

# Cancer in Tasmania 2008

## ... a snapshot

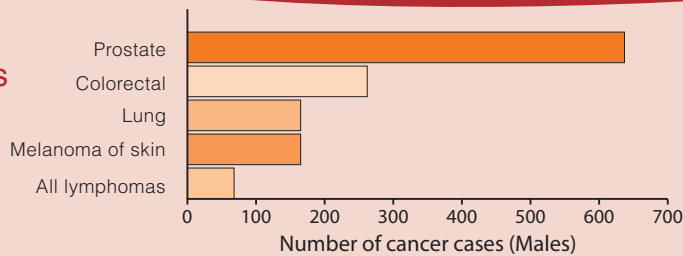
### Incidence and Mortality

In 2008 there were 3,090 newly diagnosed cancers in Tasmania (excluding non-melanoma skin cancers). More than half (60%) were diagnosed in males. The average age at diagnosis was 67 for males and 64 in females. There were 1,167 deaths attributable to cancer in 2008 (636 males and 531 females). The age-standardised<sup>1</sup> incidence rate (ASR) was 522.5 per 100,000 people and the age-standardised mortality rate was 192.8 per 100,000 people.



### Common Cancers in Tasmania in 2008

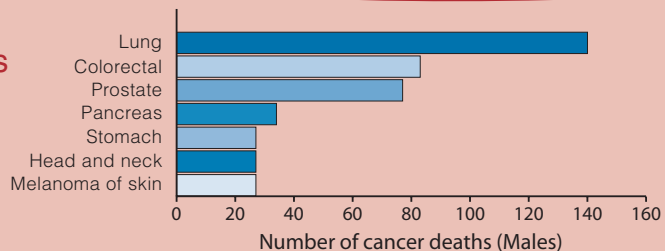
#### cases in males



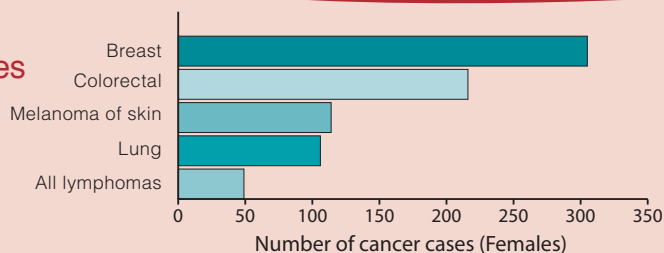
The **most common cancer diagnosed in males** in Tasmania in 2008 was **prostate cancer**, followed by colorectal (or bowel) cancer, lung cancer, melanoma skin cancer and all lymphomas.

The **most common causes of cancer-related deaths in males** in 2008 were **lung cancer**, colorectal cancer, prostate cancer, pancreatic cancer, stomach cancer, head and neck cancer and melanoma skin cancer.

#### deaths in males



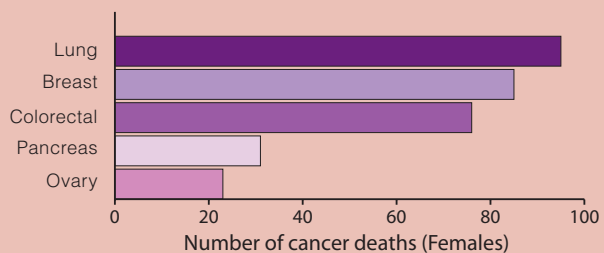
#### cases in females



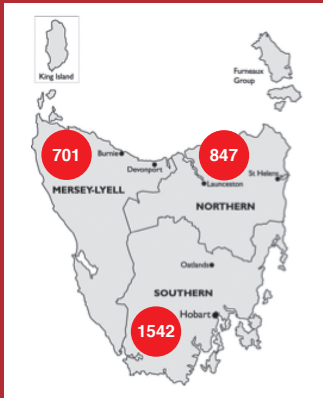
The **most common cancer diagnosed in females** in Tasmania in 2008 was **breast cancer**, followed by colorectal cancer, melanoma skin cancer, lung cancer and all lymphomas.

The **most common causes of cancer-related deaths in females** in 2008 were **lung cancer**, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, pancreatic cancer and ovarian cancer.

#### deaths in females



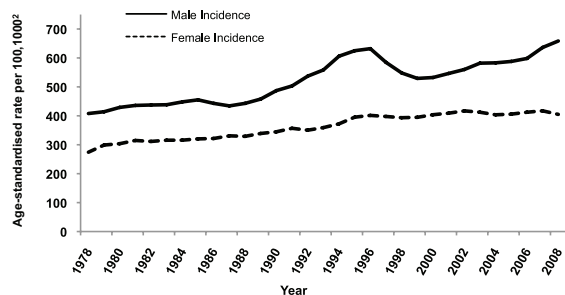
<sup>1</sup>Age-standardised using the Australian Standard Population 2001. For many cancers, the rate at which they occur is related to age, making it difficult to compare the overall cancer rate between groups with different age distributions. Age standardisation is a method for adjusting for these differences, allowing useful comparisons to be made.



## Regional Distribution of Cancers in Tasmania, 2008

The numbers of cancers in each region of Tasmania were generally as expected given the population size and age.

## trends over time

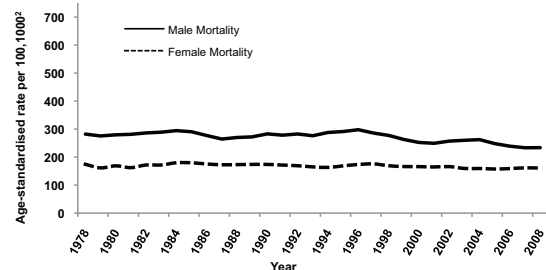


### Trends in annual age-standardised incidence of all cancers combined (excluding non-melanoma skin cancers) 1980 – 2008

Cancer incidence (new cancers per 100,000) increased for males and females in the period from 1980 to 2008. The peak in male cancer incidence in the mid-1990s and further rise in recent years follow trends in the use of prostate specific antigen (PSA) testing for prostate cancer. Breast cancer screening for women has contributed to increasing cancer incidence in females.

### Trends in annual age-standardised mortality of all cancers combined (excluding non-melanoma skin cancers) 1980 – 2008

Annual cancer mortality rates for males showed a small decrease over time since 1980, while female mortality rates remained fairly stable. Incidence and mortality rates were consistently higher for men than for women.



<sup>2</sup>Age-standardised to the 2001 Australian standard population

### Acknowledgements

The collection and collation of cancer registry data would not be possible without the assistance of staff members of private and public pathology laboratories; the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; Medical Records Departments of all Tasmanian hospitals; WP Holman Clinics in Launceston and Hobart; medical practitioners in specialist and general practices; the Australian Bureau of Statistics; and other state and territory cancer registries.

### Further Information

The information contained in this flyer is a summary of the *Cancer in Tasmania, Incidence and Mortality 2008 Report* published by the Tasmanian Cancer Registry in 2011.

*Cancer in Tasmania: Incidence and Mortality 2008* (<http://www.menzies.utas.edu.au/pdf/TCRReport2008.pdf>)

*Cancer in Australia: An Overview, 2010* (<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/>)

For information on cancer and support services for people with cancer and their families visit Cancer Council Tasmania (<http://www.cancertas.org.au/>) or call the Cancer Helpline on 1300 656 585.