

Cancer Care Ontario

FACT SHEET: Statistics

- The Ontario Cancer Plan is a roadmap for improving the cancer system so the right care is provided at the right time for everyone who needs it.
- In Ontario, someone is diagnosed with cancer every eight minutes.
- It is estimated that 45 per cent of males and 40 per cent of females in Ontario are likely to develop cancer in their lifetime.
- Most cancer in Ontarians occurs at ages 50-64 (30 per cent) and 65-79 (39 per cent).
- Cancer mortality rates have been declining, and survival improving for the most common types of cancers and in most age groups. More patients are living longer with cancer.
- The number of new cancer cases diagnosed annually in Ontario doubled from 30,337 in 1982 to 61,178 in 2006.
- There are more than 200 different types of cancer. The four most common types – lung, prostate, breast and colorectal – account for 54 per cent of all cancers in Ontario.
- In 2006, prostate cancer represented 30 per cent of new cancers diagnosed in men, followed by lung and colorectal cancer each accounting for 13 per cent of all male cancers.
- In 2006, breast cancer represented 27 per cent of new cancers diagnosed in women, followed by lung and colorectal cancer each accounting for 12 per cent of all female cancers.
- Incidence rates are rising for some of the less common types of cancer, in particular melanoma of the skin, thyroid, testicular, kidney (females only) and liver, but are falling for others, such as bladder, stomach, pancreas and cervix.
- By 2015:
 - Every person in Ontario will be able to calculate their personal risk for developing cancer and be linked to resources to help reduce their risk.
 - The cancer journey will be mapped to ensure patients are treated according to the best evidence and improve the performance of our Regional Cancer Programs.
 - A system will determine that the most effective new cancer therapies are funded and available.
 - Every cancer patient in Ontario will have access to more information tools, online and hands-on tools like Patient Navigators.
 - Every cancer patient in Ontario will have the chance to give feedback on their experience with cancer, and will have their interests represented through a Patient Advisory Council.