

# At a glance— Skin cancer statistics

Note: Only melanoma cases have to be reported to the Cancer Registry so the following statistics relate to melanomas only. Melanomas are most dangerous and cause most deaths from skin cancer.

## Incidence of melanoma in Australia (number of NEW cases per 100,000 people)

- The Australian incidence rate of melanoma (number of new cases per 100,000 people) is one of the highest in the world. There were:
  - 14 320 estimated new cases in 2018 (8653 males and 5667 females)
  - 13 283 estimated new cases in 2016 Australia (7847 males and 5436 females)
  - 12 510 new cases in 2012.
- In 2013 Queensland had the highest incidence rate for melanoma in the world. Each year around 3700 new cases are diagnosed. However, as at 2016, after 30 years of prevention campaigns the rates were:
  - plateauing in those aged 40–59 years
  - declining in those under 40 years of age.



< OLD HIGHEST RATE OF  
MELANOMA IN THE WORLD

### Sex

- Melanoma is more common in males [approximately 60 new cases per 100,000 persons in 2018] than females [approximately 40 new cases per 100,000 persons in 2018].

### APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF NEW CASES PER 100,000 PERSONS

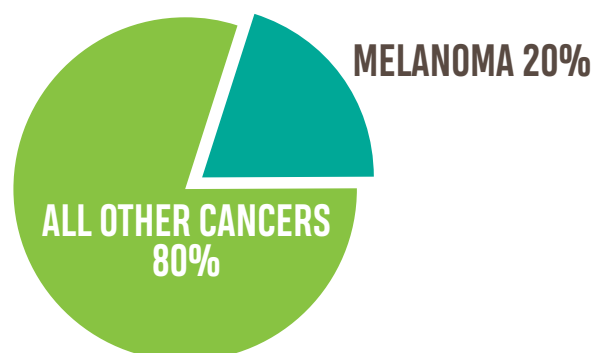


### Mortality (deaths) in Australia due to melanoma

- From 1982 to 2016, the **mortality rate** (number of deaths per 100,000 people):
  - dropped for the three youngest age groups (0–39 yrs, 40–49 yrs, 50–59 yrs)
  - increased for the three oldest age groups (60–69 yrs, 70–79 yrs and 80 yrs and over)
- The **number of deaths** in the same period increased for all age groups except those aged under 40 years:
  - For people 0–39 years of age, deaths dropped from 93 in 1982 to an estimated 50 deaths in 2016—for this age group, the number of deaths has been progressively decreasing since 1995. This is attributed to the many sun protection campaigns and sun protection policies e.g. in schools that have been in place for most of their lives. However, melanoma is the most common cancer in 15–39 year-olds, making up 20% of all their cancer cases.
  - For those aged 40–59 years, the declining mortality rate (number of deaths per 100,000 people) was offset by the population increasing by approximately 50% in this period so the actual number of deaths increased.

- For those aged 60 years and over, both the increased mortality rate as well as the growth in population in this age group contributed to an increase in the number of deaths.
- The number of deaths per year from melanoma among people over 40 years of age continues to increase and is expected to for many years due to unprotected UVR exposure in younger years.
- In Queensland, where the mortality rate is highest:
  - 310 people died from melanoma in 2016
  - 390 died from melanoma in 2013.

### CANCER DEATHS IN 15–39 YEAR-OLDS



**Table 1. Number of deaths in Australia due to melanoma from 1996 to 2018**

	Males	Females	Total
** Australia 2018 (estimated)	1331 [70%]	574 [30%]	1905
* Australia 2016 (estimated)	1230 [69%]	545 [31%]	1770
** Australia 2013	1107 [69%]	510 [31%]	1617
* Australia 2012	1070 [68%]	495 [32%]	1560
** Australia 2011	1071 [69%]	473 [31%]	1544
Australia 1996	580 [64%]	323 [36%]	903

\* AIHW Skin Cancer website

\*\* Australian Government Cancer Australia website

**Table 2. Number of deaths in Queensland due to melanoma from 2002 to 2016**

	Males	Females	Total
Queensland 2016	209	101	310
**** Queensland 2013	287	103	390
*** Queensland 2012	214	97	311
*** Queensland 2011	225	93	318
*** Queensland 2002	132	64	196

\*\*\* Queensland Cancer Registry and Cancer Council Queensland [2014].

\*\*\*\* AIHW [2015]. Cancer in Queensland, Incidence, Mortality, Survival and Prevalence, 1982 to 2013.

**Table 3. Number of deaths and mortality rates for melanoma, by state and territory, 2008–2012**

State or territory	Total number 2008 to 2012	Age-standardised rate (per 100 000)
Queensland	1694	7.5
New South Wales	2545	6.3
Western Australia	703	6.2
Tasmania	188	5.9
Australian Capital Territory	95	5.9
Victoria	1539	5.1
South Australia	511	5.0
Northern Territory	25	3.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>7300</b>	<b>6.1</b>

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

Table 3 shows that from 2008–2012:

- the number of deaths from melanoma ranged from 25 in the Northern Territory to 2545 in New South Wales, with the variation largely due to the size of the population in each jurisdiction
- Queensland had the highest age-standardised mortality rate [7.5 deaths per 100 000] and the Northern Territory had the lowest [3.1 per 100 000]. The lower mortality rate in the Northern Territory might be partly due to its higher proportion of Indigenous residents.

### MELANOMA DEATHS 2008–2012

