

February 2, 2015

Follow AHS_Media on Twitter 

Report: Alberta cancer rates continue to trend downwards

EDMONTON — CancerControl Alberta today released its biennial Report on Cancer Statistics in Alberta (2012) in preparation for World Cancer Day.

Report highlights:

- Alberta's cancer incidence rates have steadily declined by about one per cent annually between 2002 and 2012.
- Mortality rates have also decreased over the past 20 years, falling by 2.2 per cent annually between 2005 and 2012.
- Approximately one in two Albertans will develop cancer in their lifetime and approximately one in four Albertans will die from cancer.
- In Alberta in 2012, there were about 16,330 cancer cases diagnosed and about 5,817 people died from cancer.
- Between 1992 and 2012, the provincial population increased more than 48 per cent from 2.6 million to 3.9 million, and the median age rose from 31 to 36.
- In 2012, cancer accounted for 27 per cent of deaths in the province for all ages, making it the second-leading cause of death in Alberta after deaths from circulatory system diseases (30 per cent).
- Cancer was the leading contributor to potential years of life lost (PYLL) for men and women, representing 28 per cent of the PYLL resulting from all causes of death in Alberta.
- As of Dec. 31, 2012, approximately 131,550 Albertans were alive who had previously been diagnosed with cancer; an increase of over 11,000 survivors in two years. This indicates that more people diagnosed with cancer are living longer after diagnosis due to treatments.
- The most commonly diagnosed cancers in Alberta in 2012 were breast, prostate, lung and colorectal. These four cancers accounted for 52 per cent of new cancer cases and about half of cancer deaths.
- While breast cancer was the most commonly diagnosed cancer among females in 2012 with about 2,350 new cases, incidence rates have actually been stable over the past two decades and mortality rates have decreased.

Follow AHS_Media on Twitter 

- Prostate cancer was the most commonly diagnosed cancer among males, with about 2,338 cases in 2012. Mortality rates have decreased by 2.6 per cent annually over the past 20 years.
- Lung cancer was the leading cause of cancer deaths in both males and females in 2012, accounting for 1,428 cancer deaths.
- Colorectal cancer was the second most commonly diagnosed cancer among both sexes combined, with about 1,911 new cases in 2012. Although incidence rates have remained stable over the past decade, mortality rates have decreased over the past two decades.

The full report is available here <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/1774.asp>