

Press release: 13 249-015/24

Number of cancer patients 15% higher by 2030

More cancer patients due to population growth and ageing

Vienna, 2024-01-25 – As reported by Statistics Austria on the occasion of World Cancer Day on 4 February, around 45 000 people in Austria are diagnosed with cancer every year. By 2030, the number of new cancer cases diagnosed each year is expected to rise to up to 50 000.

“Around 400 000 people are currently living with a cancer diagnosis in Austria. In the coming years, the number of patients will continue to rise due to population growth and the increasing proportion of older people. In addition, advances in medicine are helping to detect cancer more frequently and at an earlier stage, thereby increasing the number of new cases registered. By 2030, the number of cancer patients is expected to increase to 460 000, which is 15% more than in 2022,” says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

Rising number of cancer cases

For many types of cancer, such as malignant tumours in the stomach, colorectum, lung (in men), kidney and bladder, the risk of developing the disease is constantly decreasing. In the case of prostate cancer, after a previous long-course decline, there has been a sharp rise in the number of cases since 2015. The number of new cases of lung cancer in women has been increasing for years. Overall, the number of new cases of cancer is increasing from year to year. This is also due to the ageing of the Austrian population.

Age is one of the biggest risk factors for cancer. According to the population projection by Statistics Austria, the number of people aged 75 and over will increase by 16% until 2030 compared to 2020, and by almost 60% until 2040. The number of newly diagnosed cases of cancer in Austria each year is also expected to rise, to up to 50 000 annually in 2030. The number of people living with a cancer diagnosis would increase from 400 000 in 2022 to almost 460 000 in 2030.

Most common new cancer cases: breast cancer in women, prostate cancer in men

In 2022, 20 683 women and 24 081 men were diagnosed with cancer in Austria. The most frequent diagnoses were malignant tumours of the breast in women (6 096 cases) and malignant tumours of the prostate in men (7 000 cases), followed by malignant tumours of the lung (5 203 cases, both sexes combined) and malignant tumours of the colon or rectum (4 467 cases, both sexes combined).

In 2022, breast cancer accounted for around 30% of new cases of cancer in women and 16% of all cancer deaths. Breast cancer was therefore the second most common cause of cancer-related deaths in women. Prostate cancer also accounted for just under 30% of all newly diagnosed malignant neoplasms in men in 2022 and was responsible for around one in eight cancer deaths (13%) in men in 2022. While breast cancer in women shows a stable risk of disease over time and the increase in cases is due to population growth, prostate cancer shows a more differentiated pattern. In the case of prostate cancer, a sharp increase in the incidence rate between 1993 and 2003 was followed by a sharp decline until 2013. Since 2015, the incidence rate has risen again.

In 2022, lung cancer ranked second among new cancer cases, with 2 302 cases (11%) in women and 2 901 cases (12%) in men. With around one in five cancer deaths, lung cancer ranked first among cancer-related causes of death in men (21%), and now also ranked first in women (just ahead of breast cancer, 18% and 16%, respectively). Following a sharp increase in the risk of disease among women in previous years, it has

remained relatively stable since 2016. This trend can now also be seen in the risk of death. In men, the risk of illness and death has been declining for years.

The third most common site for new cases in 2022 was colorectal cancer with 2 028 cases (10%) in women and 2 439 cases (10%) in men. Colorectal cancer was responsible for just below 10% of cancer deaths. The risk of developing colorectal cancer is significantly lower for women than for men and has fallen slightly more sharply for men than for women in recent years. The same decline can also be seen in mortality rates.

More and more people are living with cancer

Relative five-year survival has increased in recent decades, averaging around 62% in the 2014 to 2018 diagnosis period. Thus, the survival disadvantage of people with cancer is 38% compared to the general population. The most important factors affecting survival after a cancer diagnosis include tumour entity and tumour stage at diagnosis. Tumour sites with a good prognosis are primarily the testicles, thyroid, and prostate. In contrast, malignant tumours of the lung, oesophagus, liver, and pancreas have a poor or very poor prognosis.

In the period from 1983 to 2022, the Austrian Cancer Registry recorded about 1.49 million new cases of cancer in around 1.37 million people. Of these people, 402 805 were still alive at the end of 2022, including 209 422 women and 193 383 men. In relation to the total population, people suffering from cancer accounted for around 4%. These people had a total of 434 947 tumours.

Over the past ten years, the number of new cases per year has increased from around 40 000 to about 45 000. Accordingly, cancer prevalence, i.e. the number of people living with cancer on a given date, has been rising steadily for years. In 2012, 318 898 people were living with a cancer diagnosis in Austria, about 84 000 fewer than in 2022, resulting in a 26% increase in prevalence from 2012 to 2022 (women 25% and men 28%). This is mainly due to the fact that, in absolute terms, there are more and more people of advanced age as a result of demographic ageing and increasing life expectancy, and the probability of developing cancer increases with age. Increased screening and improved diagnostic methods also contribute to the increased and earlier detection of cancer and thus increase the number of registered new cases.

Detailed results and further information on cancer statistics can be found on our [website](#).

