



South Australia 2007 figures

number of cases	1,692
number of deaths	254
incidence/100,000 (ASR* Aust 2001 population)	193.5
mortality/100,000 (ASR* Aust 2001 population)	29.9
risk of developing cancer (by age 75 years)	1 in 7

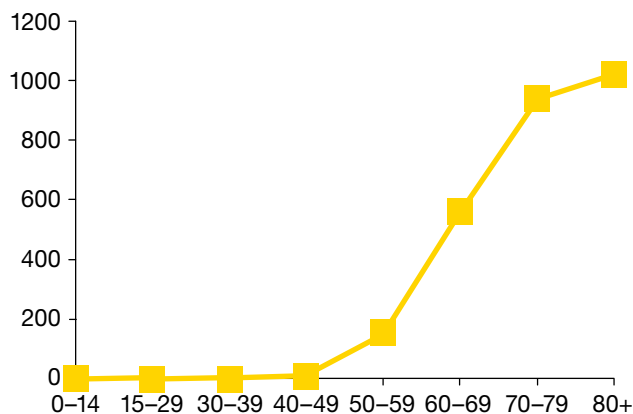
*ASR – Age Standardised Rate

Patterns in incidence and mortality

Age

Prostate cancer is rarely diagnosed in men under 50 years of age. From 50 years of age onwards prostate cancer incidence increases steadily and is highest in men 80 years and over.

Age specific prostate cancer incidence (annual average rate/100,000, SA 1998–2007)



Country of birth

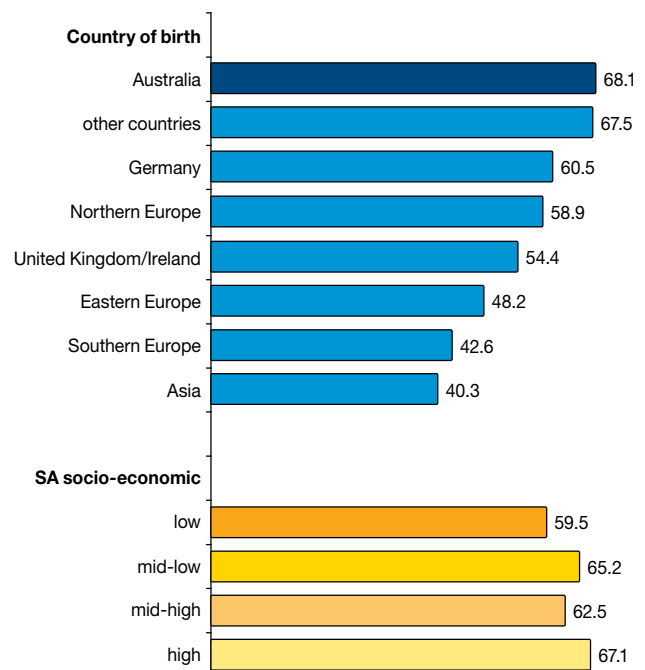
Within South Australia, overseas-born residents had an incidence during 1977–2000 approximately three quarters that of the Australian born. Residents born in Asia, Southern Europe, Eastern Europe, and the United Kingdom/Ireland contributed to this lower incidence.

SES/region

Although the incidence of prostate cancer was highest in residents of high socio-economic areas of South Australia during 1977–2001, as reported for other populations, the gradient was not consistent across socio-economic strata.

The Southern region of Adelaide presented a higher incidence of prostate cancer than other Adelaide regions. Similarly, the Murray Mallee had a relatively high incidence, whereas there were comparatively low rates in the Far North, Flinders Ranges, Whyalla and the Lower South East.

