

# Cancer mortality in WA

## Age-standardised cancer mortality rates in WA

There were 4,628 cancer-related deaths in WA in 2021, with 43.1 per cent of deaths recorded in females (1,995 cases) and 56.9 per cent in males (2,633 cases). The age-standardised cancer mortality has decreased by 16.2 per cent since 2012, declining from 166.0 deaths per 100,000 people to an estimated 139.1 per 100,000 people in 2021 (Figure 6). Cumulative risk estimates in 2021 indicated that in WA, 1 in 15 females and 1 in 11 males were at risk of dying from cancer before the age of 75. From 2012 to 2021, the age-standardised mortality rate for females declined by 15.1 per cent, from 132.9 to 112.9 per 100,000 females. For males, the mortality rate declined by 18.2 per cent, from 208.5 to 170.5 per 100,000 males (Figure 6).

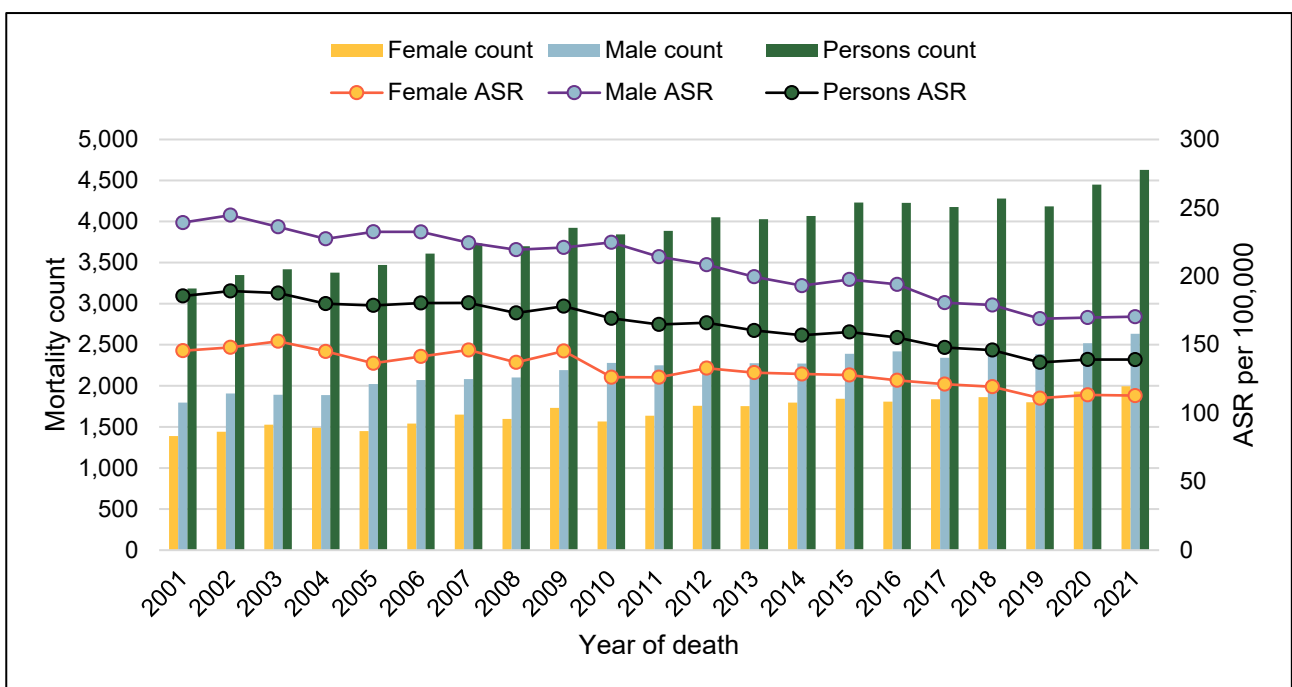


Figure 6. Mortality counts and age-standardised mortality rates (per 100,000) of all cancers by sex, WA, 2001 to 2021

## Leading cancer type by cancer mortality in WA

The cancers responsible for the highest cancer-related mortality in WA were lung, colorectal, pancreas, breast, prostate and unknown primary cancer (metastatic cancer that has an unknown starting point or primary site). These cancers represented 51.7 per cent of all cancer-related mortality in 2021 (2,392 of 4,628 cases) (Figure 7).

