



South Australia 2007 figures

number of cases

number of deaths

incidence/100,000 (ASR* Aust 2001 population)

mortality/100,000 (ASR* Aust 2001 population)

risk of developing cancer (by age 75 years)

	males	females	persons
number of cases	99	51	150
number of deaths	78	32	110
incidence/100,000 (ASR* Aust 2001 population)	11.4	4.6	7.7
mortality/100,000 (ASR* Aust 2001 population)	9.1	3.1	5.7
risk of developing cancer (by age 75 years)	1 in 134	1 in 356	1 in 197

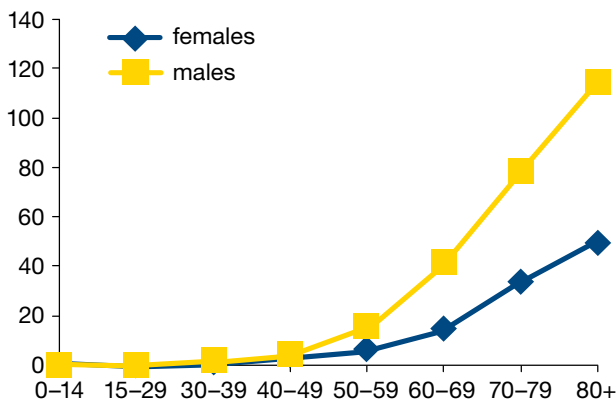
*ASR – Age Standardised Rate

Patterns in incidence and mortality

Age

Stomach cancer rarely occurs before 40 years of age. From 40 onwards the incidence of stomach cancer increases with increasing age, to be highest among those aged 80 yrs or older.

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



Gender

Males are nearly twice as likely as females to develop stomach cancer.

Country of birth

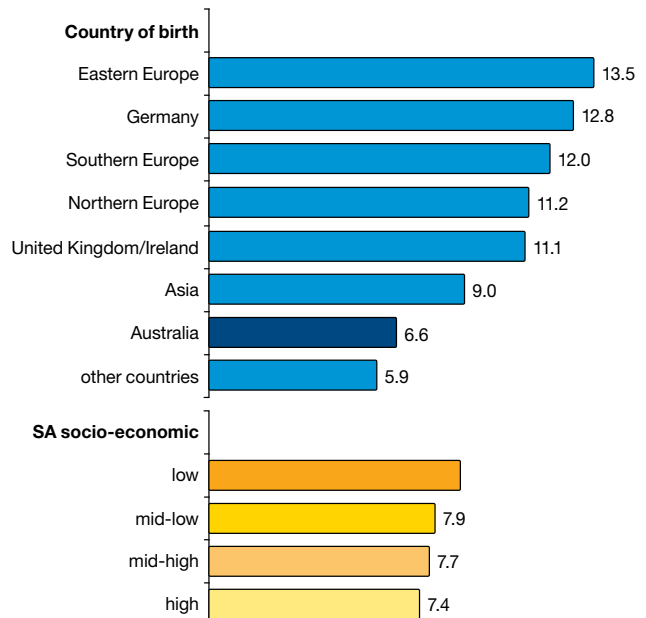
Within South Australia in 1977–2000, residents born overseas had an incidence almost 75% higher than the Australian born. Irrespective of whether they were born in Asia, the United Kingdom/Ireland, Germany or other Northern European countries, Southern Europe or Eastern Europe, the overseas born had higher incidence rates.

Socio-economic status (SES)/region

South Australian males from lower (SES) areas had a higher incidence of stomach cancer than other male residents during 1977–2001. Females from low SES areas also tended to have a higher incidence, although the gradient was less pronounced. International data consistently show a low SES gradient for this cancer.

The incidence was about 22% higher in Adelaide than rural South Australia in 1977–2001, both in males and females. The Western region had a high incidence, reflecting the distribution of many overseas-born residents and the relatively low SES of some suburbs. Although elevated incidence rates also were suggested for Kangaroo Island and Whyalla, they were in the range attributable to chance.

