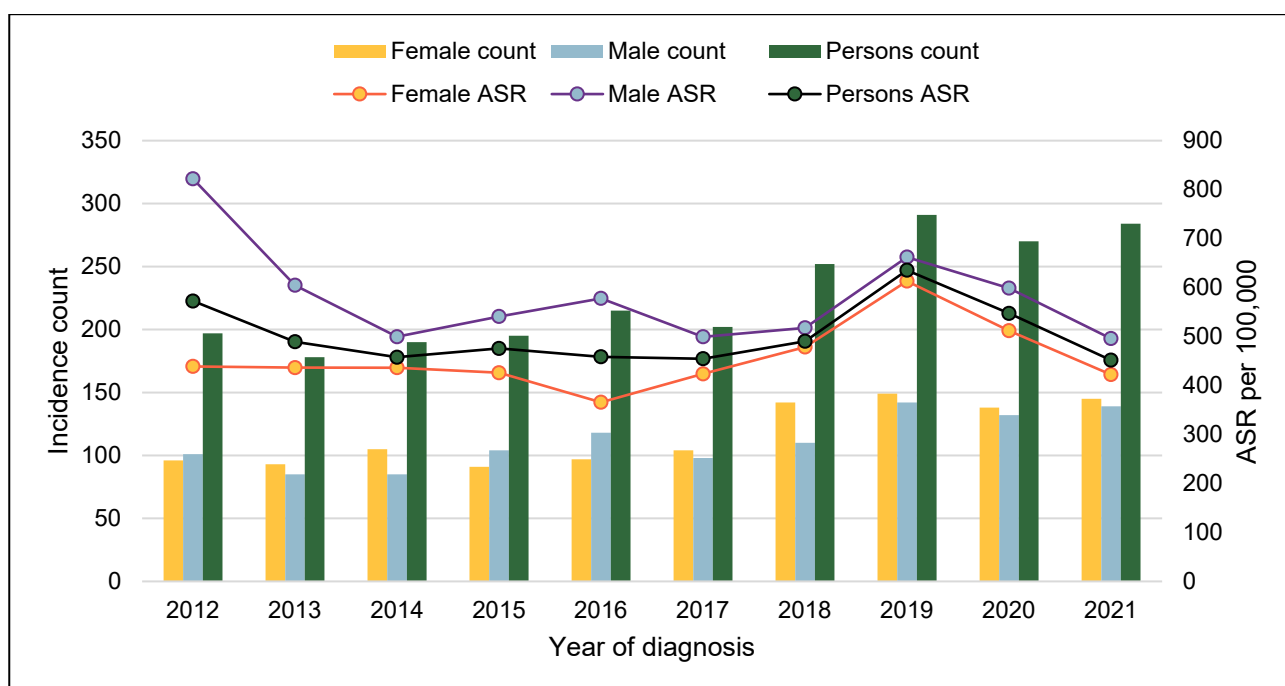


# Cancer incidence in WA Aboriginal population

## Age-standardised cancer incidence rates in WA Aboriginal population

In 2021, there were 284 new diagnoses of cancer among Aboriginal persons living in WA. Of these, 51.1 per cent were female (145 cases) and 48.9 per cent were male (139 cases). The age-standardised incidence rate decreased by 21.1 per cent, from 572.4 cases per 100,000 people in 2012 to an estimated 451.7 cases per 100,000 in 2021 (Figure 11). In 2021, cumulative risk estimates indicated that 1 in 3 Aboriginal females and 1 in 3 Aboriginal males were at risk of receiving a cancer diagnosis before the age of 75. Between 2018 and 2021, incidence rates among females decreased by 11.7 per cent, from 478.4 to 422.3 per 100,000. In contrast, incidence rates for males decreased by 4.2 per cent, from 517.7 to 496.0 per 100,000 (Figure 11). Small case numbers may influence annual variability, and caution should be exercised in interpreting trends over time.

