



Overview of 2009 Hong Kong Cancer Statistics

Cancer Registration in Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Cancer Registry has since 1963 been providing population-based cancer data for epidemiological research and healthcare services planning in Hong Kong. With the support of healthcare professionals and medical institutions, we collect high quality hospital and laboratory cancer data from both private and public sectors. Further details of the Registry and related cancer statistics are available on our web (<http://www.ha.org.hk/cancereg>).

Major findings in 2009

- 25,977 new cases were diagnosed with malignancy (+1,342 new cases or increased by 5.4% compared to previous year).
- Most of the increase was attributed to the growing number of increase in colorectal and non-melanoma skin cancers in both genders, prostate and pancreatic cancers in men, breast and cervical cancers in women.
- Number of colorectal cancer cases is getting closer to lung cancer although it is still no. 2 leading cancer.
- Number of female breast cancer cases increased by 12.5% to 2,945 cases in 2009 compared to previous year. Data are presented for the first time about the incidence of in-situ breast cancer in females. Altogether there were a further 443 cases reported during 2009. The reporting of in-situ incidence of breast cancer will be of interest in monitoring the number of pre-malignant abnormalities.
- Number of cervical cancer cases has once dropped by nearly 20% since the setting up of government's screening programme in 2004 but it rose dramatically (+95 cases or 26%) during 2009.
- However, one should keep in mind that the figures are subject to random fluctuations from year to year. Experience tells us that a more reliable comment of the trend of incidence can only be made after observing over a longer period, normally 5 years more.
- 12,839 died from cancer in 2009 (+383 deaths or 3.1%).
- Cancer was a leading cause of death in Hong Kong, accounting for 31.2% of all deaths.

Leading cancer types (*both genders combined*)

Rank	Site	No. in 2009	No. in 1999 (<i>rank</i>)
1	Lung cancer	4,365	3,707 (1)
2	Colorectal cancer	4,335	3,024 (2)
3	Breast cancer	2,962	1,796 (3)
4	Liver cancer	1,832	1,572 (4)
5	Prostate cancer	1,484	597 (9)
	All cancers	25,977	20,525

Leading cancer deaths (*both genders combined*)

Rank	Site	No. in 2009	No. in 1999 (<i>rank</i>)
1	Lung cancer	3,692	3,168 (1)
2	Colorectal cancer	1,752	1,329 (3)
3	Liver cancer	1,488	1,420 (2)
4	Stomach cancer	656	699 (4)
5	Breast cancer	555	399 (5)
	All cancers	12,839	10,977

Appendix 1 displays the ten most common cancers and cancer killers by gender in 2009.

Cancer and gender

- More men were diagnosed with cancer (13,681) than women (12,296) in the ratio of 1.11 to 1.
- More men died from cancer (7,682) than women (5,157) in the ratio of 1.49 to 1.

Cancer and age

Cancer is primarily a disease of older people:

- Over 60% of cancers occurred in people over the age of 60.
- Fewer than 1% of cancers occurred before the age of 20.
- Median ages at diagnosis were 69 years in men and 61 years in women.
- Three-fourth of cancer deaths occurred in persons aged 60 or older.
- Median ages at death due to cancer were 72 years in men and 74 years in women.

Appendix 2 displays the relative frequency of the five most common cancers by gender and age Group in 2009.

Risk of developing of and dying from cancer before age 75

A person's risk of developing or dying from cancer is dependent on age:

- One in 4 men and 1 in 5 women will develop some form of cancer before the age of 75.
- One in 8 men and 1 in 14 women will die from cancer before the age of 75.

Any feedback or queries are welcomed. Please send us an email to cancereg@ha.org.hk.

