

Cancer incidence in WA

Age-standardised cancer incidence rates in WA

In 2021, there were 14,912 new diagnoses of cancer in WA, with 42.9 per cent of diagnoses occurring in females (6,403 cases) and 57.1 per cent in males (8,509 cases). The age-standardised incidence rate (ASR) decreased by 6.1 per cent over the past decade, from 492.5 cases per 100,000 people in 2012 to an estimated 462.3 cases per 100,000 people in 2021 (Figure 1). In 2021, cumulative risk estimates indicated that in WA, 1 in 4 females and 1 in 3 males were at risk of receiving a cancer diagnosis before the age of 75. Between 2012 and 2021, the ASR among females decreased by 5.8 per cent, from 416.2 to 392.1 per 100,000 females. While the ASR for males decreased by 6.9 per cent, from 581.4 to 541.1 per 100,000 males (Figure 1).

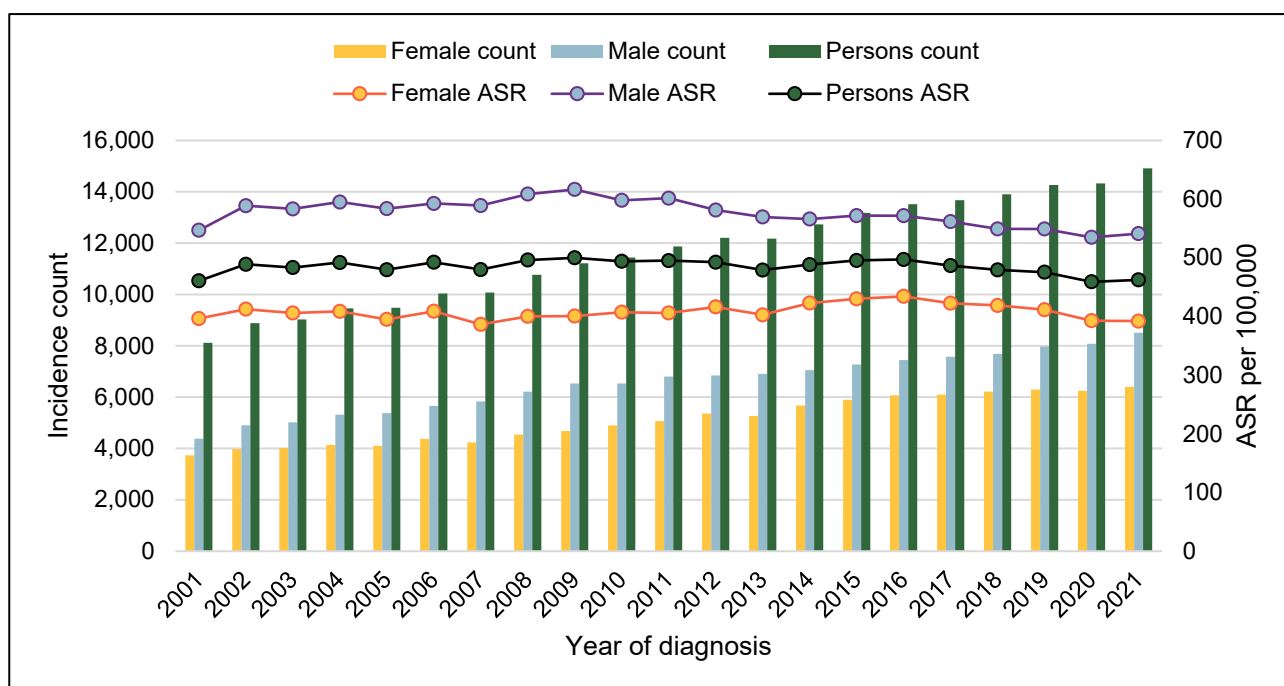


Figure 1. Incidence counts and age-standardised incidence rates (per 100,000) of all cancers by sex, WA, 2001 to 2021

Leading cancer type by cancer incidence in WA

The most common cancer diagnoses in 2021 were prostate, breast, melanoma, colorectal, lung and lymphatic cancer, representing 64.5 per cent of all new cancer diagnoses (9,623 of 14,912 cases) (Figure 2).