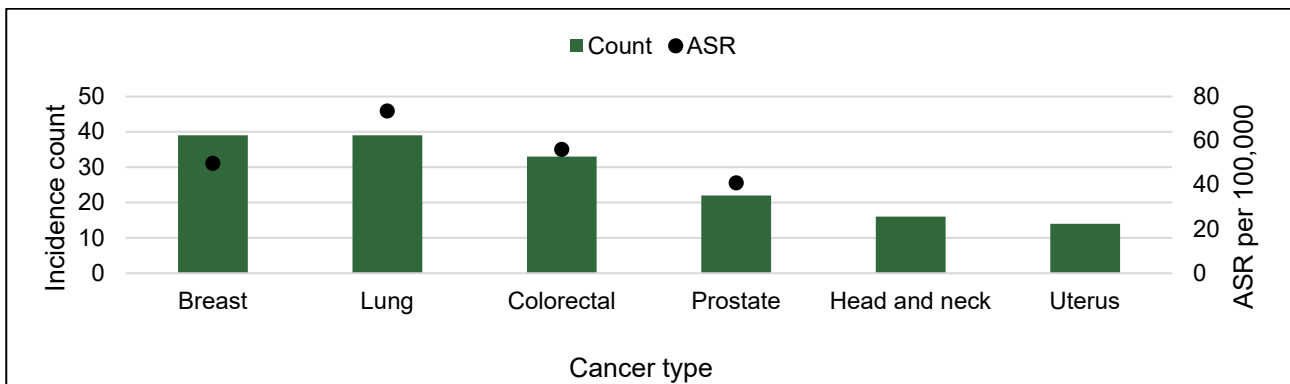


Note: These results should be interpreted with caution due to small case numbers and year-to-year fluctuations.

Figure 11. Incidence counts and age-standardised incidence rates (per 100,000) of all cancers by sex among Aboriginal people, WA, 2012 to 2021

## Leading cancer type by cancer incidence in WA Aboriginal population

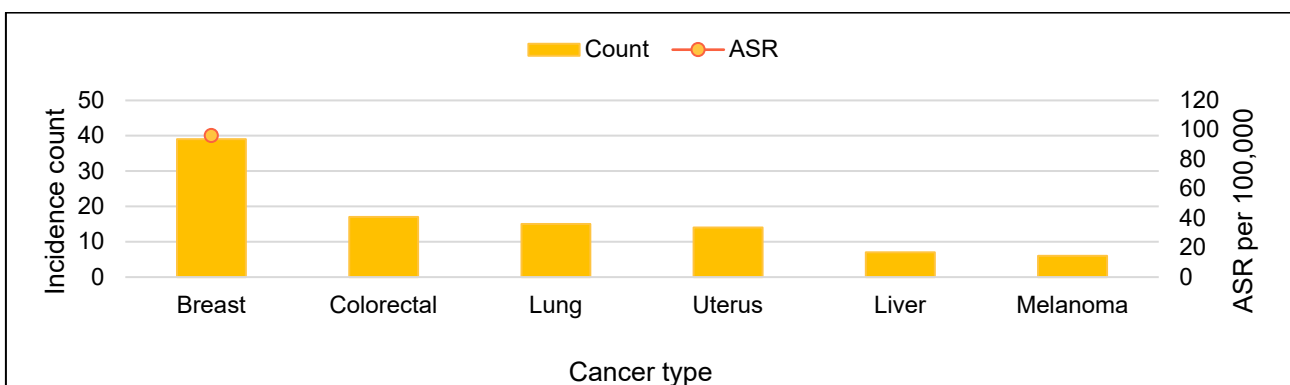
The most common cancer diagnoses in 2021 were breast, lung, colorectal, prostate, head and neck, and uterine cancer, representing 57.4 per cent of all new cancer diagnoses within the Aboriginal population (163 of 284 cases) (Figure 12).



Note: These results should be interpreted with caution due to small case numbers. Age-standardised incidence rates are not calculated when the number of cases is less than 20, as estimates based on small numbers are statistically unstable and unreliable.

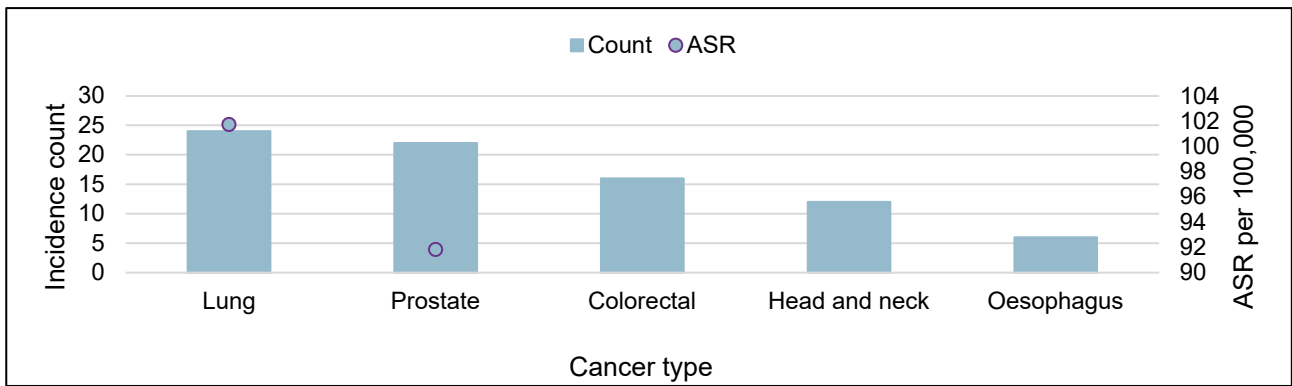
Figure 12. Leading cancer type by incidence count and age-standardised incidence rate among Aboriginal persons, WA, 2021

For Aboriginal females, breast, colorectal, lung, uterine, liver, and melanoma were the most diagnosed cancers, accounting for 67.6 per cent of new diagnoses in 2021 (98 of 145 cases) (Figure 13). For Aboriginal males, lung, prostate, colorectal, head and neck, and oesophageal cancer were the most diagnosed cancers, accounting for 57.6 per cent of new diagnoses in 2021 (80 of 139 cases) (Figure 14).



