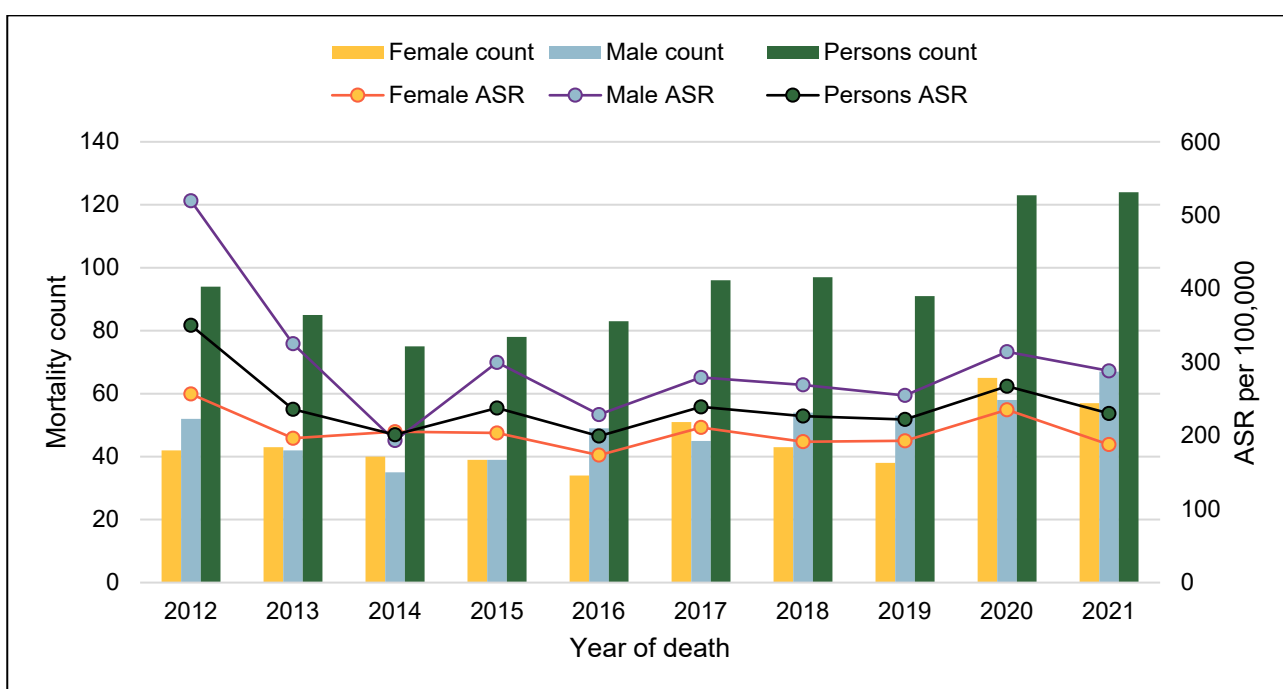


# Cancer mortality in WA Aboriginal population

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

In 2021, there were 124 cancer-related deaths among Aboriginal persons living in WA. Of these, 46.0 per cent occurred in females (57 cases) and 54.0 per cent in males (67 cases). The age-standardised mortality rate (ASR) decreased by 34.3 per cent, from 350.1 deaths per 100,000 people in 2012 to an estimated 230.2 deaths per 100,000 people in 2021 (Figure 16). Cumulative risk estimates in 2021 indicated that in WA, 1 in 8 Aboriginal females and 1 in 6 Aboriginal males were at risk of dying from cancer before the age of 75. Between 2012 and 2021, mortality rates decreased by 26.8 per cent among females (from 256.6 to 187.8 per 100,000) and has decreased by 44.6 per cent among males (from 519.6 to 288.1 per 100,000) (Figure 16). Small case numbers may influence annual variability, and caution should be exercised in interpreting trends over time.