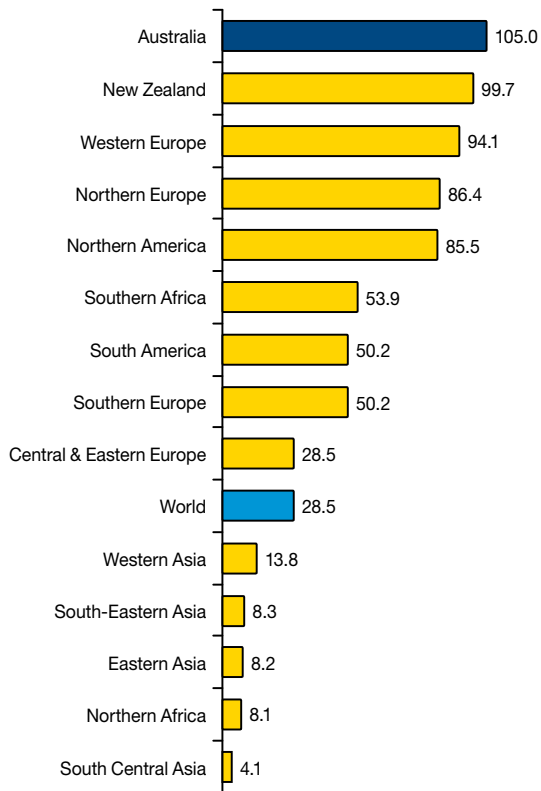
Prostate cancer incidence by country of birth and SES (annual rate/100,000, SA 1977–2001, ASR World population)



Global comparisons

Australia has a high incidence of diagnosed prostate cancer compared with other regions. Meanwhile, the variation by region of the world was greater than 20-fold. This is largely due to variations in the use of prostate specific antigen (PSA) testing to detect potential cases of prostate cancer.

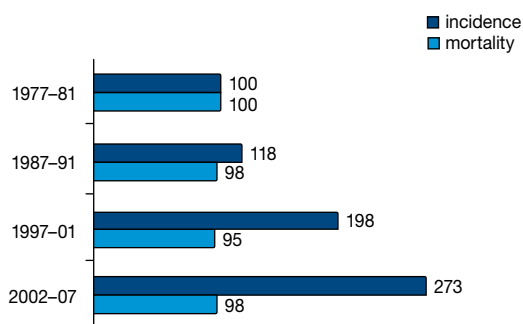
Prostate cancer incidence rate by region of the world (rate/100,000 ASR World population, Globocan 2008)



Trends

Incidence rates has almost tripled between 1977–81 and 2002–2007, with most of the increase occurring during the 1990s when there were major increases in PSA testing. Meanwhile trends in mortality rates have remained relatively constant over the past three decades.

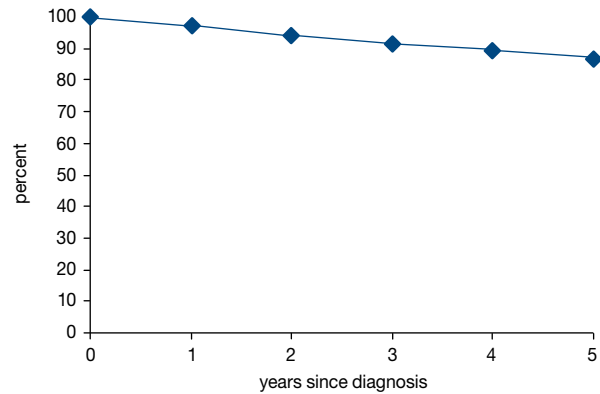
Trends in prostate cancer incidence and mortality in SA (rates for 1977–81 set at '100')



Survival

Survival outcomes for men diagnosed with prostate cancer are very favourable with 87% of men diagnosed between 1997 and 2003 surviving their cancer for five years or more. Survival rates have improved substantially (from 58% for men diagnosed between 1977 and 1981 surviving five years or more). Increased survival is likely to reflect higher proportions of men being diagnosed with an earlier stage of disease.

Survival from prostate cancer SA, 1997–2003



Risk factors

Causes of prostate cancer are unknown, although diets high in fat, red meat and milk, and low in vegetables have been linked to an increased risk in some studies. Also, elevated risks have been observed to correlate with high alcohol intake and occupational exposures to cadmium and rubber. Screening for prostate cancer greatly increases the numbers of diagnosed lesions. Cancers found through screening would include potentially lethal lesions plus others which otherwise would have remained undetected throughout life.

Data sources:

- Cancer Registry reports, South Australian Department of Health
- Globocan 2008, IARC.

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