International Agency for Research on Cancer
World Health Organization

GLOBAL CANCER OBSERVATORY

CANCER TODAY
GLOBOCAN 2024

SRI LANKA

Number of new cases 43 428

Number of deaths 27 165

Number of prevalent cases (5-year) 110 552

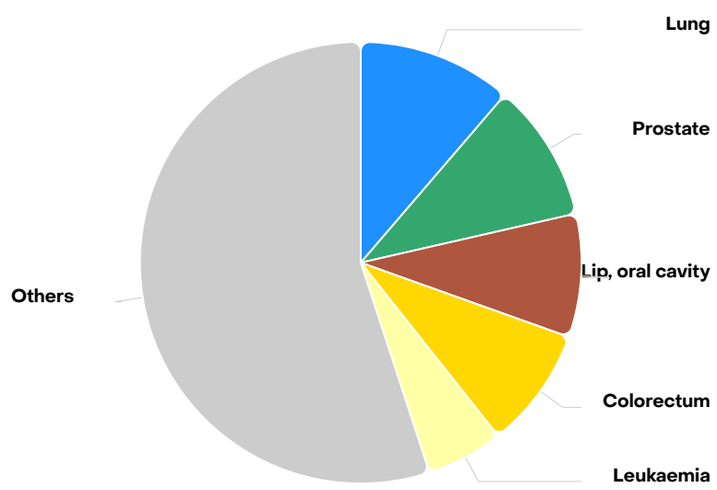
Statistics at a glance, 2024

	Males	Females	Both sexes
Population	11 177 561	11 926 014	23 103 569
Incidence*			
Number of new cancer cases	20 403	23 025	43 428
Age-standardized incidence rate	138.0	133.3	133.8
Risk of developing cancer before the age of 75 years (cum. risk %)	15.3	14.3	14.6
Top 3 leading cancers (ranked by cases)**	Lung Prostate Lip, oral cavity	Breast Colorectum Ovary	Breast Colorectum Lung
Mortality*			
Number of cancer deaths	13 742	13 423	27 165
Age-standardized mortality rate	92.4	74.4	81.9
Risk of dying from cancer before the age of 75 years (cum. risk %)	10.7	8.6	9.5
Top 3 leading cancers (ranked by deaths)**	Lung Lip, oral cavity Oesophagus	Breast Ovary Colorectum	Breast Lung Colorectum
Prevalence*			
5-year prevalent cases	46 228	64 324	110 552



Top 5 most frequent cancers**

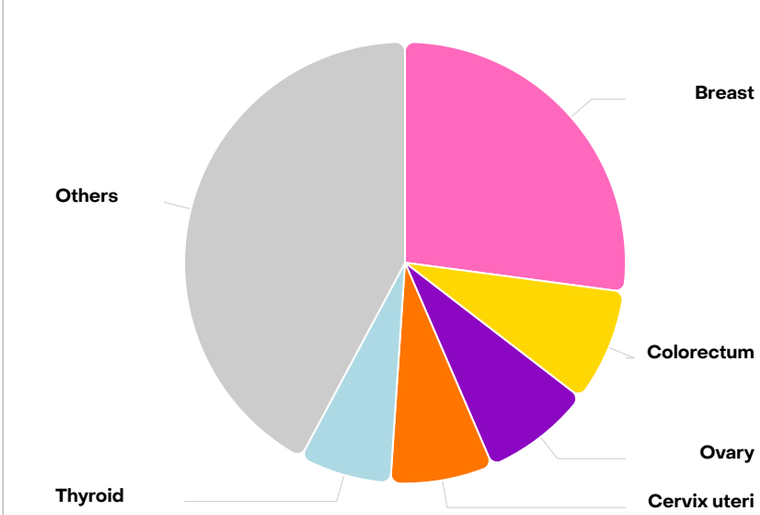
Males



Total: 20 403

Rank	Cancer site	Number of cases	Percent
1st	Lung	2 304	11.3%
2nd	Prostate	2 068	10.1%
3rd	Lip, oral cavity	1 842	9.0%
4th	Colorectum	1 811	8.9%
5th	Leukaemia	1 150	5.6%

