



Overview of 2010 Hong Kong Cancer Statistics

Cancer Registration in Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Cancer Registry has since the 1960s 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. The completeness of registration of new cancer cases is generally considered to be of good quality as about 85% of the cases are morphologically verified and the proportion of cases not reported has been less than 1% in recent years based on information from death certificates.

Further details of the Registry and related cancer statistics are available on our web (<http://www.ha.org.hk/cancereg>).

Major findings in 2010

- 26,390 new cases were diagnosed with malignancy (+413 new cases or increased by 1.6% compared to 2009).
- Most of the increase was attributed to the growing number of increase in colorectal in men, breast and lung cancers in women.
- Lung cancer remains the most common cancer in HK although colorectal cancer is projected to supersede lung cancer in the near future.
- Number of invasive breast cancer in women increased by 2.3% to 3,014 cases in 2010 compared to previous year. There were a further 472 cases of in-situ breast cancer reported during 2010. 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 risen by 26% during 2009 but it dropped by nearly 12% (or 53 cases) during 2010. It was ranked 7th in 2009 and dropped to the 10th in 2010.
- During the period 2006-2010, the number of cancer in HK rose at an average annual rate of 2.7% whereas the population grew at an annual rate of 0.6%.
- Cancer is a leading cause of death in Hong Kong, accounting for 30.6% of all deaths in 2010. Altogether 13,076 died from cancer in 2010 (+237 deaths or 1.8%).
- The increase in the number of cancer cases and deaths is primarily the result of an ageing and growing population. As long as current demographic trends continue, there will be a corresponding increase in the number of new cases and deaths from cancer.

Leading cancer types (both genders combined)

Rank	Site	No. in 2010	No. in 2000 (rank)
1	Lung cancer	4,480	3,952 (1)
2	Colorectal cancer	4,370	3,210 (2)
3	Breast cancer	3,025	1,932 (3)
4	Liver cancer	1,863	1,584 (4)
5	Prostate cancer	1,492	683 (7)
	All cancers	26,390	21,349

Leading cancer deaths (both genders combined)

Rank	Site	No. in 2010	No. in 2000 (rank)
1	Lung cancer	3,696	3,326 (1)
2	Colorectal cancer	1,864	1,351 (3)
3	Liver cancer	1,530	1,424 (2)
4	Stomach cancer	686	652 (4)
5	Breast cancer	566	400 (5)
	All cancers	13,076	11,222

Appendix 1 displays the ten most common cancers and cancer killers by gender in 2010.

Cancer and gender

- More men were diagnosed with cancer (13,901) than women (12,489) in the ratio of 1.11 to 1.
- More men died from cancer (7,831) than women (5,245) 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 68 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 75 years in women.

Appendix 2 displays the relative frequency of the five most common cancers by gender and age Group in 2010.

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.

Caution

The numbers of new cases and deaths are important measures of cancer burden on local healthcare system. 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 and mortality can only be made after observing over a longer period, normally 5 years more.

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

Appendix 1: Leading Cancer Sites in 2010

10 Most Common Cancers				
Male				
Rank	Site	No. of new cases	Relative frequency	Crude incidence rate*
1	Lung	2,915	21.0%	88.5
2	Colorectum	2,493	17.9%	75.7
3	Prostate	1,492	10.7%	45.3
4	Liver	1,398	10.1%	42.4
5	Stomach	673	4.8%	20.4
6	Nasopharynx	641	4.6%	19.5
7	Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	448	3.2%	13.6
8	Non-melanoma skin	386	2.8%	11.7
9	Oesophagus	360	2.6%	10.9
10	Lip, oral cavity and pharynx except nasopharynx	351	2.5%	10.7
	All sites	13,901	100.0%	422.0
Female				
Rank	Site	No. of new cases	Relative frequency	Crude incidence rate*
1	Breast	3,014	24.1%	80.8
2	Colorectum	1,877	15.0%	50.3
3	Lung	1,565	12.5%	42.0
4	Corpus uteri	713	5.7%	19.1
5	Thyroid	504	4.0%	13.5
6	Ovary etc.	468	3.7%	12.5
7	Liver	465	3.7%	12.5
8	Stomach	434	3.5%	11.6
9	Non-melanoma skin	430	3.4%	11.5
10	Cervix	400	3.2%	10.7
	All sites	12,489	100.0%	334.8
Both Sexes				
Rank	Site	No. of new cases	Relative frequency	Crude incidence rate*
1	Lung	4,480	17.0%	63.8
2	Colorectum	4,370	16.6%	62.2
3	Breast	3,025	11.5%	43.1
4	Liver	1,863	7.1%	26.5
5	Prostate	1,492	5.7%	45.3
6	Stomach	1,107	4.2%	15.8
7	Nasopharynx	858	3.3%	12.2
8	Non-melanoma skin	816	3.1%	11.6
9	Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	779	3.0%	11.1
10	Corpus uteri	713	2.7%	19.1