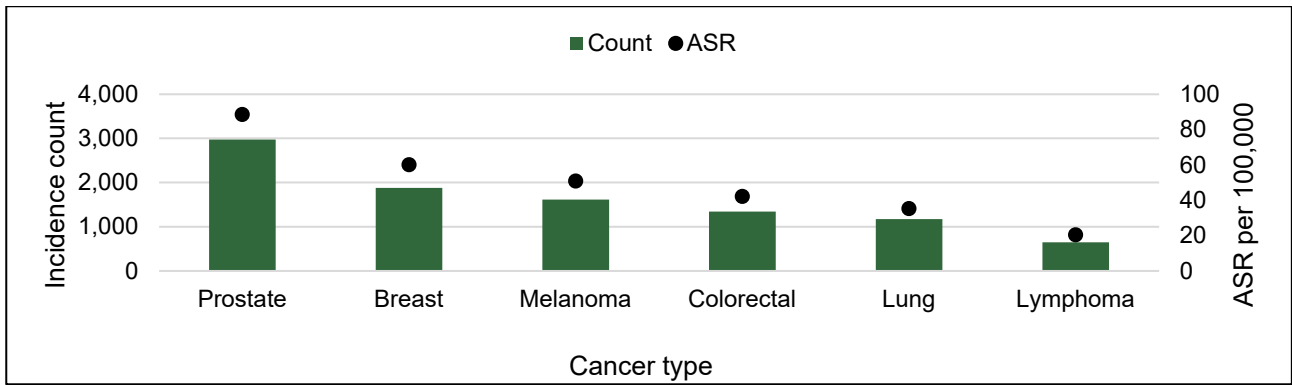


Figure 2. Leading cancer type by incidence count and age-standardised incidence rate among persons, WA, 2021

Among females, the most common cancer diagnoses were breast, colorectal, melanoma, lung, lymphoma, and uterine cancer, representing 66.4 per cent of all new female cancer diagnoses (4,252 of 6,403 cases) (Figure 3). Among males, the most common cancer diagnoses were prostate, melanoma, colorectal, lung, lymphoma, and head and neck cancer, representing 70.1 per cent of all male cancer diagnoses (5,962 of 8,509 cases) (Figure 4).

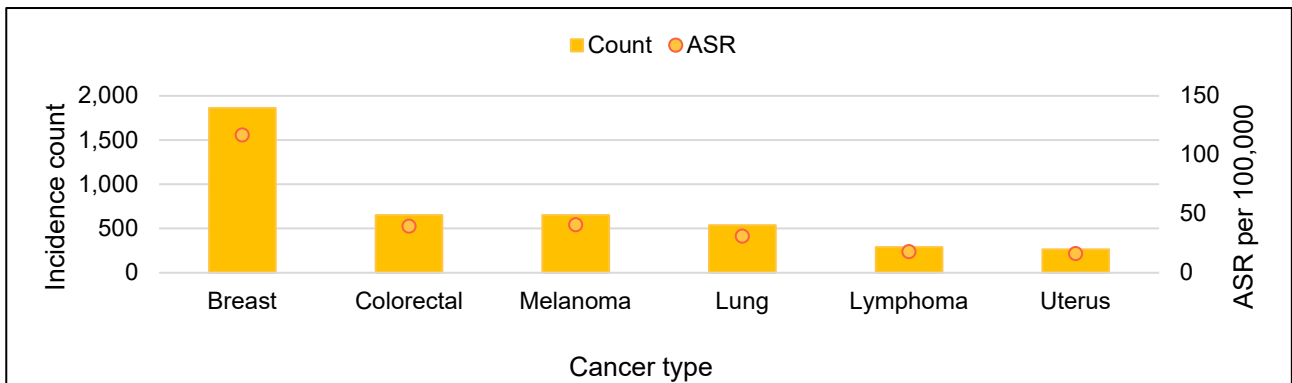


Figure 3. Leading cancer type by incidence count and age-standardised incidence rate among females, WA, 2021