Note: These results should be interpreted with caution due to small case numbers. Age-standardised incidence rates are not calculated when the number of cases is less than 20, as estimates based on small numbers are statistically unstable and unreliable.

Figure 13. Leading cancer type by incidence count and age-standardised incidence rate among Aboriginal females, WA, 2021

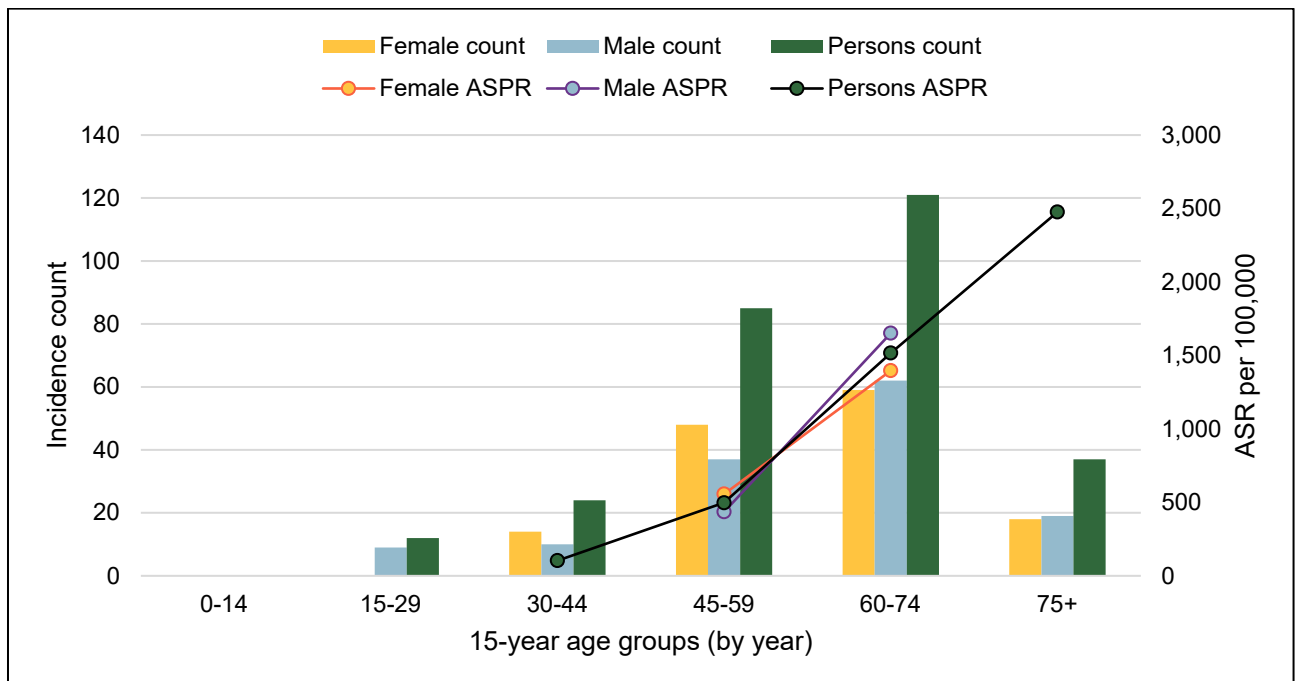


Note: These results should be interpreted with caution due to small case numbers. Age-standardised incidence rates are not calculated when the number of cases is less than 20, as estimates based on small numbers are statistically unstable and unreliable.

Figure 14. Leading cancer type by incidence count and age-standardised incidence rate among Aboriginal males, WA, 2021

### Age-specific cancer incidence rates in WA Aboriginal population

Cancer incidence also generally increased with age within the WA Aboriginal population (Figure 15). In 2021, Aboriginal persons aged 75 years and older had an incidence rate almost double that of those aged 60 to 74 years, 5 times higher than those aged 45 to 59 years, and 24 times higher than those aged 30 to 44 years. By sex, the highest reportable age-specific incidence rate was experienced by those aged 60 to 74 years for both Aboriginal females and males.



Note: These results should be interpreted with caution due to small case numbers. Age-specific incidence rates are not calculated when the number of cases is less than 20, as estimates based on small numbers are statistically unstable and unreliable. Case counts less than 6 are not displayed to protect privacy and confidentiality.

Figure 15. Age-specific incidence rates of all cancers by sex among Aboriginal people, WA, 2021