



Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA)

Fact Sheet on the Top Ten Cancers per Population Group

Introduction

There are more than 200 different types of cancer. It is also referred to as malignancies, which is an abnormal and uncontrolled growth and multiplication of cells. The counts and incidence of the (10) most common diagnosed cancers by site are presented according to sex and population group. Please refer to the various CANSA Fact Sheets for more information regarding each of the different types of cancers.



[Picture Credit: Cancer]

The following skin cancers are not included in the tables below:

- Basal Cell Carcinoma of the skin
- Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Skin

Worldwide tobacco use is the cause of about 22% of cancer deaths. Another 10% is due to obesity, a poor diet, lack of physical activity, and drinking alcohol. Other factors include certain infections, exposure to ionising radiation, and environmental pollutants. In the developing world nearly 20% of cancers are due to infections such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and Human Papilloma virus infection. These factors act, at least partly, by changing the genes of a cell. Typically many such genetic changes are required before cancer develops. Approximately 5–10% of cancers are due to genetic defects inherited from a person's parents. Cancer can be detected by certain signs and symptoms or screening tests. It is then typically further investigated by medical imaging and confirmed by biopsy.

Many cancers can be prevented by not smoking, eating more vegetables, fruits and whole grains, eating less red meat and refined carbohydrates, maintaining a healthy weight, exercising, minimising sunlight exposure, and being vaccinated against certain infectious diseases.

(Wikipedia)

Top Ten Most Common Cancers of Men

The following cancers represent the top ten most common cancers of men according to the National Cancer Registry (2008):

Type of Cancer for All Men	No of Cases 2008	Lifetime Risk 2008
Prostate Cancer	4 307	1:28
Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)*	1 514	1:92
Lung Cancer	1 499	1:85
Kaposi Sarcoma	1 495	1:186
Colorectal Cancer	1 262	1:111
Cancer of the Oesophagus	1 036	1:128
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	891	1:220
Bladder Cancer	730	1:184
Malignant Melanoma	673	1:221
Stomach Cancer	656	1:212
All Cancers	26 582	1:8

* Sometimes doctors find where the cancer has spread in the body but cannot find where in the body the cancer first began to grow. This type of cancer is called a cancer of unknown primary (CUP) or occult primary tumour.

Top Ten Most Common Cancers of Women

The following cancers represent the top ten most common cancers of women according to the National Cancer Registry (2008):

Type of Cancer for All Women	No of Cases 2008	Lifetime Risk 2008
Breast Cancer	5 923	1:34
Cervical Cancer	5 178	1:41
Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)*	1 407	1:137
Kaposi Sarcoma	1 223	1:276
Colorectal Cancer	1 038	1:185
Cancer of the Uterus	1 009	1:167
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	850	1:285
Cancer of the Oesophagus	746	1:231
Cancer of the Lung	722	1:234
Malignant Melanoma	627	1:328
All Cancers	28 803	1:9

* Sometimes doctors find where the cancer has spread in the body but cannot find where in the body the cancer first began to grow. This type of cancer is called a cancer of unknown primary (CUP) or occult primary tumour.

Top Ten Most Common Cancers of Asian Men

The following cancers represent the top ten most common cancers of Asian men according to the National Cancer Registry (2008):

Type of Cancer for Asian Men	No of Cases 2008	Lifetime Risk 2008
Prostate Cancer	118	1:36
Colorectal Cancer	85	1:52
Cancer of the Lung	67	1:69
Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)*	52	1:79
Cancer of the Bladder	46	1:89
Cancer of the Stomach	40	1:120
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	31	1:186
Cancer of the Larynx	17	1:302
Cancer of the Oesophagus	16	1:191
Cancer of the Kidney	16	1:137

* Sometimes doctors find where the cancer has spread in the body but cannot find where in the body the cancer first began to grow. This type of cancer is called a cancer of unknown primary (CUP) or occult primary tumour.

Top Ten Most Common Cancers of Asian Women

The following cancers represent the top ten most common cancers of Asian women according to the National Cancer Registry (2008):

Type of Cancer for Asian Women	No of Cases 2008	Lifetime Risk 2008
Cancer of the Breast	330	1:19
Colorectal Cancer	82	1:66
Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)*	66	1:97
Cancer of the Cervix	59	1:123
Cancer of the Uterus	57	1:91
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	31	1:205
Cancer of the Stomach	26	1:218
Cancer of the Ovary	23	1:260
Cancer of the Lung	20	1:250
Cancer of the Thyroid	19	1:452

* Sometimes doctors find where the cancer has spread in the body but cannot find where in the body the cancer first began to grow. This type of cancer is called a cancer of unknown primary (CUP) or occult primary tumour.

Top Ten Most Common Cancers of Black Men

The following cancers represent the top ten most common cancers of Black men according to the National Cancer Registry (2008):

Type of Cancer for Black Men	No of Cases 2008	Lifetime Risk 2008
Prostate Cancer	1 899	1:41
Kaposi Sarcoma	1 382	1:149
Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)*	883	1:109
Cancer of the Oesophagus	786	1:113
Cancer of the Lung	667	1:132
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	562	1:278
Colorectal Cancer	399	1:260
Cancer of the Larynx	300	1:266
Cancer of the Stomach	273	1:346
Cancer of the Mouth	250	1:371

* Sometimes doctors find where the cancer has spread in the body but cannot find where in the body the cancer first began to grow. This type of cancer is called a cancer of unknown primary (CUP) or occult primary tumour.