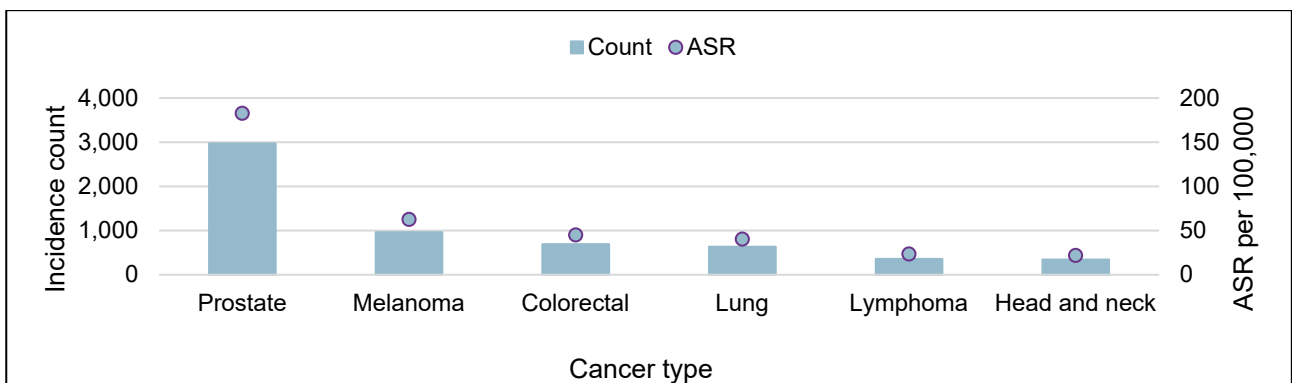
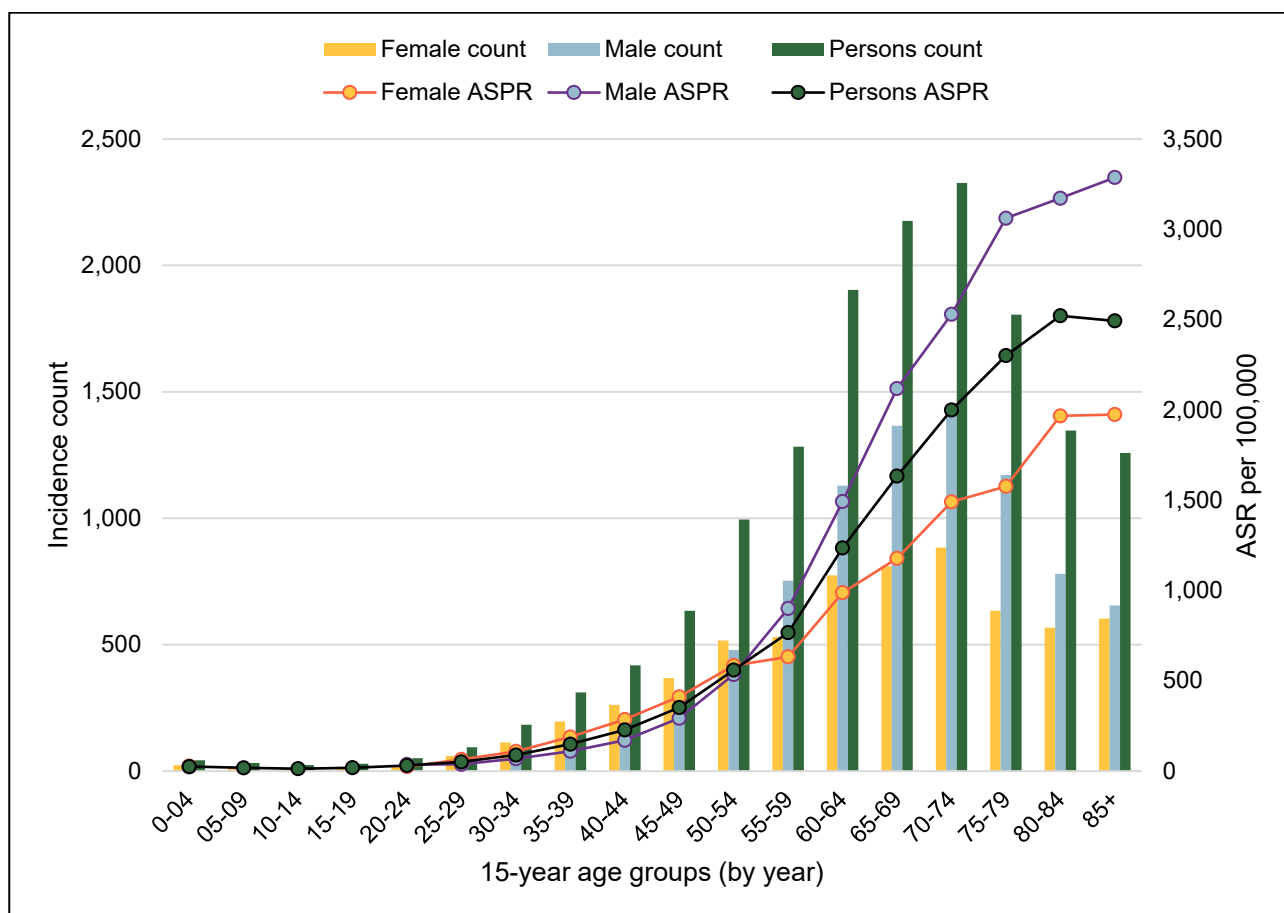


Figure 4. Leading cancer type by incidence count and age-standardised incidence rate among males, WA, 2021

Age-specific cancer incidence rates in WA

Cancer incidence increases substantially with age (Figure 5). In 2021, persons aged 85 years and older experienced an incidence rate double that of those aged 60 to 64 years, and 28 times higher than those aged 30 to 34 years. By sex, from 25 to 29 years and 50 to 54 years, females experienced a higher age-specific incidence rate than males, however from 55 to 59 years and older, males experienced a higher rate than females. Among both females and males, the 85 years and older age group experienced the highest age-specific incidence rate (Figure 5).



Note: 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 5. Age-specific incidence rates of all cancers by sex, WA, 2021