

Fast Facts About Cancer

The annual number of new cancer cases in the world grew from over 14 million in 2012 to over 19 million in 2020.¹ Projections are that cases could grow to 22 million by 2030.²

The lifetime probability of being diagnosed with cancer in the U.S. is 40.2 percent for men and 38.5 percent for women, which is a little more than 1 in 3.³

Approximately 609,360 deaths from cancer are expected in the U.S. in 2022, which is about 1,670 deaths per day.⁴ A significant portion of deaths were individuals who were not candidates for radiation treatment because of metastatic disease, or the spread of their cancer beyond where radiation has been traditionally effective (i.e., local or early-stage cancer). Recent landmark studies have demonstrated a significant benefit of combining radiation treatment with other cancer treatments (chemotherapy, immunotherapy) to produce up to a tripling in progression-free survival.⁵

Global Statistics⁶

- Cancer is the second leading cause of death globally and is responsible for nearly 10 million deaths in 2020 - about 1 in 6 deaths is due to cancer.
- The most common cancers are:
 - Breast (2.26 million cases)
 - Lung (2.21 million cases)
 - Colorectal (1.93 million cases)
 - Prostate (1.41 million cases)
 - Skin cancer (non-melanoma – 1.20 million cases)
 - Stomach (1.09 million cases)
- The most common causes of cancer death are cancers of:
 - Lung (1.80 million deaths)
 - Colorectal (916,000 deaths)
 - Liver (830,000 deaths)
 - Stomach (769,000 deaths)
 - Breast (685,000 deaths)

U.S. Statistics

- By 2030, cancer will be the leading cause of death in the U.S., surpassing heart disease.⁷
- When cancer is detected early, and when it has not metastasized, a patient typically has a 9 in 10 chance of surviving beyond five years. When cancer is detected late, and it has metastasized, a patient's five-year survival rate is significantly reduced to a 1 in 10 chance.⁸

¹ International Agency for Research on Cancer: Cancer Today <https://gco.iarc.fr/today/fact-sheets-cancers>

² A. Jemal, P. Vineis, F. Bray, L. Torre, D. Forman, *The Cancer Atlas Second Edition* (Atlanta: American Cancer Society, Inc., 2014), p. 35.

³ <https://www.cancer.org/healthy/cancer-causes/general-info/lifetime-probability-of-developing-or-dying-from-cancer.html>

⁴ <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/research/cancer-facts-and-statistics/annual-cancer-facts-and-figures/2022/2022-cancer-facts-and-figures.pdf> page 1.

⁵ Palma et al. Presented at ASTRO Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, Oct. 2018.

⁶ Data compiled from the World Health Organization <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/cancer>

⁷ Lancet Public Health. 2018;3(8):E374-E384

⁸ Data compiled from NCI SEER 18 (2007-2013)

- According to the American Cancer Society, it was estimated that more than 1.9 million new cancer cases are expected to be diagnosed in 2021 (this estimate does not include non-invasive cancer of any site except urinary bladder, nor does it include basal cell or squamous cell skin cancers).⁶
- Approximately 609,360 Americans are expected to die of cancer in 2022, which translates to about 1,670 deaths per day.⁹
- An estimated 236,740 new cases of lung cancer will be diagnosed in the U.S. in 2022 and an estimated 130,180 deaths from lung cancer will occur.⁹
- An estimated 268,490 new cases of prostate cancer will be diagnosed during 2022, and an estimated 34,500 deaths from prostate cancer will occur.⁹
- An estimated 287,850 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in women and 2,710 in men in 2022, and an estimated 41,760 breast cancer deaths in women and 530 deaths in men will occur in 2022.¹⁰

Global Burden of Cancer¹¹

- India, China and other East and Central Asian countries account for nearly half of the world's new cancer cases and deaths.
- Economically developing countries like China, Brazil and India are facing serious shortages in their cancer treatment capacity in the coming decades and may be poorly equipped to deal with them.
- China accounts for 24 percent of all new cancer cases and 30 percent of deaths worldwide.
- Smoking causes more than 17 different types of cancer and accounts for 20 percent of all global cancer deaths.
- Lung cancer accounts for 21 percent of cancer deaths worldwide and it is the leading cause of new cases and deaths among men.
- Breast cancer is the leading cause of new cases and deaths among women, and it is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women in most countries worldwide.
- Emerging evidence indicates that being overweight is linked with increased risk of cancer recurrence and decreased cancer survival.
- In 2011, 27.4 percent of U.S. adults had obesity or severe obesity. By 2020, that number had risen to 31.9 percent. Obesity rates vary by racial and ethnic groups, with some groups having rates as high as 41.6 percent.

“The story of cancer isn’t the story of doctors who struggle and survive, moving from one institution to another. It’s the story of patients who struggle and survive, moving from one embankment of illness to another. Resilience, inventiveness and survivorship – qualities often ascribed to great physicians are reflected qualities, emanating first from those who struggle with illness.”

— **Siddhartha Mukherjee, The Emperor of All Maladies.**

⁹American Cancer Society: Key Statistics for Lung Cancer. <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/lung-cancer/about/key-statistics.html>

¹⁰American Cancer Society: Key Statistics for Breast Cancer. <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/breast-cancer/about/how-common-is-breast-cancer.html>

¹¹Data compiled from the Cancer Atlas <http://canceratlas.cancer.org/news/fast-facts-about-the-cancer-atlas/>