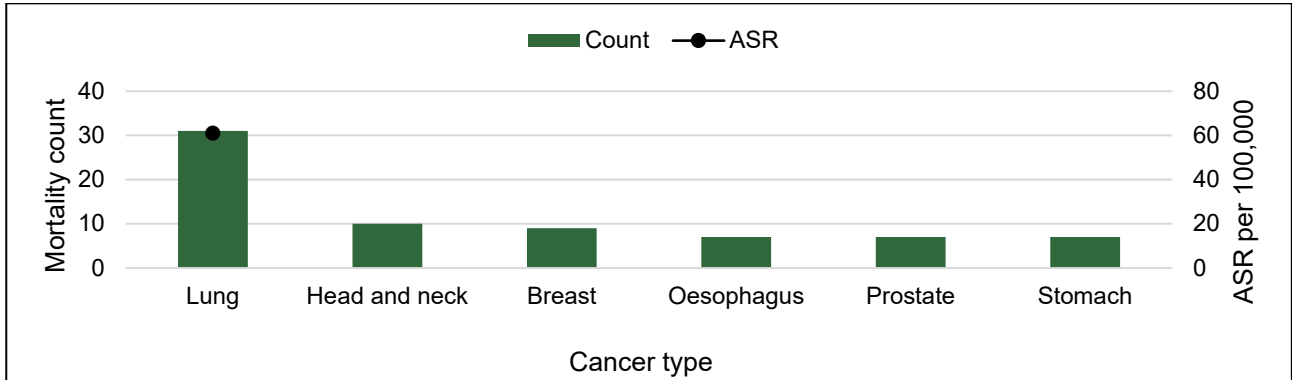


Note: These results should be interpreted with caution due to small case numbers and year-to-year fluctuations.

Figure 16. Mortality counts and age-standardised mortality rates (per 100,000) of all cancers by sex among Aboriginal people, WA, 2001 to 2021

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

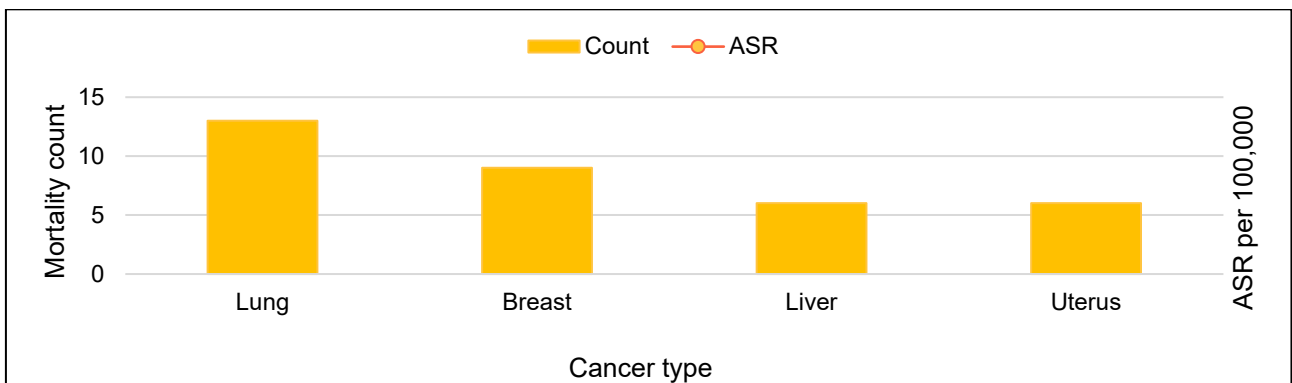
The cancers responsible for the highest cancer-related mortality within the Aboriginal population were lung, head and neck, breast, oesophageal, prostate, and stomach cancer, accounting for 57.3 per cent of cancer-related mortality in 2021 (71 of 124 cases) (Figure 17).



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

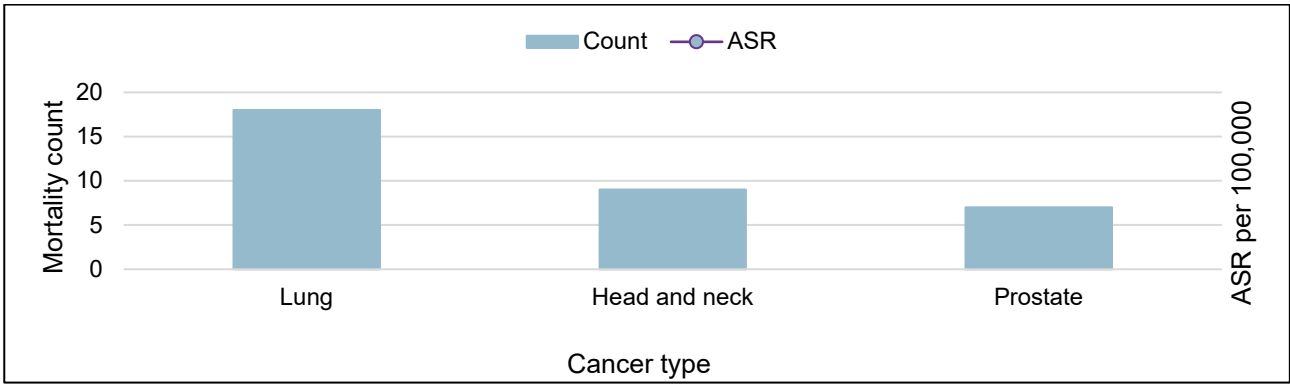
Figure 17. Leading cancer type by mortality count and age-standardised mortality rate among Aboriginal persons, WA, 2021

Due to small mortality counts (less than 20), leading cancer types for mortality by sex is only presented by count as no age-standardised rates could be derived. Only counts above 5 are presented to protect privacy and confidentiality. Among Aboriginal females, lung, breast, liver and uterine cancer were the leading causes of cancer-related mortality (Figure 18). Among Aboriginal males, leading causes of cancer-related mortality included, lung, head and neck, and prostate cancer (Figure 19).



