Worldwide Cancer Incidence

An estimated 14.1 million adults in the world were diagnosed with cancer in 2012. These cases were not spread evenly across the globe and the reliability of cancer statistics available for each country varies.

Cancer incidence per 100,000 people

Most Common Cancers Worldwide

Cases per year (thousands)

Lung: 1,825
Breast: 1,677
Bowel (inc. anus): 1,361
Prostate: 1,112
Stomach: 952
Liver: 782
Cervix: 528
Oesophagus: 456
Bladder: 430
NHL: 386
Lip, oral cavity: 360
Melanoma of skin: 300
Kaposi sarcoma: 232
Other cancers: 318

Total: 14.1 million

Source: GLOBOCAN 2012 v1.0, Cancer Incidence and Mortality Worldwide. IARC. NHL = Non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Region boundaries are standard United Nations groupings. Data quality classifications for incidence data: a. High quality national data or high quality regional (coverage greater than 50%) b. High quality regional (coverage between 10% and 50%) c. High quality regional (coverage lower than 10%) d. National data (rates) e. Regional data (rates) f. Frequency data g. No data. 'High quality' refers to Data included in Cancer incidence in Five Continents (CI5) volume IX1 or X2.