Incidence, mortality, five-year survival, and prevalence of cancer 2022

Cancer localisations ¹	Incidence	Survival ²	Prevalence ³	Mortality
	Absolute numbers	in %	Absolute numbers	Absolute numbers
Head and Neck (C00-C14)	1 360	53.0	9 758	586
Esophagus (C15)	461	21.4	1 466	393
Stomach (C16)	1 173	36.5	7 388	704
Colon and Rectum (C18-21)	4 467	62.9	45 221	1 980
Liver (C22)	1 007	18.3	2 198	887
Pancreas (C25)	1 970	11.4	3 388	1 897
Larynx (C32)	326	58.4	3 040	145
Trachea, Bronchus and Lung (C33-C34)	5 203	23.8	16 788	4 125
Malignant Melanoma of the Skin (C43)	1 845	85.2	26 191	399
Breast (C50)	6 161	87.0	89 930	1 605
Cervix (C53)	439	66.4	9 022	129
Corpus Uteri (C54)	1 034	78.4	14 632	208
Ovary (C56)	718	44.8	7 197	487
Prostate Gland (C61)	7 000	93.8	78 150	1 417
Testis (C62)	425	95.8	11 312	13
Kidney (C64)	1 314	78.5	17 276	445
Bladder (C67)	1 247	66.6	14 772	591
Central Nervous System (C70-C72)	770	31.1	4 706	650

Cancer localisations ¹	Incidence	Survival ²	Prevalence ³	Mortality
	Absolute numbers	in %	Absolute numbers	Absolute numbers
Thyroid Gland (C73)	906	95.3	17 830	74
Hodgkin's disease (C81)	203	86.4	4 256	31
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (C82-C86, C96)	1 394	67.2	14 773	630
Myeloma (C90)	556	51.8	3 008	375
Leukaemia (C91-C95)	1 264	53.7	10 340	895
Other malignancies (rest of C-codes and B21 excl. B21.2)	3 521	-	22 305	2 339
Malignant Neoplasms total (C00-C97, excl. C44)	44 764	62.0	434 947	
All persons with a cancer diagnosis (C00-C97, excl. C44)	-		402 805	21 005

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Austrian National Cancer Registry (as of 9 January 2024) and Causes of Death Statistics.

1) Malignant invasive cases, incl. DCO cases. – 2) Cumulative five-year relative survival related to the diagnosis period 2014 to 2018, end of follow-up 31.12.2023. – 3) on 31.12.2022.

Information on methodology, definitions: With its cancer statistics, the Austrian National Cancer Registry of Statistics Austria provides the data basis for observing and analysing cancer incidence in Austria, for evaluating health policy measures and also for further research. The register has been collecting data on cancer cases for the whole of Austria on a statutory basis for around 40 years, on the basis of which cancer statistics are compiled annually and made available to the public. The cancer statistics provide a basis for fact-based public debates, empirical research and evidence-based decisions in society, politics and the economy. The results include data on incidence, prevalence and survival after a cancer diagnosis. They are based on mandatory cancer registrations, which in addition to information on the cancer contain information on the age, gender and place of residence of the patients. Information on the Cancer Registry and the Cancer Statistics Ordinance 2019 can be found here:

<https://www.statistik.at/en/about-us/surveys/educational-cultural-research-and-health-institutions/cancer-registry-notification>

Cancer incidence refers to the number of new cancer cases per calendar year.

Age-standardized incidence rates are adjusted for effects of a changing age structure over time or different age compositions of the respective reference populations and can be interpreted in terms of disease risk.

Cancer prevalence is the number of persons (or the proportion in a population) who are alive with a previous cancer diagnosis at a given time. All cancer diagnoses are included in this measure, regardless of the individual's health status. Prevalence data were calculated based on figures from the Austrian Cancer Registry and a follow-up of the survival status of all registered individuals. Since individuals may also have multiple malignancies, prevalence is reported by individuals with cancer (regardless of the number of malignancies) as well as by tumour location. Consequently, the overall prevalence by tumour location is higher than by person.

Relative survival relates the observed survival of cancer patients after a certain period of time (cumulative, e.g. five years) to the survival of the total population, taking into account age and sex distribution. A relative survival rate of 100% means that the mortality among cancer patients is as high as the mortality of the general population of the same age and sex. Relative survival is thus an estimator of cancer-specific survival that is independent of knowledge of the true cause of death. For more information on calculating cancer patient survival, see Dickman, P. (2004): "Estimating and modeling relative survival using SAS" at <https://www.pauldickman.com>.

The results on **cancer deaths** are derived from linking the data of the cancer registry with the data of the cause-of-death statistics. The definition of cancer deaths follows the rules of the International Association of Cancer Registries (IACR). Therefore, the results differ somewhat from the results of the cause-of-death statistics.

If you have any questions on this topic, please contact:

Monika Hackl, Tel.: +43 1 71128-7355, E-Mail: monika.hackl@statistik.gv.at

Petra Ihle, Tel.: +43 1 71128-7533, E-Mail: petra.ihle@statistik.gv.at

Media owner, producer and publisher:

STATISTICS AUSTRIA | Federal Institution under Public Law | Guglgasse 13 | 1110 Vienna | www.statistik.at

Press: phone: +43 1 711 28-7777 | e-mail: presse@statistik.gv.at

© STATISTICS AUSTRIA