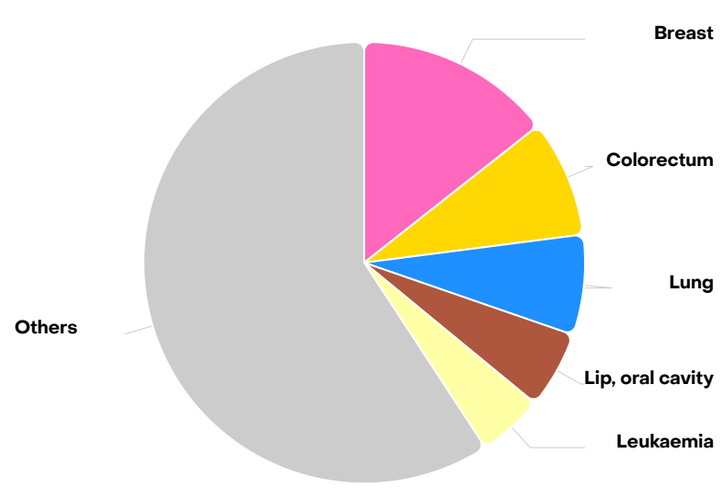
Females



Total: 23 025

Rank	Cancer site	Number of cases	Percent
1st	Breast	6 242	27.1%
2nd	Colorectum	1 917	8.3%
3rd	Ovary	1 862	8.1%
4th	Cervix uteri	1 735	7.5%
5th	Thyroid	1 559	6.8%

Both sexes



Total: 43 428

Rank	Cancer site	Number of cases	Percent
1st	Breast	6 242	14.4%
2nd	Colorectum	3 728	8.6%
3rd	Lung	3 188	7.3%
4th	Lip, oral cavity	2 457	5.7%
5th	Leukaemia	2 091	4.8%

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Incidence, Mortality and Prevalence by cancer site

	New cases				Deaths				5-year prevalence	
Cancer	**Number**	**Rank**	**(%)**	**Cum.risk**	**Number**	**Rank**	**(%)**	**Cum.risk**	**Number**	**Prop. (per 100 000)**
Breast	6 242	1	14.4	4.2	2 972	1	10.9	2.0	19 398	162.7
Colorectum	3 728	2	8.6	1.3	1 865	3	6.9	0.67	10 353	44.8
Lung	3 188	3	7.3	1.2	2 951	2	10.9	1.1	4 323	18.7
Lip, oral cavity	2 457	4	5.7	0.93	1 601	4	5.9	0.61	6 726	29.1
Leukaemia	2 091	5	4.8	0.69	1 489	5	5.5	0.49	6 246	27.0
Prostate	2 068	6	4.8	1.6	609	13	2.2	0.47	4 731	42.3
Thyroid	1 997	7	4.6	0.68	319	20	1.2	0.11	6 793	29.4
Ovary	1 862	8	4.3	1.3	1 368	7	5.0	0.95	5 203	43.6
Cervix uteri	1 735	9	4.0	1.2	1 072	9	3.9	0.74	5 795	48.6
Oesophagus	1 577	10	3.6	0.56	1 464	6	5.4	0.52	2 225	9.6
Corpus uteri	1 302	11	3.0	0.94	444	18	1.6	0.32	4 294	36.0
Liver	1 267	12	2.9	0.46	1 188	8	4.4	0.43	1 756	7.6
Bladder	1 169	13	2.7	0.41	730	11	2.7	0.26	3 402	14.7
NHL	1 161	14	2.7	0.42	561	16	2.1	0.21	3 465	15.0
Stomach	973	15	2.2	0.36	860	10	3.2	0.32	1 463	6.3
Larynx	877	16	2.0	0.32	520	17	1.9	0.19	2 588	11.2
Multiple myeloma	815	17	1.9	0.32	626	12	2.3	0.25	2 239	9.7
Kidney	719	18	1.7	0.28	366	19	1.3	0.15	2 131	9.2
Brain CNS	700	19	1.6	0.27	587	14	2.2	0.23	2 514	10.9
Pancreas	592	20	1.4	0.21	575	15	2.1	0.20	623	2.7
Oropharynx	475	21	1.1	0.19	305	21	1.1	0.12	1 370	5.9
Hypopharynx	433	22	1.00	0.17	262	22	0.96	0.10	813	3.5
Hodgkin lymphoma	270	23	0.62	0.09	66	25	0.24	0.02	946	4.1
Gallbladder	223	24	0.51	0.09	189	23	0.70	0.07	321	1.4
Salivary glands	167	25	0.39	0.06	88	24	0.32	0.03	522	2.3
Penis	106	26	0.24	0.08	47	27	0.17	0.03	313	2.8
Testis	106	26	0.24	0.08	35	28	0.13	0.03	434	3.9
Nasopharynx	88	28	0.20	0.04	51	26	0.19	0.02	271	1.2
Vulva	69	29	0.16	0.04	31	29	0.11	0.02	193	1.6
Melanoma	53	30	0.12	0.02	20	31	0.07	0.01	181	0.78
Vagina	51	31	0.12	0.03	29	30	0.11	0.01	135	1.1
Mesothelioma	6	32	0.01	0.00	6	32	0.02	0.00	11	0.05
All cancers	**43 428**	**-**	**-**	**14.6**	**27 165**	**-**	**-**	**9.5**	**110 552**	**-**
All cancers excl. NMSC	**43 103**	**-**	**-**	**14.6**	**27 104**	**-**	**-**	**9.5**	**109 619**	**-**