Appendix 1: Leading Cancer Sites in 2009

10 Most Common Cancers					10 Major Causes of Cancer Deaths				
Male					Male				
Rank	Site	No. of new cases	Relative frequency	Crude incidence rate*	Rank	Site	No. of deaths	Relative frequency	Crude mortality rate*
1	Lung	2,848	20.8%	86.7	1	Lung	2,465	32.1%	75.0
2	Colorectum	2,405	17.6%	73.2	2	Liver	1,072	14.0%	32.6
3	Prostate	1,484	10.8%	45.2	3	Colorectum	999	13.0%	30.4
4	Liver	1,385	10.1%	42.2	4	Stomach	414	5.4%	12.6
5	Stomach	682	5.0%	20.8	5	Prostate	306	4.0%	9.3
6	Nasopharynx	678	5.0%	20.6	6	Nasopharynx	281	3.7%	8.6
7	Non-melanoma skin	412	3.0%	12.5	7	Oesophagus	269	3.5%	8.2
8	Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	401	2.9%	12.2	8	Pancreas	249	3.2%	7.6
9	Oesophagus	345	2.5%	10.5	9	Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	186	2.4%	5.7
10	Lip, oral cavity and pharynx except nasopharynx	333	2.4%	10.1	10	Leukaemia	144	1.9%	4.4
	All sites	13,681	100.0%	416.5		All sites	7,682	100.0%	233.9
Female					Female				
Rank	Site	No. of new cases	Relative frequency	Crude incidence rate*	Rank	Site	No. of deaths	Relative frequency	Crude mortality rate*
1	Breast	2,945	24.0%	79.9	1	Lung	1,227	23.8%	33.3
2	Colorectum	1,930	15.7%	52.3	2	Colorectum	753	14.6%	20.4
3	Lung	1,517	12.3%	41.1	3	Breast	555	10.8%	15.0
4	Corpus uteri	667	5.4%	18.1	4	Liver	416	8.1%	11.3
5	Thyroid	507	4.1%	13.7	5	Stomach	242	4.7%	6.6
6	Ovary etc.	460	3.7%	12.5	6	Pancreas	200	3.9%	5.4
7	Cervix	453	3.7%	12.3	7	Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	142	2.8%	3.9
8	Liver	447	3.6%	12.1	7	Ovary etc.	142	2.8%	3.9
9	Non-melanoma skin	399	3.2%	10.8	9	Cervix	128	2.5%	3.5
10	Stomach	396	3.2%	10.7	10	Leukaemia	126	2.4%	3.4
	All sites	12,296	100.0%	333.4		All sites	5,157	100.0%	139.8
Both Sexes					Both Sexes				
Rank	Site	No. of new cases	Relative frequency	Crude incidence rate*	Rank	Site	No. of deaths	Relative frequency	Crude mortality rate*
1	Lung	4,365	16.8%	62.6	1	Lung	3,692	28.8%	52.9
2	Colorectum	4,335	16.7%	62.2	2	Colorectum	1,752	13.6%	25.1
3	Breast	2,962	11.4%	42.5	3	Liver	1,488	11.6%	21.3
4	Liver	1,832	7.1%	26.3	4	Stomach	656	5.1%	9.4
5	Prostate	1,484	5.7%	45.2	5	Breast	555	4.3%	8.0
6	Stomach	1,078	4.1%	15.5	6	Pancreas	449	3.5%	6.4
7	Nasopharynx	914	3.5%	13.1	7	Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	359	2.8%	5.1
8	Non-melanoma skin	811	3.1%	11.6	8	Oesophagus	328	2.6%	4.7
9	Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	730	2.8%	10.5	9	Nasopharynx	328	2.6%	4.7
10	Corpus uteri	667	2.6%	18.1	10	Prostate	306	2.4%	9.3
	All sites	25,977	100.0%	372.5		All sites	13,076	100.0%	184.1

* All rates are expressed per 100,000. Rates for gender-specific sites are per 100,000 male or female population.

Statistics on the number of deaths are provided by the Census and Statistics Department and Department of Health of HKSAR.

Appendix 2: Relative Frequency of the Five Most Common Cancers by Gender and Age Group in 2009

Male			Female		
Age 0-19*			Age 0-19*		
Site	No. of cases	% of all sites	Site	No. of cases	% of all sites
Leukaemia	31	28.4%	Leukaemia	17	21.3%
Brain and spinal tumors	24	22.0%	Carcinomas and epithelial neoplasms	12	15.0%
Lymphoma	14	12.8%	Lymphoma	11	13.8%
Germ-cell and gonadal tumors	11	10.1%	Germ-cell and gonadal tumors	11	13.8%
Carcinomas and epithelial neoplasms	8	7.3%	Brain and spinal tumors	10	12.5%
All sites	109	100.0%	All sites	80	100.0%
Age 20-44			Age 20-44		
Site	No. of cases	% of all sites	Site	No. of cases	% of all sites
Nasopharynx	168	20.8%	Breast	596	34.6%
Colorectum	92	11.4%	Thyroid	202	11.7%
Liver	87	10.8%	Ovary etc.	134	7.8%
Lung	57	7.1%	Cervix	132	7.7%
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	48	5.9%	Corpus uteri	93	5.4%
All sites	808	100.0%	All sites	1,725	100.0%
Age 45-64			Age 45-64		
Site	No. of cases	% of all sites	Site	No. of cases	% of all sites
Lung	839	18.0%	Breast	1,676	33.8%
Colorectum	779	16.7%	Colorectum	591	11.9%
Liver	695	14.9%	Lung	470	9.5%
Nasopharynx	390	8.4%	Corpus uteri	434	8.8%
Prostate	279	6.0%	Thyroid	242	4.9%
All sites	4,657	100.0%	All sites	4,959	100.0%
Age 65-74			Age 65-74		
Site	No. of cases	% of all sites	Site	No. of cases	% of all sites
Lung	819	22.4%	Colorectum	405	21.7%
Colorectum	686	18.7%	Lung	306	16.4%
Prostate	594	16.2%	Breast	304	16.3%
Liver	323	8.8%	Liver	104	5.6%
Stomach	175	4.8%	Corpus uteri	74	4.0%
All sites	3,664	100.0%	All sites	1,870	100.0%
Age 75 and Over			Age 75 and Over		
Site	No. of cases	% of all sites	Site	No. of cases	% of all sites
Lung	1,133	25.5%	Colorectum	848	23.2%
Colorectum	848	19.1%	Lung	682	18.6%
Prostate	610	13.7%	Breast	369	10.1%
Liver	278	6.3%	Non-melanoma skin	219	6.0%
Stomach	278	6.3%	Liver	190	5.2%
All sites	4,442	100.0%	All sites	3,662	100.0%

Note: Cases with unknown age are not included in the above table.

* The classification of cancers in children and adolescents (0-19 years) is based on the morphology according to the "International Classification for Childhood Cancer 1996, IARC Technical Report No. 29: Lyon, 1996.", rather than the site of tumor.