

## Media Backgrounder: Ontario Cancer Statistics 2016

### About Ontario Cancer Statistics 2016

This new report released by Cancer Care Ontario provides comprehensive information about cancer incidence, mortality, survival and prevalence in Ontario.

This information will support decision-makers, the public health community, healthcare providers, researchers and others in planning, investigating, measuring and monitoring population-based cancer control efforts, including those related to cancer screening, prevention and treatment.

### The burden of cancer in Ontario

The number of new cancer cases in Ontario is increasing and can largely be attributed to an aging population and population growth. At the same time, cancer survival for nearly all cancer types is improving and mortality rates are declining, particularly from breast, colorectal and lung cancers.

#### **Key statistics:**

- **Lifetime risk of cancer**
  - Approximately 1 in 2 Ontarians will develop cancer in their lifetime and approximately 1 in 4 will die from it.
  
- **Incidence**
  - Approximately 85,648 new cases of cancer are expected to be diagnosed in Ontario in 2016, which is almost triple the number of cases diagnosed in 1981 (29,649 cases):
    - In 2016, cancer will be diagnosed more often in males than females.
    - In 2016, the highest number of cases are expected to occur in people 60-69 years of age (27 per cent of cases)
  - In 2012, the most commonly diagnosed cancers were female breast, prostate, lung and colorectal cancer.
  - The cancer incidence rate has been increasing over time, but the increase has slowed over the past two decades.
  
- **Mortality**
  - Approximately 29,228 cancer deaths are expected in Ontario in 2016.
  - About one-third (30 per cent) of all deaths in Ontario in 2012 were due to cancer, making it the leading cause of death in the province.
    - Almost one-quarter of all cancer deaths were from lung cancer.
    - Pancreatic cancer was the fourth most common cause of cancer death (after lung, colorectal and female breast), accounting for 6 per cent of all cancer deaths.
  - The cancer mortality rate has been decreasing since 1985, although the rate has decreased more for males than for females.

- **Relative survival and prevalence**

- Between 2008 and 2012, the five-year relative survival was 63 per cent for all cancers combined:
  - Pancreatic cancer had the lowest survival (nine per cent), followed by esophagus (15 per cent), lung (18 per cent) and liver (24 per cent).
  - Thyroid cancer had the highest survival (99 per cent), followed by melanoma (85 per cent) and Hodgkin lymphoma (84 per cent) among cancers that occur in both sexes.
- Compared to 25 years earlier, the greatest increases in survival by 2008-2012 were for liver, pancreas and stomach cancers, as well as leukemia and myeloma.
- As of January 1, 2013:
  - There are more people living in Ontario with a diagnosis of cancer than there were 20 years ago – an estimated 362,557 people (or about 2.7 per cent of the population).
  - The most prevalent cancers were prostate, female breast, colorectal, thyroid, melanoma and lung.

### **Cancer Care Ontario's role**

Cancer Care Ontario is committed to improving the performance of the cancer system by driving quality, accountability, innovation and value.

An aging and growing population presents unique challenges to the Ontario cancer system. The fourth Ontario Cancer Plan is designed to address these trends to ensure a sustainable cancer system for future generations. Together with its partners, Cancer Care Ontario is using the plan to reduce the risk of Ontarians developing cancer, while improving the quality of care for current and future patients.

A full copy of the report is available at: [cancercare.on.ca/OCSReport](http://cancercare.on.ca/OCSReport).

To read more about the fourth Ontario Cancer Plan and the work Cancer Care Ontario is doing to ensure a sustainable cancer system, please click [here](#).

**For more information, please contact:**

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*Version française disponible.*