Data source and methods

Incidence

Country-specific data source: Registry (subnational)
Method: Subnational rates applied to 2024 population

Click here to see detailed data source and methods

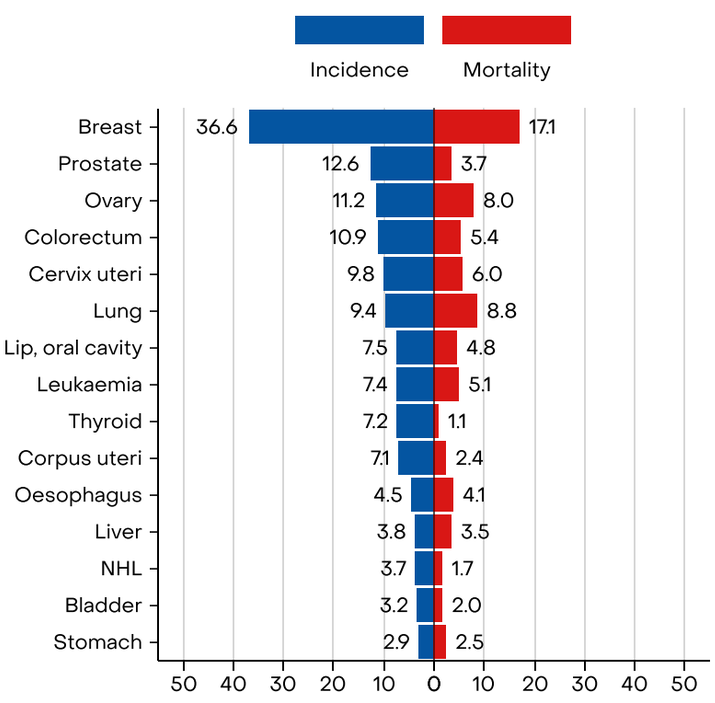
Mortality

Country-specific data source: Survcan
Method: National incidence estimates applied to model-based M:I ratios (registry survival data)

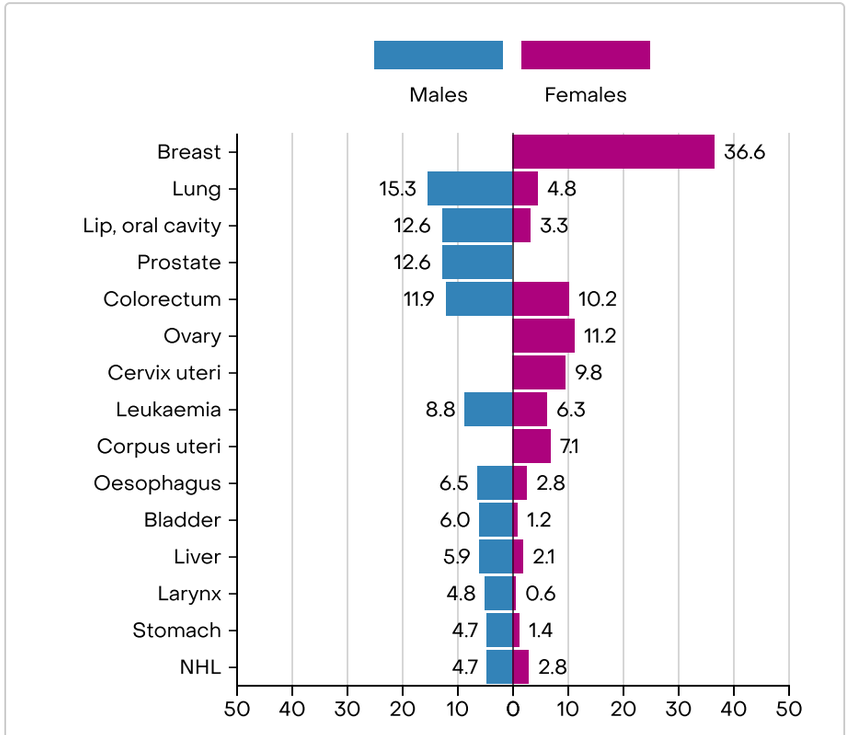
Click here to see detailed data source and methods

Prevalence

Computed using sex-; site- and age-specific incidence to 1-;3- and 5-year prevalence ratios from Nordic countries for the period (2011-2020), and scaled using Human Development Index (HDI) ratios.



ASR (World) incidence and mortality rates, top 15 cancers**



ASR (World) incidence rates per sex, top 15 cancers**

* includes non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC)
** NMSC included in other cancers
Age standardization using world population (see link)

References

Website citation

Ervik M, Laversanne M, Lam F, Colombet M, Ferlay J, Filho AM, Bray F (2026). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today (2024 estimates, version 1.0). Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: https://gco.iarc.who.int/today, accessed [DD Month YYYY].

Cancer incidence and mortality data

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