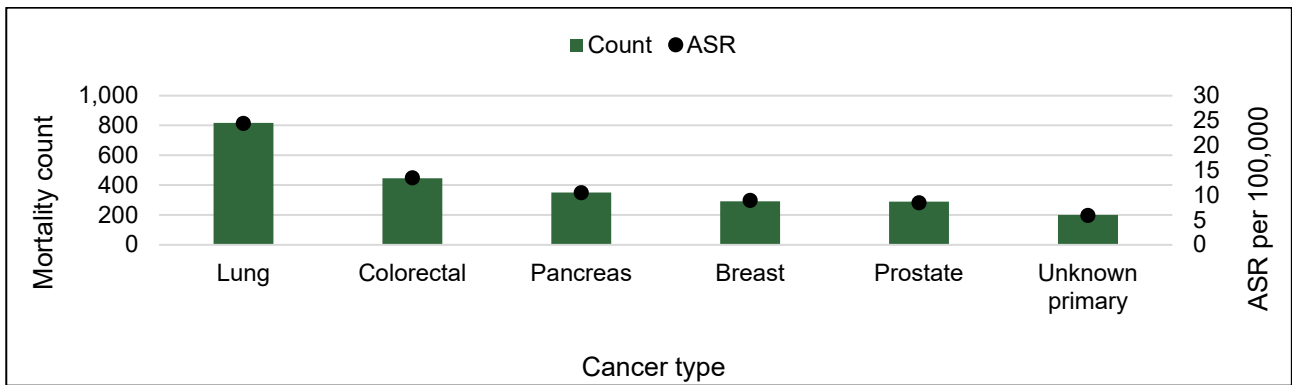


Figure 7. Leading cancer type by mortality count and age-standardised mortality rate among persons, WA, 2020

Among females, the cancers responsible for the highest cancer-related mortality included lung, breast, colorectal, pancreatic, unknown primary, and ovarian cancer representing 59.3 per cent of female cancer-related deaths in 2021 (1,183 of 1,995 cases) (Figure 8). Among males, the cancers responsible for the highest cancer-related mortality included lung, prostate, colorectal, pancreas, liver, and melanoma, representing 53.5 per cent of the male cancer-related deaths in 2021 (1,408 of 2,633 cases) (Figure 9).

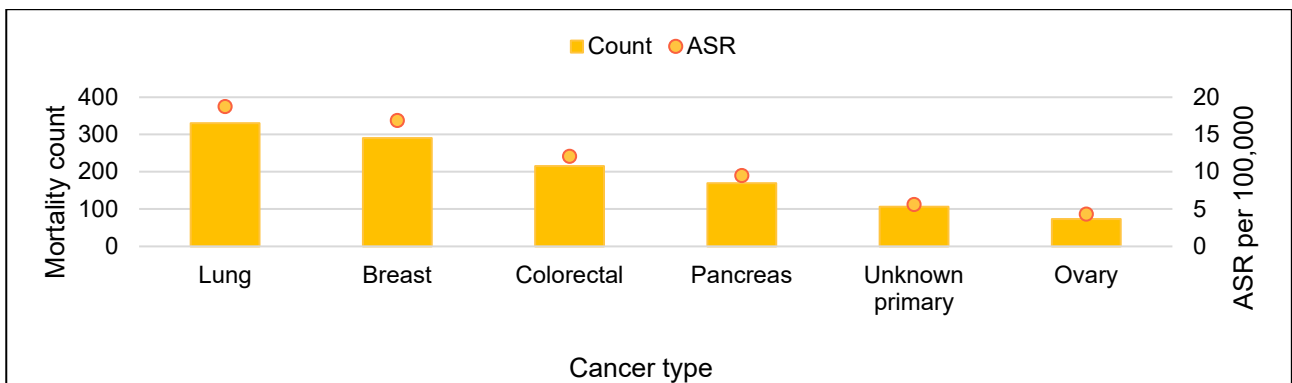


Figure 8. Leading cancer type by mortality count and age-standardised mortality rate among females, WA, 2021

