



Cancer Survival Rates

Ongoing medical research over the last 2 decades has seen the cancer survival rate of many common cancers increase by over 30%. However the survival rate across all cancers is still only around 60%, and with over 88,000 new cases diagnosed each year, it remains a major cause of death in Australia.

Five-year relative survivals by cancer type in persons in NSW and Australia

From Tracey E, Chen S, Baker D, Bishop J, Jelfs P. Cancer in New South Wales Incidence and Mortality 2004, Cancer Institute of NSW, November 2006, p 89. For a full copy of the report [click here](#).

Cancer Site	NSW* (1999 - 2003)	NSW (1980 - 1995)	Australia ** (1992 to 1997)
All Cancer	63%		59%
Bladder	61%	72%	69%
Brain	20%	19%	24%
Breast	88%	77%	84%
Cervix	74%	72%	75%
Colon	64%	56%	59%
Head & Neck	55%		
Hodgkin's lymphoma	86%	77%	84%
Kidney	65%	54%	59%
Large bowel	67%		
Leukaemia	46%	37%	42%
Lip	91%	95%	
Liver	16%	9%	
Lung	14%	11%	12%
Melanoma	90%	92%	92%
Mesothelioma	4%	7%	
Multiple myeloma	38%	32%	NA
Myelodysplasia	52%		
Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	61%	52%	55%
Oesophagus	20%	14%	NA
Ovary	43%	37%	42%
Pancreas	7%	5%	5%
Prostate	88%	72%	83%
Rectum	67%	57%	57%

Stomach	30%	23%	23%
Testis	96%	95%	95%
Thyroid	94%	95%	88%
Unknown primary	16%		13%
Uterus	81%	82%	81%

* Supramaniam R, Smith D, Coates M, Armstrong B Survival from Cancer in New South Wales in 1980 to 1995. Sydney, NSW, Cancer Council, 1998

** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and Australasian Association of Cancer Registries (ACCR) 2001. Cancer survival in Australia, 2001. Part 1: National summary statistics. AIHW cat. No. CAN 13. Canberra: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (Cancer Series No 18)

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