Top Ten Most Common Cancers of Black Women

The following cancers represent the top ten most common cancers of Black women according to the National Cancer Registry (2008):

Type of Cancer for Black Women	No of Cases 2008	Lifetime Risk 2008
Cancer of the Cervix	4 322	1:35
Cancer of the Breast	2 884	1:52
Kaposi Sarcoma	1 153	1:223
Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)*	811	1:171
Cancer of the Uterus	618	1:186
Cancer of the Oesophagus	635	1:186
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	563	1:350
Cancer of the Eye	405	1:617
Colorectal Cancer	355	1:386
Cancer of the Ovary	242	1:628

* Sometimes doctors find where the cancer has spread in the body but cannot find where in the body the cancer first began to grow. This type of cancer is called a cancer of unknown primary (CUP) or occult primary tumour.

Top Ten Most Common Cancers of Coloured Men

The following cancers represent the top ten most common cancers of Coloured men according to the National Cancer Registry (2008):

Type of Cancer for Coloured Men	No of Cases 2008	Lifetime Risk 2008
Prostate Cancer	481	1:23
Cancer of the Lung	331	1:35
Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)*	204	1:55
Colorectal Cancer	171	1:74
Cancer of the Stomach	136	1:94
Cancer of the Bladder	120	1:86
Cancer of the Oesophagus	98	1:128
Cancer of the Larynx	74	1:135
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	71	1:245
Cancer of the Mouth	65	1:210

* Sometimes doctors find where the cancer has spread in the body but cannot find where in the body the cancer first began to grow. This type of cancer is called a cancer of unknown primary (CUP) or occult primary tumour.

Top Ten Most Common Cancers of Coloured Women

The following cancers represent the top ten most common cancers of Coloured women according to the National Cancer Registry (2008):

Type of Cancer for Coloured Women	No of Cases 2008	Lifetime Risk 2008
Cancer of the Breast	834	1:22
Cancer of the Cervix	399	1:51
Cancer of the Lung	388	1:78
Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)*	169	1:104
Colorectal Cancer	161	1:106
Cancer of the Uterus	127	1:120
Cancer of the Ovary	81	1:239
Cancer of the Stomach	68	1:231
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	66	1:303
Malignant Melanoma	62	1:301

* Sometimes doctors find where the cancer has spread in the body but cannot find where in the body the cancer first began to grow. This type of cancer is called a cancer of unknown primary (CUP) or occult primary tumour.

Top Ten Most Common Cancers of White Men

The following cancers represent the top ten most common cancers of White men according to the National Cancer Registry (2008):

Type of Cancer for White Men	No of Cases 2008	Lifetime Risk 2008
Prostate Cancer	1 809	1:15
Colorectal Cancer	607	1:50
Malignant Melanoma	512	1:58
Cancer of the Lung	433	1:62
Cancer of the Bladder	412	1:79
Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)*	375	1:77
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	227	1:132
Cancer of the Stomach	206	1:140
Cancer of the Oesophagus	136	1:194
Cancer of the Kidney	117	1:227

* Sometimes doctors find where the cancer has spread in the body but cannot find where in the body the cancer first began to grow. This type of cancer is called a cancer of unknown primary (CUP) or occult primary tumour.

Top Ten Most Common Cancers of White Women

The following cancers represent the top ten most common cancers of White women according to the National Cancer Registry (2008):

Type of Cancer for White Women	No of Cases 2008	Lifetime Risk 2008
Cancer of the Breast	1 876	1:18
Colorectal Cancer	440	1:79
Malignant Melanoma	405	1:80
Cancer of the Cervix	398	1:82
Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)*	362	1:90
Cancer of the Lung	319	1:96
Cancer of the Uterus	208	1:153
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	190	1:174
Cancer of the Ovary	167	1:183
Cancer of the Thyroid	104	1:302

* Sometimes doctors find where the cancer has spread in the body but cannot find where in the body the cancer first began to grow. This type of cancer is called a cancer of unknown primary (CUP) or occult primary tumour.

Top Ten Most Common Cancers of All Boys 0 to 19 Years of Age

The following cancers represent the top ten most common cancers of all Boys (0 to 19 years of age) according to the National Cancer Registry (2008):

Type of Cancer for All Boys 0 to 19 Years of Age	No of Cases 2008
Leukaemia	116
Cancer of Bone	58
Cancer of the Kidney	48
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	48
Cancer of the Brain and CNS	44
Hodgkin's Lymphoma	38
Cancer of Connective Tissue	35
Kaposi Sarcoma	32
Cancer of the Eye	24
Haematology (other)	16

Top Ten Most Common Cancers of All Girls 0 to 19 Years of Age

The following cancers represent the top ten most common cancers of all Girls (0 to 19 years of age) according to the National Cancer Registry (2008):

Type of Cancer for All Girls 0 to 19 Years of Age	No of Cases 2008
Leukaemia	83
Cancer of the Kidney	54
Kaposi Sarcoma	45
Cancer of the Brain and CNS	38
Cancer of Connective Tissue	37
Cancer of the Eye	37
Cancer of Bone	32
Hodgkin's Lymphoma	29
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	29
Cancer of the Ovary	24

Medical Disclaimer

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Sources and References

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