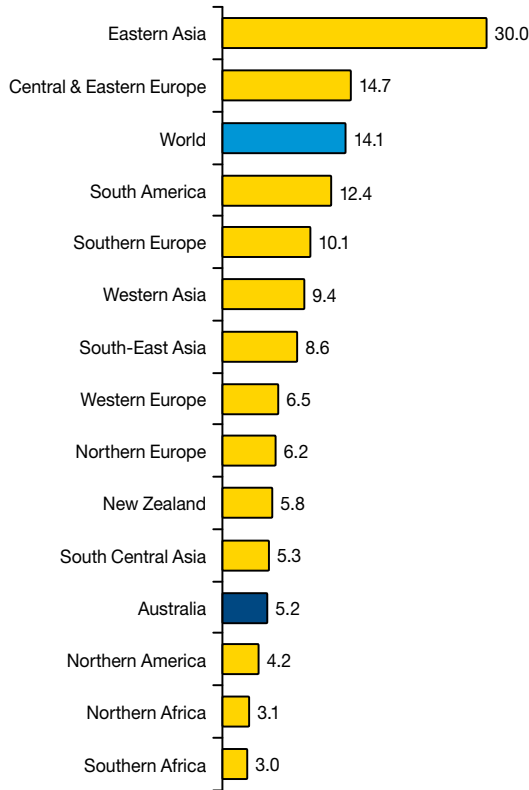
Stomach cancer incidence by country of birth and SES (annual rate/100,000, SA 1977–2001, ASR World population)



Global comparisons

Australia has a relatively low incidence of stomach cancer by international standards. A greater than tenfold variation in incidence is evident around the world.

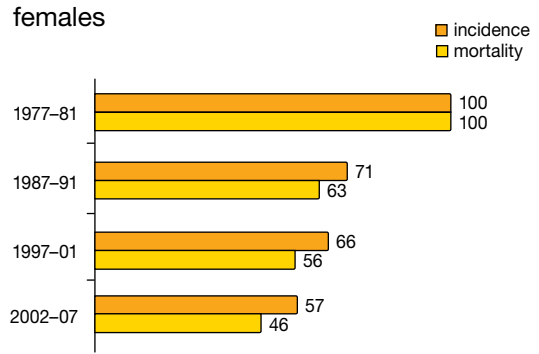
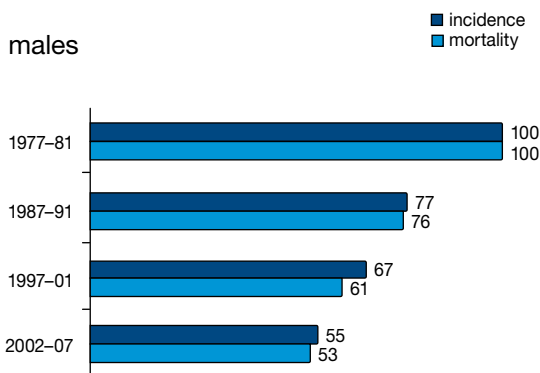
Stomach cancer incidence by region of the world (rate/100,000 ASR World population, Globocan 2008)



Trends

Incidence and mortality rates reduced by more than 40% between 1977–81 and 2002–2007. These trends followed an earlier decrease in mortality of about 45% over the two decades prior to the establishment of the cancer registry (based on death records). The decline in mortality is likely to be due largely to decreases in incidence.

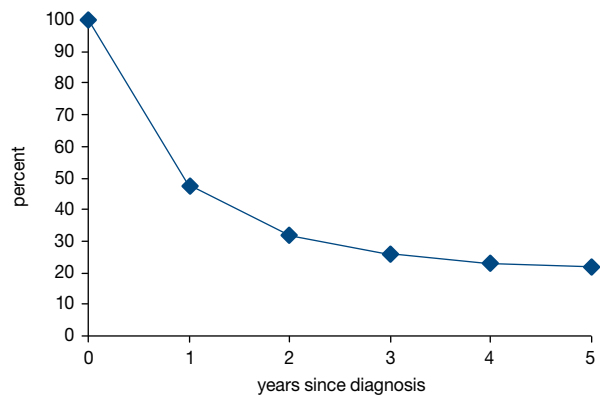
Trends in stomach cancer incidence and mortality in SA (rates for 1977–81 set at ‘100’)



Survival

Survival outcomes from stomach cancer are relatively poor with only 22% surviving the disease five years after diagnosis (for the period 1997–2003). There has been a small improvement in survival since 1977–1981 when only 18% survived for five years or more.

Survival from stomach cancer SA, 1997–2003



Risk factors

Risk factors include:

- diets low in fruit and vegetables
- a high intake of salted and (possibly) smoked, cured and/or pickled foods, and heavily grilled or barbecued meat and fish
- poor access to refrigeration
- *helicobacter pylori* infection.

Data sources:

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

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next review due September 2011