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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 histologically diagnosed cancers of men according to the National Cancer Registry (2010):

Type of Cancer for All Men 2010	No of Cases	Lifetime Risk	Percentage of All Cancers
Prostate Cancer	4 652	1:27	17,15%
Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)*	1 528	1:98	5,63%
Kaposi Sarcoma	1 447	1:194	5,33%
Lung Cancer	1 422	1:95	5,24%
Colorectal Cancer	1 295	1:114	4,77%
Cancer of the Oesophagus	1 060	1:131	3,91%
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	813	1:246	3,00%
Bladder Cancer	769	1:170	2,83%
Stomach Cancer	673	1:212	2,48%
Malignant Melanoma	552	1:274	2,04%
All Cancers	27 132	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 histologically diagnosed cancers of women according to the National Cancer Registry (2010):

Type of Cancer for All Women 2010	No of Cases	Lifetime Risk	Percentage of All Cancers
Breast Cancer	6 137	1:35	20,62%
Cervical Cancer	5 433	1:42	18,25%
Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)*	1 465	1:136	4,92%
Colorectal Cancer	1 132	1:182	3,80%
Kaposi Sarcoma	1 086	1:318	3,65%
Cancer of the Uterus	1 082	1:163	3,64%
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	726	1:354	2,44%
Cancer of the Oesophagus	720	1:264	2,42%
Cancer of the Lung	700	1:244	2,35%
Malignant Melanoma	511	1:431	1,72%
All Cancers	29 762	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 histologically diagnosed cancers of Asian men according to the National Cancer Registry (2010):

Type of Cancer for Asian Men 2010	No of Cases	Lifetime Risk	Percentage of All Cancers
Prostate Cancer	144	1:32	19,65%
Colorectal Cancer	100	1:51	13,62%
Cancer of the Lung	57	1:67	7,81%
Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)*	56	1:89	7,63%
Cancer of the Bladder	53	1:89	7,28%
Cancer of the Stomach	51	1:89	7,03%
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	29	1:200	4,00%
Cancer of the Testis	17	1:642	2,39%
Cancer of the Kidney	17	1:422	2,27%
Cancer of the Mouth	15	1:319	2,00%
All Cancers	731	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.

Researched and Authored by Prof Michael C Herbst

[D Litt et Phil (Health Studies); D N Ed; M Art et Scien; B A Cur; Dip Occupational Health]

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Top Ten Most Common Cancers of Asian Women

The following cancers represent the top ten most common histologically diagnosed cancers of Asian women according to the National Cancer Registry (2010):

Type of Cancer for Asian Women 2010	No of Cases	Lifetime Risk	Percentage of All Cancers
Cancer of the Breast	340	1:18	35,42%
Colorectal Cancer	71	1:97	7,39%
Cancer of the Uterus	68	1:87	7,10%
Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)*	65	1:99	6,74%
Cancer of the Cervix	61	1:113	6,37%
Cancer of the Stomach	29	1:232	3,01%
Cancer of the Ovary	29	1:211	2,98%
Cancer of the Lung	24	1:278	2,49%
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	25	1:293	2,58%
Cancer of the Thyroid	22	1:408	2,26%
All Cancers	961	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 histologically diagnosed cancers of Black men according to the National Cancer Registry (2010):

Type of Cancer for Black Men 2010	No of Cases	Lifetime Risk	Percentage of All Cancers
Prostate Cancer	2 050	1:39	19,34%
Kaposi Sarcoma	1 342	1:154	12,66%
Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)*	885	1:122	8,35%
Cancer of the Oesophagus	812	1:111	7,66%
Cancer of the Lung	614	1:146	5,79%
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	520	1:312	4,90%
Colorectal Cancer	407	1:264	3,84%
Cancer of the Larynx	304	1:286	2,87%
Cancer of the Stomach	278	1:342	2,62%
Cancer of the Eye	278	1:744	2,62%
All Cancers	10 601	1:11	

* 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 histologically diagnosed cancers of Black women according to the National Cancer Registry (2010):

Type of Cancer for Black Women 2010	No of Cases	Lifetime Risk	Percentage of All Cancers
Cancer of the Cervix	4 566	1:36	29,18%
Cancer of the Breast	3 157	1:50	20,18%
Kaposi Sarcoma	1 005	1:263	6,42%
Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)*	878	1:163	5,61%
Cancer of the Uterus	691	1:180	4,42%
Cancer of the Oesophagus	582	1:232	3,72%
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	485	1:434	3,10%
Cancer of the Eye	419	1:585	2,67%
Colorectal Cancer	397	1:389	2,54%
Cancer of the Lung	226	1:547	1,45%
All Cancers	15 646	1:11	

* 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.

