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# 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 (2009):

Type of Cancer for All Men	No of Cases 2009	Lifetime Risk 2009
Prostate Cancer	4 601	1:26
Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)*	1 562	1:89
Kaposi Sarcoma	1 468	1:185
Lung Cancer	1 440	1:91
Colorectal Cancer	1 265	1:111
Cancer of the Oesophagus	1 017	1:133
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	793	1:255
Bladder Cancer	762	1:179
Stomach Cancer	731	1:185
Malignant Melanoma	501	1:314
All Cancers	27 154	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 (2009):

Type of Cancer for All Women	No of Cases 2009	Lifetime Risk 2009
Breast Cancer	6 224	1:33
Cervical Cancer	5 270	1:42
Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)*	1 536	1:125
Kaposi Sarcoma	1 136	1:304
Colorectal Cancer	1 075	1:182
Cancer of the Uterus	1 073	1:160
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	799	1:314
Cancer of the Oesophagus	764	1:239
Cancer of the Lung	685	1:254
Malignant Melanoma	635	1:391
All Cancers	29 891	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 (2009):

Type of Cancer for Asian Men	No of Cases 2009	Lifetime Risk 2009
Prostate Cancer	148	1:28
Colorectal Cancer	86	1:58
Cancer of the Lung	78	1:59
Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)*	67	1:66
Cancer of the Stomach	49	1:102
Cancer of the Bladder	46	1:110
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	38	1:160
Cancer of the Kidney	18	1:262
Cancer of the Larynx	15	1:341
Cancer of the Tongue	15	1:403
All Cancers	748	1:7

\* 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 (2009):

Type of Cancer for Asian Women	No of Cases 2009	Lifetime Risk 2009
Cancer of the Breast	337	1:17
Cancer of the Cervix	76	1:101
Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)*	71	1:86
Cancer of the Uterus	62	1:86
Colorectal Cancer	52	1:114
Cancer of the Stomach	35	1:179
Cancer of the Ovary	27	1:222
Cancer of the Lung	27	1:198
Cancer of the Oesophagus	20	1:391
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	18	1:412
All Cancers	953	1:7

\* 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 (2009):

Type of Cancer for Black Men	No of Cases 2009	Lifetime Risk 2009
Prostate Cancer	2 065	1:37
Kaposi Sarcoma	1 364	1:146
Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)*	916	1:106
Cancer of the Oesophagus	767	1:115
Cancer of the Lung	629	1:141
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	499	1:328
Colorectal Cancer	421	1:244
Cancer of the Stomach	310	1:295
Cancer of the Larynx	279	1:309
Cancer of the Eye	234	1:860
All Cancers	10 614	1:10

\* 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 (2009):

Type of Cancer for Black Women	No of Cases 2009	Lifetime Risk 2009
Cancer of the Cervix	4 426	1:36
Cancer of the Breast	3 131	1:49
Kaposi Sarcoma	1 057	1:252
Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)*	921	1:149
Cancer of the Uterus	695	1:172
Cancer of the Oesophagus	606	1:205
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	525	1:393
Cancer of the Eye	434	1:570
Colorectal Cancer	403	1:339
Cancer of the Ovary	219	1:676
All Cancers	15 801	1:10

\* 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 (2009):

Type of Cancer for Coloured Men	No of Cases 2009	Lifetime Risk 2009
Prostate Cancer	508	1:25
Cancer of the Lung	329	1:20
Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)*	204	1:58
Colorectal Cancer	177	1:68
Cancer of the Stomach	158	1:72
Cancer of the Bladder	146	1:88
Cancer of the Oesophagus	105	1:118
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	89	1:195
Cancer of the Larynx	76	1:180
Malignant Melanoma	54	1:281
All Cancers	3 162	1:5

\* 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 (2009):

Type of Cancer for Coloured Women	No of Cases 2009	Lifetime Risk 2009
Cancer of the Breast	864	1:22
Cancer of the Cervix	403	1:53
Cancer of the Lung	178	1:87
Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)*	171	1:90
Colorectal Cancer	164	1:94
Cancer of the Uterus	117	1:130
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	81	1:224
Cancer of the Stomach	69	1:221
Cancer of the Oesophagus	62	1:253
Malignant Melanoma	49	1:412
All Cancers	3 331	1:7

\* 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 (2009):

Type of Cancer for White Men	No of Cases 2009	Lifetime Risk 2009
Prostate Cancer	1 882	1:15
Colorectal Cancer	580	1:52
Cancer of the Bladder	409	1:75
Cancer of the Lung	404	1:67
Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)*	376	1:74
Malignant Melanoma	373	1:83
Cancer of the Stomach	215	1:139
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	167	1:186
Cancer of the Oesophagus	132	1:215
Leukaemia	126	1:222
All Cancers	12 631	1:5

\* 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 (2009):

Type of Cancer for White Women	No of Cases 2009	Lifetime Risk 2009
Cancer of the Breast	1 851	1:18
Colorectal Cancer	456	1:82
Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)*	373	1:91
Cancer of the Cervix	364	1:91
Malignant Melanoma	308	1:110
Cancer of the Lung	297	1:111
Cancer of the Uterus	198	1:154
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	175	1:197
Cancer of the Ovary	138	1:213
Cancer of the Bladder	108	1:316
All Cancers	9 806	1:6

\* 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 (2009):

Type of Cancer for All Boys 0 to 19 Years of Age	No of Cases 2009
Leukaemia	93
Cancer of the Kidney	54
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	45
Cancer of the Bone	41
Cancer of the Brain and CNS	41
Hodgkin's Lymphoma	40
Cancer of Connective Tissue	34
Cancer of the Eye	24
Burkitt Lymphoma	24
Haematological Other	21

### 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 (2009):

Type of Cancer for All Girls 0 to 19 Years of Age	No of Cases 2009
Leukaemia	80
Cancer of the Kidney	67
Cancer of Connective Tissue	41
Kaposi Sarcoma	40
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	40
Cancer of Bone	38
Cancer of the Brain and CNS	35
Cancer of the Eye	30
Cancer of the Ovary	23
Hodgkin's Lymphoma	21

### **Medical Disclaimer**

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### **Sources and References**

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