



South Australia 2007 figures

	males	females	persons
number of cases	262	165	427
number of deaths	86	64	150
incidence/100,000 (ASR* Aust 2001 population)	30.0	16.0	22.5
mortality/100,000 (ASR* Aust 2001 population)	10.0	6.2	7.9
risk of developing cancer (by age 75 years)	1 in 41	1 in 789	1 in 54

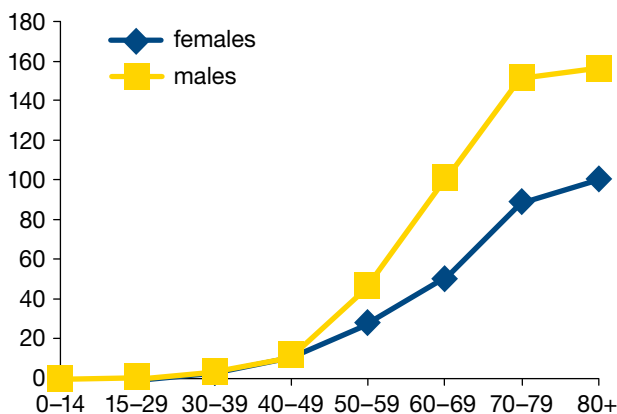
*ASR – Age Standardised Rate

Patterns in incidence and mortality

Age

Rectal cancers are rarely diagnosed in people under the age of 40 years. From this age onward, the incidence of rectal cancer increases with increasing age.

Age specific rectal cancer incidence (annual average rate/100,000 SA 1998–2007)



Gender

Males are more likely than females to develop rectal cancer.

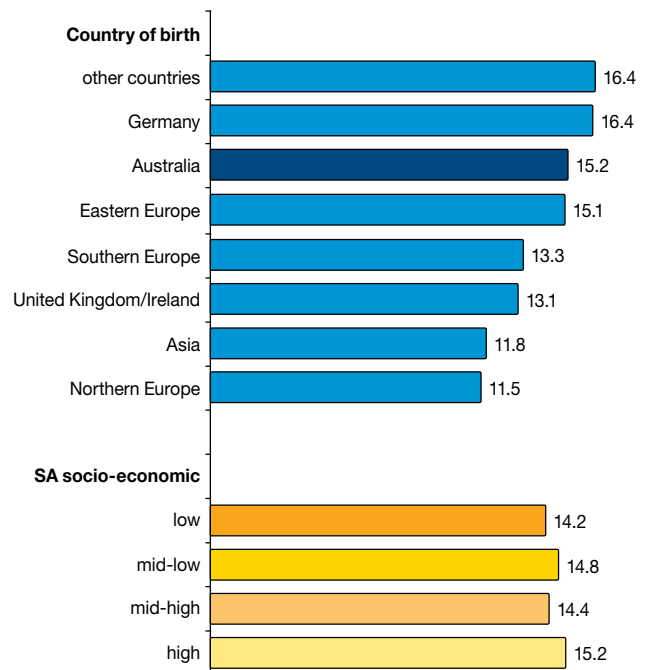
Country of birth

Within South Australia, residents born overseas had an incidence about 11% lower than the Australian born during 1977–2000. In particular, low rates applied to residents born in a number of Northern European countries (apart from Germany), Asia, the United Kingdom/Ireland, and Southern Europe.

SES/region

A consistent socio-economic gradient in incidence was not apparent in South Australia in 1977–2001. Moreover, similar incidence rates generally applied in Adelaide and country regions. As for colon cancer, a low incidence was evident in Adelaide for the Northern region and in the country for the Far North.

Rectal cancer incidence by country of birth and SES (annual rate/100,000, SA 1977–2001, ASR World population)