10 Major Causes of Cancer Deaths				
Male				
Rank	Site	No. of deaths	Relative frequency	Crude mortality rate*
1	Lung	2,476	31.6%	75.2
2	Liver	1,113	14.2%	33.8
3	Colorectum	1,036	13.2%	31.4
4	Stomach	422	5.4%	12.8
5	Prostate	319	4.1%	9.7
6	Oesophagus	265	3.4%	8.0
7	Pancreas	263	3.4%	8.0
8	Nasopharynx	254	3.2%	7.7
9	Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	207	2.6%	6.3
10	Leukaemia	175	2.2%	5.3
	All sites	7,831	100.0%	237.7
Female				
Rank	Site	No. of deaths	Relative frequency	Crude mortality rate*
1	Lung	1,220	23.3%	32.7
2	Colorectum	828	15.8%	22.2
3	Breast	561	10.7%	15.0
4	Liver	417	8.0%	11.2
5	Stomach	264	5.0%	7.1
6	Pancreas	210	4.0%	5.6
7	Ovary etc.	166	3.2%	4.5
8	Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	155	3.0%	4.2
9	Cervix	146	2.8%	3.9
10	Leukaemia	113	2.2%	3.0
	All sites	5,245	100.0%	140.6
Both Sexes				
Rank	Site	No. of deaths	Relative frequency	Crude mortality rate*
1	Lung	3,696	28.3%	52.6
2	Colorectum	1,864	14.3%	26.5
3	Liver	1,530	11.7%	21.8
4	Stomach	686	5.2%	9.8
5	Breast	566	4.3%	8.1
6	Pancreas	473	3.6%	6.7
7	Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	362	2.8%	5.2
8	Oesophagus	332	2.5%	4.7
9	Nasopharynx	320	2.4%	4.6
10	Prostate	319	2.4%	9.7

* 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 2010

Male			Female		
Age 0-19*			Age 0-19*		
Site	No. of cases	% of all sites	Site	No. of cases	% of all sites
Leukaemia	39	36.8%	Leukaemia	26	28.3%
Germ-cell and gonadal tumors	15	14.2%	Carcinomas and epithelial neoplasms	12	13.0%
Brain and spinal tumors	12	11.3%	Germ-cell and gonadal tumors	11	12.0%
Lymphoma	10	9.4%	Brain and spinal tumors	10	10.9%
Soft tissue sarcoma	10	9.4%	Lymphoma	9	9.8%
All sites	106	100.0%	All sites	92	100.0%
Age 20-44			Age 20-44		
Site	No. of cases	% of all sites	Site	No. of cases	% of all sites
Nasopharynx	162	19.9%	Breast	603	36.3%
Colorectum	102	12.5%	Thyroid	180	10.8%
Liver	78	9.6%	Ovary etc.	131	7.9%
Lung	62	7.6%	Cervix	110	6.6%
Testis	51	6.3%	Corpus uteri	96	5.8%
All sites	813	100.0%	All sites	1,662	100.0%
Age 45-64			Age 45-64		
Site	No. of cases	% of all sites	Site	No. of cases	% of all sites
Lung	891	18.3%	Breast	1,709	32.8%
Colorectum	838	17.2%	Colorectum	581	11.2%
Liver	711	14.6%	Lung	514	9.9%
Nasopharynx	372	7.7%	Corpus uteri	494	9.5%
Prostate	297	6.1%	Thyroid	249	4.8%
All sites	4,860	100.0%	All sites	5,209	100.0%
Age 65-74			Age 65-74		
Site	No. of cases	% of all sites	Site	No. of cases	% of all sites
Lung	848	23.7%	Colorectum	383	20.7%
Colorectum	627	17.5%	Lung	321	17.4%
Prostate	599	16.7%	Breast	308	16.7%
Liver	305	8.5%	Liver	111	6.0%
Stomach	161	4.5%	Stomach	89	4.8%
All sites	3,583	100.0%	All sites	1,848	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	1,114	24.5%	Colorectum	834	22.7%
Colorectum	925	20.4%	Lung	673	18.3%
Prostate	595	13.1%	Breast	394	10.7%
Liver	304	6.7%	Non-melanoma skin	229	6.2%
Stomach	278	6.1%	Liver	187	5.1%
All sites	4,539	100.0%	All sites	3,678	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.