



All cancers combined

*How common is **cancer**?*

- There are more than 200 types of cancer, each with different causes, symptoms and treatments.
- Around 309,500 people were diagnosed with cancer in 2008 in the UK, that's around 850 people every day.
- Every two minutes someone in the UK is diagnosed with cancer.
- More than 1 in 3 people will develop some form of cancer during their lifetime.
- Breast, lung, bowel and prostate cancers together account for over half of all new cancers each year.
- Cancer can develop at any age, but is most common in older people. More than three out of five cancers are diagnosed in people aged 65 and over.
- Around one per cent of cancers occur in children, teenagers and young adults (up to age 24).
- Overall cancer incidence rates have increased by more than a quarter since the late 1970s, but the rates have been fairly stable since the late 1990s.
- Cancer incidence rates have risen by 16% in males and by 34% in females since the late 1970s.
- There have been increases in the incidence of many potentially avoidable cancers such as kidney, malignant melanoma (skin), oral and uterine (womb) cancer.
- Over the last decade the incidence rate of stomach cancer has decreased by more than a quarter for both sexes. Cervical and ovarian cancer each decreased by more than 10% and the lung cancer incidence rate in males decreased by almost a fifth.
- Worldwide there were estimated to be around 12.7 million new cases of cancer in 2008 and over half of these were in developing countries.
- Cancer is the number one fear for the British public; feared ahead of debt, knife crime, Alzheimer's disease and losing a job.



*How many people survive **cancer**?*

- Half of people diagnosed with cancer now survive their disease for at least five years.
- Cancer survival rates in the UK have doubled in the last 40 years.
- Almost three-quarters of children with cancer are now cured of their disease, compared with around a quarter in the late 1960s.

*How many people die from **cancer**?*

- Cancer causes more than one in four of all deaths in the UK.
- More than three-quarters of cancer deaths occur in people aged 65 and over.
- In the UK there were around 156,000 deaths from cancer in 2009.
- In the UK in 2009, more than 425 people died from cancer every day, that is one person every four minutes.
- Cancer death rates in the UK have fallen by a fifth over the last thirty years and by 9% over the last decade.
- More than one in five of all cancer deaths are from lung cancer.
- Worldwide, it is estimated that around 7.6 million people died from cancer in 2008.



What causes cancer?

- ▶ An individual's risk of developing cancer depends on many factors, including age, lifestyle and genetic make-up.
- ▶ More than 40% of all cancers in the UK are linked to tobacco, alcohol, diet, overweight, inactivity, infection, radiation, occupation, post-menopausal hormones or breastfeeding.
- ▶ Cigarette smoking is the single most important cause of preventable death in the UK.
- ▶ Smoking causes nearly a fifth of all cancers in the UK (including over 80% of lung cancers).
- ▶ Each year in the UK, around 17,000 cases of cancer are linked to being overweight or obese.
- ▶ Around 12,500 cancers in the UK each year are linked to alcohol.
- ▶ Research suggests that each of the following increase the risk of certain cancers: a low fibre diet, low consumption of fruit and vegetables, high consumption of red and processed meats and higher intake of salt or saturated fats.
- ▶ Excessive exposure to UV radiation (from the sun or sunbeds) is the most important modifiable risk factor for skin cancers.
- ▶ Physical activity protects against colon, breast and womb cancer, independently of its effect on bodyweight.
- ▶ A few infectious agents, especially certain viruses, play a key role in causing certain types of cancer.
- ▶ It is estimated that inherited factors cause up to 10% of all cancers.
- ▶ Factors such as the age at which a women has her first child, number of children, and whether or not she breastfeeds, affect risk of the most common female cancers.
- ▶ Nearly 4% of cancers in the UK are linked to occupation.



All cancers combined – UK

	Males	Females	Persons
Number of new cases* (UK 2008)	155,326	154,201	309,527
Incidence rate per 100,000 population**	417.3	365.9	385.7
Number of deaths (UK 2009)	82,034	74,056	156,090
Mortality rate per 100,000 population**	205.1	147.9	172.0
Five-year survival rate (estimates of predicted survival for adult patients diagnosed in 2007, England & Wales***)	45.9%	56.4%	51.2%
Ten-year survival rate (estimates of predicted survival for adult patients diagnosed in 2007, England and Wales***)	39.3%	51.0%	45.2%

excluding non-melanoma skin cancer **age-standardised to the European population *Hybrid method*

Cancer Research UK's 'CancerStats – Key Facts' series provides accessible, top line statistics and facts on cancer. The charity's Statistical Information Team also produces evidence-based reports, charts and tabulations. All of this information can be accessed on our CancerStats website: <http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/cancerstats> or by emailing stats.team@cancer.org.uk.