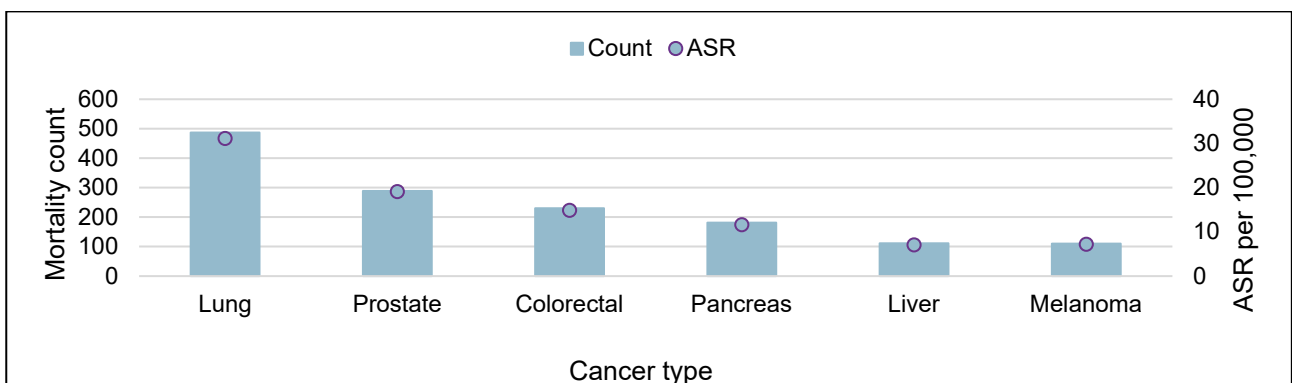
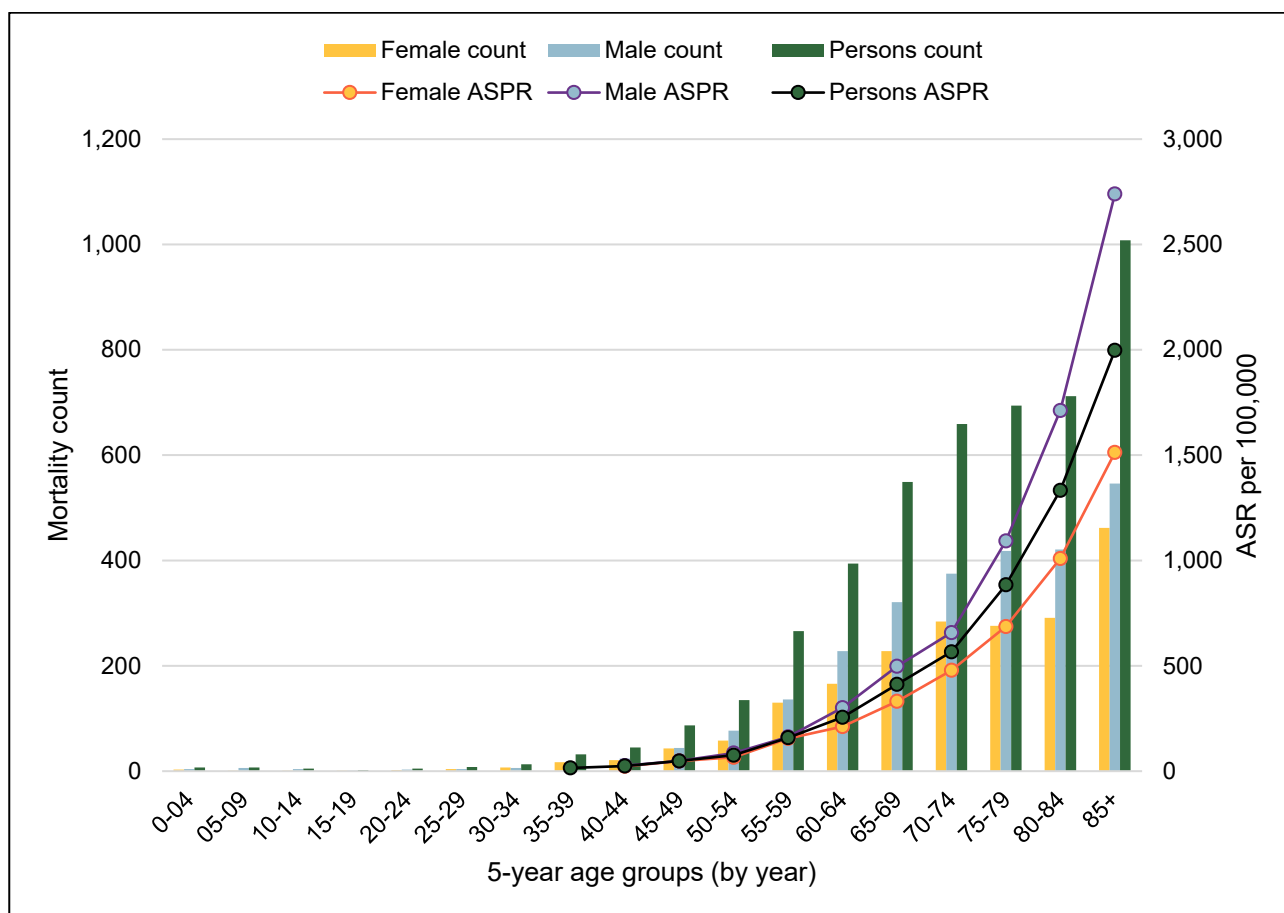


Figure 9. Leading cancer type by mortality count and age-standardised mortality rate among males, WA, 2021

## Age-specific cancer mortality rates in WA

Cancer mortality increases substantially with age (Figure 10). In 2021, persons aged 85 years and older experienced a mortality rate almost 8 times higher that of those aged 60 to 64 years, and 130 times higher than those aged 35 to 39 years. By sex, from 35 to 39 years and older, males experienced a higher mortality rate than females. Among both females and males, the 85 years and older age group experienced the highest age-specific mortality rate (Figure 10).



Note: 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. Case counts less than 6 are not displayed to protect privacy and confidentiality.

Figure 10. Age-specific mortality rates of all cancers by sex, WA, 2021