



Summary of Victorian Cancer Registry Report 2021

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IMPACTS OF COVID-19

- At the end of 2021 there were an estimated 3,864 fewer cancer diagnoses than expected as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, meaning that these Victorians were most likely yet to present for diagnosis.
- The greatest decline in diagnoses has been in bowel cancer, melanoma, blood cancers and prostate cancer. Together these four cancers are responsible for three in four missed diagnoses.
- In total, over the two-year period 2020 -2021, there remained an overall estimated deficit in prostate cancer diagnoses of 624 cases.
- There was a slight increase in presentation of more advanced prostate cancer in 2020 and 2021 compared with 2018 and 2019 – from 25% to 27%.
- Likewise, there was a corresponding decrease in males diagnosed with ISUP grade group 1 to 3 prostate cancers, which fell from 75% to 73% of all prostate cancers diagnosed.

MOST COMMON CANCERS

- The five most common cancers in Victoria are prostate, breast, bowel, lung, and melanoma. Together they account for 56% of all new cancers.
- Lung, bowel, prostate, pancreas and breast cancers account for 1/2 of all deaths.
- Prostate cancer accounts for 30.4% of all cancers diagnosed among Victorian men.

PROSTATE CANCER INCIDENCE & MORTALITY

- Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in Victoria, accounting for 17% of all cancers diagnosed in Victoria in 2021 and 30% of all cancers diagnosed in males.
- In 2021 there were 6,141 males were diagnosed with prostate cancer, providing an age-standardised incidence rate of 103 new cases per 100,000 population.
- There were 826 prostate cancer deaths in 2021, accounting for 13% of male deaths.
- Most prostate cancer cases are diagnosed among men aged between 65 and 75 years, with the median age at diagnosis being 69 years.
- Prostate cancer rates have fluctuated more than any other cancer in Victoria over the past three decades, with incidence rates mirroring trends in prostate-specific antigen (PSA) screening test rates.

PROSTATE CANCER STAGE OF DISEASE AT DIAGNOSIS

- In Victoria in 2021, 52.9% of prostate cancer is diagnosed at ISUP grade group 1 or 2 disease, 14.4% at ISUP grade group 3 disease, 18.7% at grade group 4 or 5 disease and 6.4% with metastatic disease.



- The percent of males diagnosed with ISUP 1 grade group tumours has decreased from 35.5% to 24.4% over the past decade.
- Conversely, the number of males with ISUP 2 grade group has increased over this same period from 24.4% to 28.5% and there has been a small increase in those diagnosed with ISUP 5 grade group from 11.1% to 12.7%.

AGE-SPECIFIC DATA

- Prostate cancer among males and breast cancer among females are the most common cancers reported in those aged above 25 years.

	MALE	FEMALE
0-14 YEARS (M=112; F=79)	1. Leukaemia (45%) 2. Lymphoma (13%) 3. Brain & CNS (10%)	1. Leukaemia (41%) 2. Kidney (11%) 3. Brain & CNS (10%)
15-24 YEARS (M=139; F=120)	1. Lymphoma (20%) 2. Testis (16%) 3. Leukaemia (8%)	1. Thyroid (23%) 2. Lymphoma (20%) 3. Bowel (11%)
25-59 YEARS (M=4,117; F=5,028)	1. Prostate (24%) 2. Bowel (13%) 3. Melanoma (10%)	1. Breast (42%) 2. Bowel (9%) 3. Melanoma (8%)
60-74 YEARS (M=8,428; F=5,716)	1. Prostate (40%) 2. Lung (9%) 3. Bowel (9%)	1. Breast (34%) 2. Lung (12%) 3. Bowel (9%)
75+ YEARS (M=6,211; F=4,760)	1. Prostate (28%) 2. Lung (12%) 3. Bowel (12%)	1. Breast (18%) 2. Bowel (15%) 3. Lung (13%)

- Cancer diagnoses increase 21 times between the ages 0-24 and 25-59 years, from 442 to 9,512 new diagnoses, with breast and prostate cancer being the most commonly diagnosed cancers in those aged between 25-59 years.
- There are more than twice as many females diagnosed with breast cancer as men diagnosed with prostate cancer in the age group 25-59 years.
- Among females, breast cancer is more common than the next five cancers combined and accounts for 40% of all new cancer diagnoses among females in this age group.
- The most common cancers in people aged over 60 are prostate, breast, and lung cancer.
- The median age of a breast cancer diagnosis among females is 62 years while the median age for a prostate cancer diagnosis in males is 69 years.
- Among males aged 75 years and older, prostate cancer and lung cancer were the most common cause of cancer death, with both combined accounting for 18% of deaths in this age group.
- The most prevalent cancer for Victorian men aged 50 and over is prostate cancer.