Note: These results should be interpreted with caution due to small case numbers. Age-standardised mortality 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 18. Leading cancer type by mortality count and age-standardised mortality rate among Aboriginal females, WA, 2021

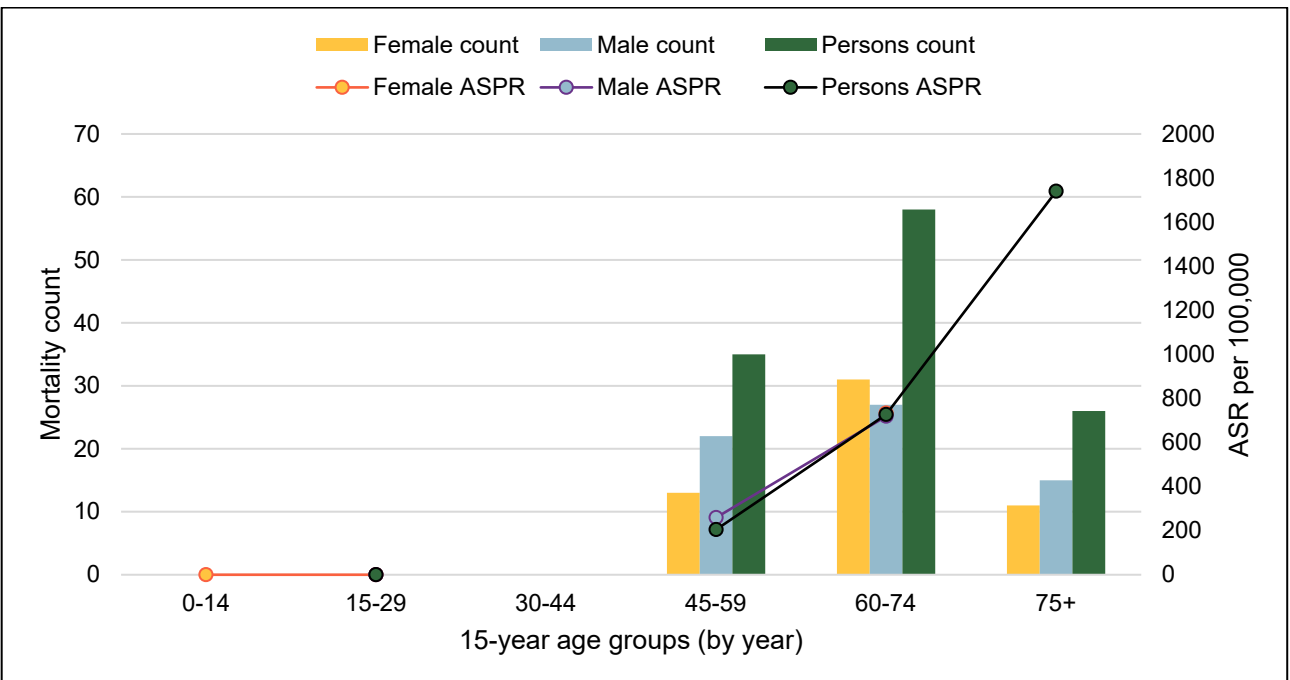


Note: These results should be interpreted with caution due to small case numbers. Age-standardised mortality rates are not calculated when the number of cases is less than 20, as estimates based on small numbers are statistically unstable and unreliable.

Figure 19. Leading cancer type by mortality count and age-standardised mortality rate among Aboriginal males, WA, 2021

### Age-specific mortality rates in WA Aboriginal population

In 2021, cancer-related mortality continued to generally increase with age, a similar trend to that observed among the total WA population (Figure 20). Aboriginal persons aged 75 years and older had a mortality rate more than double that of those aged 60 to 74 years, and almost 9 times higher than those aged 45 to 59 years. By sex, the highest reportable age-specific mortality 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 mortality rates are not calculated when the number of cases is less than 20, as estimates based on small numbers are statistically unstable and unreliable. Age-specific mortality rates of zero are shown in the figure where there are zero cases. Case counts less than 6 are not displayed to protect privacy and confidentiality.

Figure 20. Age-specific mortality rates of all cancers by sex among Aboriginal people, WA, 2021