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 30 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.



Canadian
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To learn more about cancer in Canada, visit cancer.ca/statistics and view the [full report](#). For more information, consult our [news release](#). Explore more cancer statistics for 20+ cancer types in the new interactive [Canadian Cancer Statistics Dashboard](#).

About Canadian Cancer Statistics

Canadian Cancer Statistics is developed by the Canadian Cancer Statistics Advisory Committee in collaboration with the Canadian Cancer Society, Statistics Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada with cancer data provided by the provincial and territorial cancer registries through the Canadian Cancer Registry. 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 most of the analyses related to this report with contribution from the Public Health Agency of Canada. French translation of this report was completed by the Public Health Agency of Canada. 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.

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