Prostate cancer burden in EU-27

Prostate cancer begins when cells in the prostate gland start to grow out of control. The prostate is a small, walnut-shaped gland in men that produces the seminal fluid, which nourishes and transports sperm.

It is estimated that, in EU-27 countries in 2020, prostate cancer accounted for 23.2% of all new cancer cases (excluding non-melanoma skin cancers) diagnosed in men and for 9.9% of all deaths due to cancer in men. This made it the most frequently occurring cancer in men and the third cause of cancer death in men—after lung and colorectal cancers.

2020 new cases (incidence) and deaths (mortality) estimates

NEW CASES OF PROSTATE CANCER per 100,000 men*

- EU-27, men, all ages, 2020

DEATHS CAUSED BY PROSTATE CANCER per 100,000 men*

- EU-27, men, all ages, 2020

*European standard population, 2013
Prostate cancer is the most frequently occurring cancer in men and the third cause of cancer death in men—after lung and colorectal cancers.


Prostate cancer incidence and mortality rates have tended to decrease in many EU countries in the recent years.

The five-year survival of prostate cancer patients diagnosed in 2000-2007 is highest in Western Europe and lowest in some countries of Eastern Europe. This in part reflects variations in cancer management and treatment.

Grateful acknowledgement is given to the European cancer registries as the data source for the indicators reported in the European Cancer Information System (ECIS).

This factsheet is part of a series that reports information from ECIS for all cancer sites.

For details, or to find other cancer factsheets, please visit https://ecis.jrc.ec.europa.eu or scan this QR code.