MALES V FEMALES

- More males are diagnosed with cancer than females. Men are diagnosed with cancer at a rate of 121 males for every 100 females. Higher rates of cancer are reported for males than females in the majority of cancers present in both sexes.
- Two out of five males and one out of three females will develop cancer by age 75.
- The cumulative risk of developing cancer by the age of 75 is 40.3% for males and 31.7% for females.
- The risk of developing prostate cancer by age 75 is 13.8%.

CANCER AMONG ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE

- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Victorians are twice as likely to be diagnosed with cancer than non-aboriginal Victorians.
- The most common cancers for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Victorians to be diagnosed with are lung, breast, bowel and prostate cancers.
- For Aboriginal males, incidence was significantly higher than other Victorian males for cancers of the stomach (3.2 times higher), prostate (1.1 times higher) and for lymphoma (1.9 times higher).

CANCER AMONG REGIONAL VICTORIANS

- Regional Victorians* are 9% more likely to be diagnosed with cancer than those living in major cities.
- The most common cancers among regional Victorians are the same as urban Victorians: prostate, breast, bowel, lung and melanoma.
- Regional Victorians are nearly 10% more likely to die from cancer than those who reside in major cities.
- This is principally attributable to higher age-adjusted mortality rates from prostate cancer (25% higher).

MORTALITY

- In Victoria, 32 people die from cancer every day, and more males die from cancer than females.
- The leading causes of cancer death are cancers of the lung, bowel, prostate, pancreas and breast which together account for just over half of all deaths.
- Cancer is the cause of death for nearly 1 in 3 Victorians.
- The leading causes of cancer death in Victoria are cancers of the lung, bowel, pancreas, prostate, and breast.
- These cancers account for 51% of all deaths. For both males and females, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in 2021. There were 826 prostate cancer deaths in 2021, accounting for 13% of male deaths. There were 765 breast deaths in females, accounting for 15% of all female deaths in 2021.



YEARS OF LIFE LOST

- Even though prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among Victorian men, because it is a disease predominantly of older males, it accounts for only 1.7% of years of life lost because of cancer.

SURVIVAL

- Five-year survival for all cancers after a cancer diagnosis in Victoria has reached 71% for the first time.
- For males, the five-year survival rate is highest for testicular cancer (98%), prostate cancer (94%) and melanoma (92%), and lowest for mesothelioma (8%), pancreatic cancer (13%) and cancers of unknown primary site (18%).
- The five-year overall survival rate of 94% for males with prostate cancer in Victoria is lower than the national average of 98%.
- The five-year survival rate is impacted by where a person lives. Five-year survival rates among regional Victorians are lower compared to major city dwellers for prostate cancer, lymphoma and lung cancer.
- There is a strong correlation between stage of disease at diagnosis and survival.
- Diagnosis of early-stage breast, bowel, prostate cancer and melanoma carries an excellent prognosis.
- Five-year survival rates for males diagnosed with ISUP grade group 1 to 3 prostate cancer and females diagnosed with Stage 1 breast cancer are higher than the general Victorian population.
- Five-year survival for ISUP grade groups 1 to 3 is over 100%, which indicates that survival is better in the group of interest compared with age/sex-matched Victorian population averages. ISUP 4 five-year survival is 97%, and for ISUP 5 the five-year survival rate is 78%.

PREVALENCE

- There are 25,492 Victorian males alive today who have been diagnosed with prostate cancer in the past five-years.
- Prostate cancer is the most prevalent cancer in men aged 50 and over.
- About 1 in 40 Victorian males aged 50 years and over have a history of prostate cancer diagnosed in the previous five years.
- The high incidence rates and excellent longer-term survival rates among men with early-stage prostate cancer mean that it is by far the most prevalent cancer in Victorian men aged 50 years and over.
- Prostate cancer is more than three times as prevalent in men aged 50 years and over than bowel cancer, which is the next most prevalent cancer.