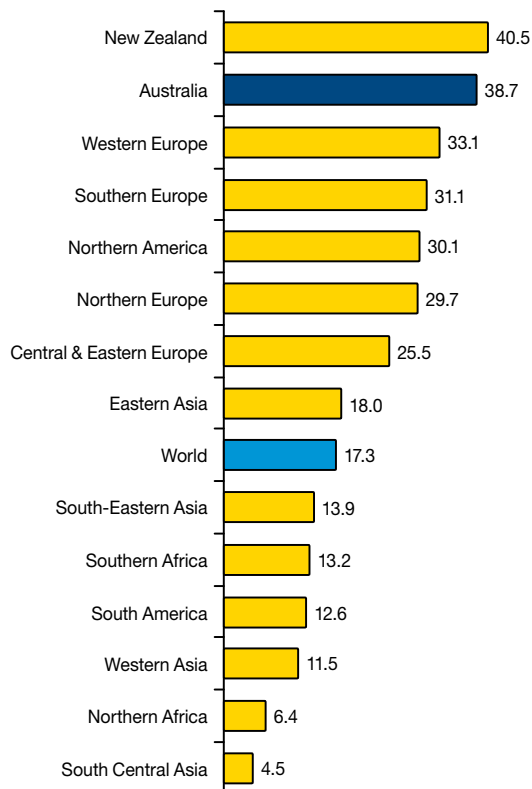
Global comparisons

Global comparison for rectal and colon cancers are combined into colorectal cancer as Globocan data

are not available separately for these cancers. [This graph is also shown in the colon fact sheet.]

Australia has a high incidence of colorectal cancer by world standards. Rates for males and females are similar to those of New Zealand and slightly higher than those for Northern America, Western and Southern Europe. The incidence varies by about tenfold around the world. Diet is thought to be a major contributor to this variation.

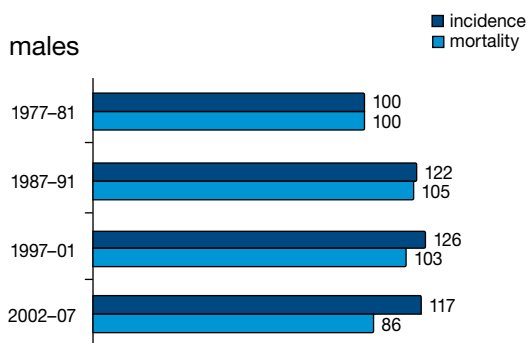
Colorectal cancer incidence rate by regions of the world (rate/100,000 ASR World population, Globocan 2008)



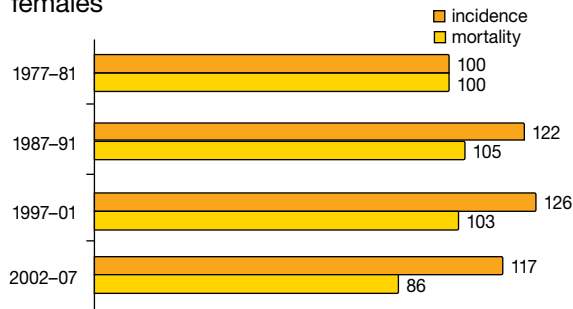
Trends

There has been an increase in incidence of about a 20% between 1977–81 and 2002–2007. Mortality rates have also risen slightly for males but appear to have decreased recently among females. Reduced mortality may reflect earlier detection through screening as well as improvements in treatment.

Trends in rectal cancer incidence and mortality SA (rates for 1977–81 set at '100')



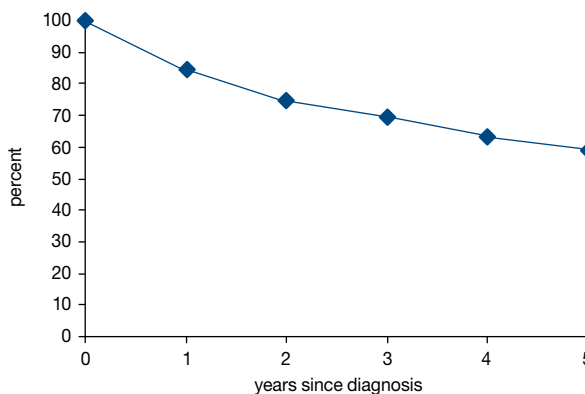
females



Survival

Survival outcomes for rectal cancer have improved in South Australia, from 48% of those diagnosed between 1977 and 1981 surviving five years or more after diagnosis to 59% of those diagnosed between 1997 and 2003.

Survival from rectal cancer (SA, 1997–2003)



Risk factors

Behavioural and related risk factors include:

- diets low in vegetables and potentially, those high in processed meat and fat
- excess body weight
- possibly, drinking excess alcohol.

Data sources:

- Cancer Registry reports, South Australian Department of Health
- Globocan 2008, IARC.

September 2010
next review due September 2011