Cancer in Tasmania 2012

In Females

- Breast cancer was the most common newly diagnosed cancer in 2012
- Breast cancer accounted for 27% of all newly diagnosed cancers
- The next most common cancers were colorectal, lung, melanoma of skin and all lymphomas
- The top 5 cancers totalled 64% of all newly diagnosed cancers
- The leading cause of cancer deaths was lung cancer, representing 18% of all cancer related deaths

In Males

- Prostate cancer was the most common newly diagnosed cancer in 2012
- Prostate cancer accounted for 26% of all newly diagnosed cancers
- Colorectal, lung, melanoma of skin and all lymphomas were the next most common cancers
- The top 5 newly diagnosed cancers total 54% of all newly diagnosed cancers
- The leading cause of cancer deaths as lung cancer, representing 21% of all cancer related deaths

In 2012 a total of 3,160 cases of cancer were diagnosed in Tasmania (excluding non-melanoma skin cancers). More than half (55%) were diagnosed in males. The median age at diagnosis was 67 for females and 68 for males. There were 1,216 deaths attributable to cancer in 2012 (674 males and 542 females). The age-standardised incidence rate (*ASR) was 489.8 per 100,000 people and the age-standardised mortality rate was 182.8 per 100,000 people.

*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.
Cancer in Tasmania 2012... trends over time

Trends in annual age standardised incidence of all cancers combined (excluding non-melanoma skin cancers) 1978 – 2012
Cancer incidence (new cancers per 100,000) increased for males and females in the period from 1978 to 2012. The peak in male cancer incidence in the mid 1990s, and further rise in recent years, follow changing 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) 1978 – 2012
Annual cancer mortality rates for males showed a small decrease over time since 1978, while female mortality rates remained fairly stable. Incidence and mortality rates are consistently higher for men than for women.

Regional distribution of Cancer in Tasmania, 2012

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

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Further Information
The information contained in this flyer is a summary of the Cancer in Tasmania, Incidence and Mortality 2012 Report published by the Tasmanian Cancer Registry in 2015.


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

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