How common is prostate cancer?

- Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men in the UK.
- A quarter of all new cases of cancer diagnosed in UK men are prostate cancers.
- In 2009, in the UK, around 40,800 men were diagnosed with prostate cancer, that’s around 112 every day.
- Over the last 40 years prostate cancer rates in Great Britain have tripled, although much of the increase is due to increased detection through widespread use of the PSA test.
- Three-quarters of prostate cancer cases are diagnosed in men aged over 65 years.
- In 2008, around 324,000 men were diagnosed with prostate cancer in Europe (EU-27).
- Worldwide, around 899,000 men were diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2008. More than two out of three cases are diagnosed in the more developed regions.

How many men survive prostate cancer?

- In the 1970s around three in ten men diagnosed with prostate cancer survived their disease beyond five years, now it’s more than eight in ten; however, much of this increase can be attributed to the increased use of PSA testing in the UK which has led to the diagnosis of many prostate cancers which would have gone undetected.
- Forty years ago only two in ten men diagnosed with prostate cancer survived their disease for at least ten years, now it is nearly seven in ten; however, much of this increase can be attributed to the increased use of PSA testing in the UK which has led to the diagnosis of many prostate cancers which would have gone undetected.

How many men die from prostate cancer?

- Prostate cancer is the second most common cause of cancer death in UK men, after lung cancer.
- In 2010, in the UK, around 10,700 men died from prostate cancer, that’s around 29 every day.
- More than 9 in 10 prostate cancer deaths occur in men aged over 65 and over.
Prostate cancer death rates peaked in the early 1990’s and have since fallen by around a fifth.

It is estimated that more than 70,000 men in Europe (EU-27) died from prostate cancer in 2008.


**What causes prostate cancer?**

- The strongest risk factor for prostate cancer is age, with very low risk in men under the age of 50, but risk increasing with age thereafter.
- Mutations in the BRCA2 gene increase the risk of developing prostate cancer. Men with one or more first-degree relatives (father, brother, or son) diagnosed with prostate cancer have an increased risk of prostate cancer, especially if the relative was diagnosed at an early age.
- Black men have a higher risk of prostate cancer than white men.
- Asian men have a lower risk of prostate cancer than white men.
- Evidence about lifestyle factors that may affect the risk of prostate cancer is inconclusive.

### Prostate cancer - UK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Males</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of new cases (2009)</strong></td>
<td>40,841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate per 100,000 population*</td>
<td>106.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of deaths (2010)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate per 100,000 population*</td>
<td>23.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-year survival rate (patients diagnosed 2005-2009 in England)</td>
<td>93.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five-year survival rate (patients diagnosed 2005-2009 in England)</td>
<td>81.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ten-year survival rate (predicted survival for patients diagnosed 2007 in England and Wales)</td>
<td>68.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*age-standardised to the European population

Cancer Research UK’s ‘CancerStats – Key Facts’ series provides accessible, top line statistics and facts on cancer. The charity’s Statistical Information Team also produces evidence-based reports, charts and tabulations. All of this information can be accessed on our CancerStats website: [http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/cancerstats](http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/cancerstats) or by emailing stats.team@cancer.org.uk.