

## POTENTIAL YEARS OF LIFE LOST DUE TO CANCER

Cancer was the leading cause of premature death for both men and women in Canada in 2004, representing 32% of the potential years of life lost (PYLL) as compared to 11 other causes of premature death (Figure W1).

Table W1 illustrates that 1,026,600 potential years were lost as a result of cancer. Lung cancer was responsible for 272,800 PYLL, representing 27% of the premature death caused by cancer. For men in 2004, the three leading cancers were lung, colorectal and prostate, which accounted for 48% of the PYLL due to cancer. The three leading cancers for women were lung, breast and colorectal, which accounted for 53% of PYLL due to cancer. The ranking by relative importance of these cancers for men and women with respect to PYLL has been consistent in recent years. For women, however, the PYLL due to lung cancer, which are greater than for breast cancer, reflect the high rates of lung cancer mortality among women aged 50 to 79. Among men, although prostate cancer is more common than lung cancer, the PYLL due to lung cancer are more than four times higher than for prostate cancer, reflecting higher mortality rates for lung cancer and the younger age at which men develop and die from this disease.

Potential years of life lost is higher for cancers that are more common, have an earlier age of onset, and more quickly lead to death. With regard to the most common cancers in women and men, the PYLL from breast cancer (94,400) far exceed the PYLL from prostate cancer (33,200), reflecting the relatively young age at which women die from breast cancer. In contrast, the PYLL for Hodgkin lymphoma (3,100) reflect a cancer that is less common and relatively curable.

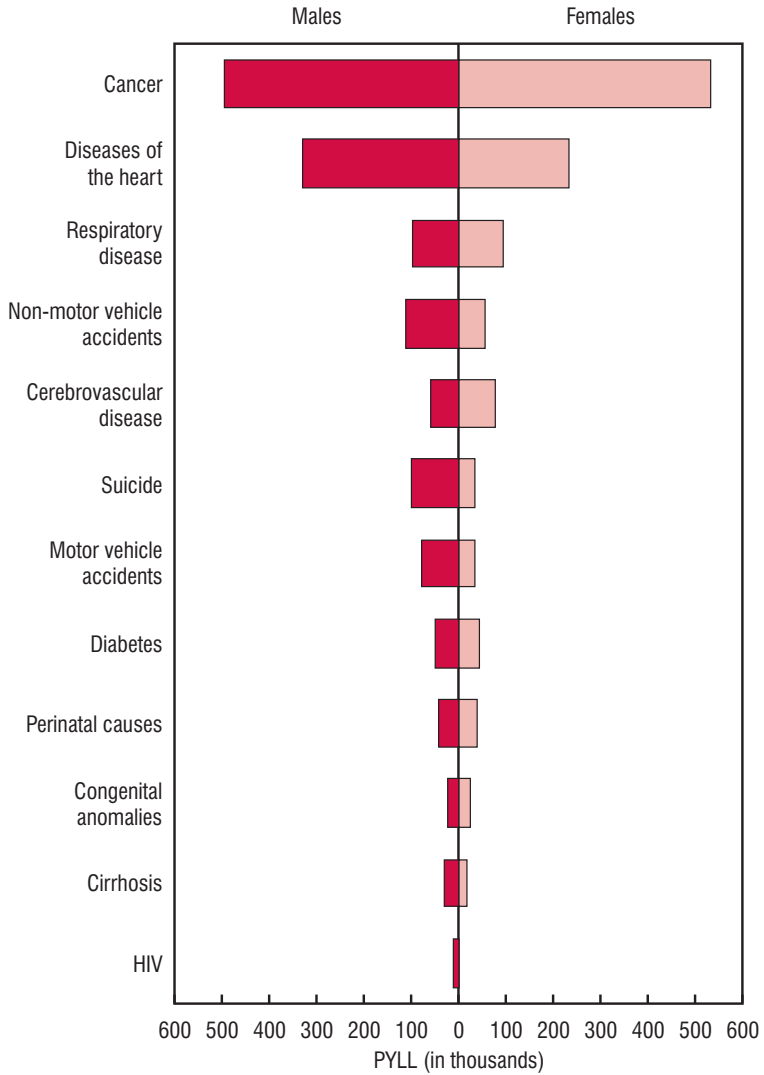
Although the number of men who die from cancer each year exceeds the number of women, the PYLL for women (531,700) are slightly higher than the PYLL for men (495,000). This is because women generally live longer than men, and some of the deaths due to female cancers occur at younger ages.

More information about cancer statistics is available in the annual publication, *Canadian Cancer Statistics*.

*Cancer is the leading cause of premature death in Canada and is responsible for over 1 million potential years of life lost in Canada.*

**Figure W1**

**Selected Causes of Potential Years of Life Lost (PYLL), Canada, 2004**



**Note:** Figures are ranked in order of total PYLL for both males and females combined and are calculated based on life expectancy.

**Analysis by:** Chronic Disease Surveillance Division, CCDPC, Public Health Agency of Canada

**Data source:** Canadian Vital Statistics Death database at Statistics Canada

**Table W1****Potential Years of Life Lost Due to Cancer, Canada, 2004**

	Potential Years of Life Lost (PYLL)					
	Total		Males		Females	
	Years	%	Years	%	Years	%
<b>ALL CAUSES</b>	3,177,000	–	1,703,900	–	1,473,200	–
<b>All Cancers</b>	1,026,600	100	495,000	100	531,700	100
<b>Cancer</b>						
Lung	272,800	26.6	142,100	28.7	130,700	24.6
Colorectal	115,300	11.2	59,800	12.1	55,500	10.4
Breast	95,000	9.3	500	0.1	94,400	17.8
Pancreas	52,500	5.1	26,500	5.4	26,000	4.9
Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma	42,500	4.1	22,100	4.5	20,400	3.8
Brain	37,200	3.6	21,000	4.2	16,200	3.0
Leukemia	36,600	3.6	20,400	4.1	16,200	3.0
Prostate	33,200	3.2	33,200	6.7	–	–
Ovary	28,600	2.8	–	–	28,600	5.4
Stomach	28,100	2.7	16,700	3.4	11,400	2.1
Kidney	23,200	2.3	14,600	2.9	8,700	1.6
Esophagus	22,900	2.2	17,600	3.6	5,300	1.0
Bladder	18,700	1.8	12,600	2.5	6,100	1.1
Oral	17,900	1.7	11,900	2.4	6,100	1.1
Multiple Myeloma	16,100	1.6	8,400	1.7	7,600	1.4
Melanoma	15,200	1.5	8,700	1.8	6,500	1.2
Body of Uterus	11,400	1.1	–	–	11,400	2.1
Liver	10,300	1.0	7,800	1.6	2,500	0.5
Cervix	10,100	1.0	–	–	10,100	1.9
Larynx	6,600	0.6	5,200	1.1	1,400	0.3
Hodgkin Lymphoma	3,100	0.3	1,700	0.3	1,400	0.3
Thyroid	2,700	0.3	1,200	0.2	1,500	0.3
Testis	1,700	0.2	1,700	0.3	–	–

– Not applicable

**Note:** Figures are ranked in order of total PYLL for both sexes combined and are calculated based on life expectancy. Sums and percentages for specific cancers will not add to the "All Cancers" total due to the exclusion of other cancers.

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**Data source:** Canadian Vital Statistics Death database at Statistics Canada