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Top Ten Most Common Cancers of Coloured Men

The following cancers represent the top ten most common histologically diagnosed cancers of Coloured men according to the National Cancer Registry (2010):

Type of Cancer for Coloured Men 2010	No of Cases	Lifetime Risk	Percentage of All Cancers
Prostate Cancer	518	1:21	16,22%
Cancer of the Lung	330	1:39	10,33%
Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)*	200	1:62	6,26%
Colorectal Cancer	180	1:79	5,64%
Cancer of the Stomach	137	1:91	4,28%
Cancer of the Oesophagus	105	1:133	3,27%
Cancer of the Bladder	102	1:116	3,20%
Cancer of the Larynx	99	1:125	3,10%
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	88	1:178	2,77%
Cancer of the Mouth	68	1:215	2,13%
All Cancers	3 192	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 Coloured Women

The following cancers represent the top ten most common histologically diagnosed cancers of Coloured women according to the National Cancer Registry (2010):

Type of Cancer for Coloured Women 2010	No of Cases	Lifetime Risk	Percentage of All Cancers
Cancer of the Breast	816	1:23	26,35%
Cancer of the Cervix	380	1:55	12,27%
Cancer of the Lung	153	1:101	4,93%
Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)*	153	1:114	4,93%
Colorectal Cancer	144	1:103	4,66%
Cancer of the Uterus	108	1:133	3,48%
Cancer of the Stomach	61	1:270	1,98%
Malignant Melanoma	54	1:359	1,75%
Cancer of the Oesophagus	51	1:301	1,64%
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	49	1:401	1,57%
All Cancers	3 095	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 histologically diagnosed cancers of White men according to the National Cancer Registry (2010):

Type of Cancer for White Men 2010	No of Cases	Lifetime Risk	Percentage of All Cancers
Prostate Cancer	1 940	1:15	15,39%
Colorectal Cancer	6080	1:50	4,83%
Cancer of the Bladder	450	1:63	3,57%
Malignant Melanoma	430	1:69	3,41%
Cancer of the Lung	421	1:70	3,34%
Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)*	387	1:73	3,07%
Cancer of the Stomach	207	1:154	1,64%
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	176	1:171	1,39%
Cancer of the Oesophagus	130	1:224	1,03%
Cancer of the Larynx	125	1:224	0,99%
All Cancers	12 608	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 histologically diagnosed cancers of White women according to the National Cancer Registry (2010):

Type of Cancer for White Women 2010	No of Cases	Lifetime Risk	Percentage of All Cancers
Cancer of the Breast	1 824	1:19	18,13%
Colorectal Cancer	520	1:71	5,17%
Cancer of the Cervix	426	1:77	4,24%
Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)*	370	1:91	3,68%
Malignant Melanoma	322	1:106	3,20%
Cancer of the Lung	297	1:103	2,95%
Cancer of the Uterus	215	1:141	2,14%
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	168	1:207	1,67%
Cancer of the Ovary	149	1:215	1,48%
Cancer of the Stomach	124	1:320	1,23%
All Cancers	10 060	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 histologically diagnosed cancers of all Boys (0 to 19 years of age) according to the National Cancer Registry (2010):

Type of Cancer for All Boys 0 to 19 Years of Age	No of Cases 2010
Leukaemia	99
Cancer of the Kidney	62
Cancer of the Bone	43
Hodgkin's Lymphoma	42
Cancer of the Brain and CNS	38
Cancer of Connective Tissue	38
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	38
Kaposi Sarcoma	32
Cancer of the Eye	27
Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP)*	22

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

The following cancers represent the top ten most common histologically diagnosed cancers of all Girls (0 to 19 years of age) according to the National Cancer Registry (2010):

Type of Cancer for All Girls 0 to 19 Years of Age	No of Cases 2010
Leukaemia	75
Cancer of the Kidney	48
Cancer of Connective Tissue	42
Cancer of the Brain and CNS	36
Cancer of the Eye	34
Kaposi Sarcoma	31
Cancer of the Bone	29
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	22
Hodgkin's Lymphoma	21
Cancer of the Ovary	16

Medical Disclaimer

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Sources and References

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