

Relative five-year survival for all cancers in WA

Relative survival varies depending on the type of cancer diagnosed. However, relative survival rates for all cancers combined continue to improve in WA. Between 2017 and 2021, 72.3 per cent of individuals diagnosed with cancer (excluding BCC and SCC) survived at least five years following diagnosis (Table 1). This represents an increase from 64.0 per cent during the 2002 to 2006 period.

Improved survival may be attributed to a range of factors, including advances in medical treatments, earlier detection through national cancer screening programs (e.g. breast, cervical, and bowel screening), and broader health system changes such as updates to diagnostic guidelines. Increased public awareness of cancer signs and symptoms may also play a role, though this requires further empirical support (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2021).

Table 1. 5-year relative survival for all cancer types by time period, WA persons

Number of years following initial diagnosis	Relative survival (per cent)			
	2002-2006	2007-2011	2012-2016	2017-2021
1	79.6	82.0	83.8	84.8
2	72.4	75.5	77.6	79.3
3	68.7	71.7	74.2	76.2
4	65.9	69.3	71.8	74.0
5	64.0	67.5	70.2	72.3

Between 2017 and 2021, 73.1 per cent of females diagnosed with cancer (excluding BCC and SCC) survived at least five years following diagnosis (Table 2). This represents an increase from 65.7 per cent relative survival for period 2002 to 2006.

Table 2. 5-year relative survival for all cancer types by time period, WA females

Number of years following initial diagnosis	Relative survival (per cent)			
	2002-2006	2007-2011	2012-2016	2017-2021
1	80.6	82.3	84.7	85.3
2	74.0	76.2	78.7	80.2
3	70.4	72.3	75.3	77.1
4	68.2	70.1	72.7	74.9
5	65.7	68.4	71.0	73.1

Between 2017 and 2021, 71.6 per cent of males diagnosed with cancer (excluding BCC and SCC) survived at least five years following diagnosis (Table 3). This represents an increase from 62.7 per cent relative survival for period 2002 to 2006.

Table3. 5-year relative survival for all cancer types by time period, WA males

Number of years following initial diagnosis	Relative survival (per cent)			
	2002-2006	2007-2011	2012-2016	2017-2021
1	78.8	81.7	83.1	84.4
2	71.0	74.9	76.7	78.6
3	67.3	71.3	73.3	75.5
4	64.1	68.8	71.1	73.3
5	62.7	66.8	69.6	71.6