

PANCREATIC CANCER

South Australia 2005 Figures	Males	Females	Total
Number of cases	100	80	180
Number of deaths	93	88	181
Incidence/100,000 (ASR* Aust 2001 Population)	12.1	7.5	9.6
Mortality/100,000 (ASR* Aust 2001 Population)	11.4	8.3	9.7
Risk of developing pancreatic cancer (by age 75 yrs.)	1 in 120	1 in 239	1 in 161

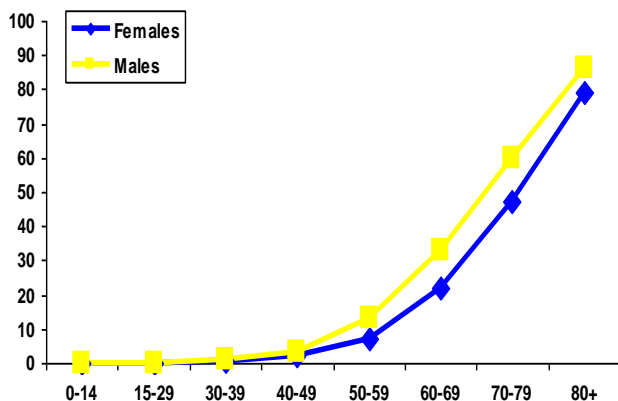
* ASR – Age Standardised Rate

PATTERNS IN INCIDENCE AND MORTALITY

Age

Pancreatic cancer is rare before the age of 40 years. From 40 years onwards incidence increases with increasing age, to be highest among those aged 80 years or older.

**Age specific pancreatic cancer incidence
(Annual average rate/100,000, SA 1995-2005)**



Gender

Males have a slightly higher incidence of pancreatic cancer than females, with the ratio being about 1.1 to one in South Australia.

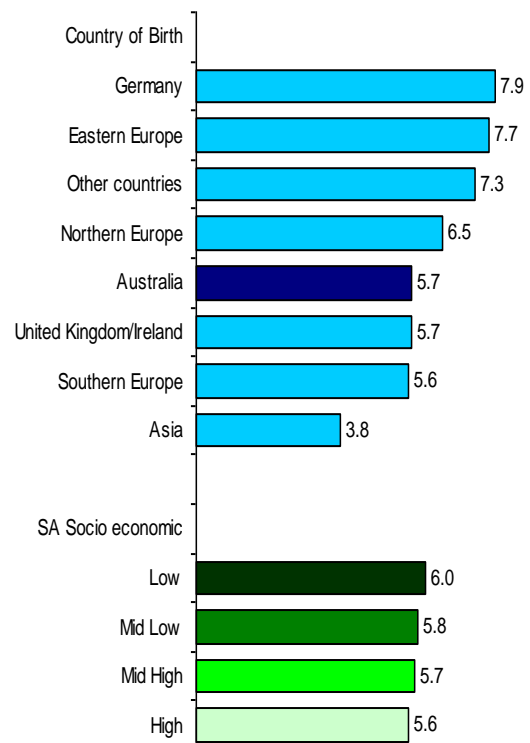
Country of birth

Within South Australia, the rate was more than a third higher during 1977-2000 among South Australians born in Germany and Eastern Europe than in the Australian born.

SES/region

While South Australian data for both sexes combined were suggestive of a lower socio-economic gradient for this cancer in 1977-2001, the gradient was not pronounced and was potentially due to chance. Similarly, there generally was little difference in incidence between Adelaide and country regions. While Pirie and Whyalla tended to have a high incidence, this elevation was readily attributable to chance.

Pancreatic cancer incidence by country of birth and SES

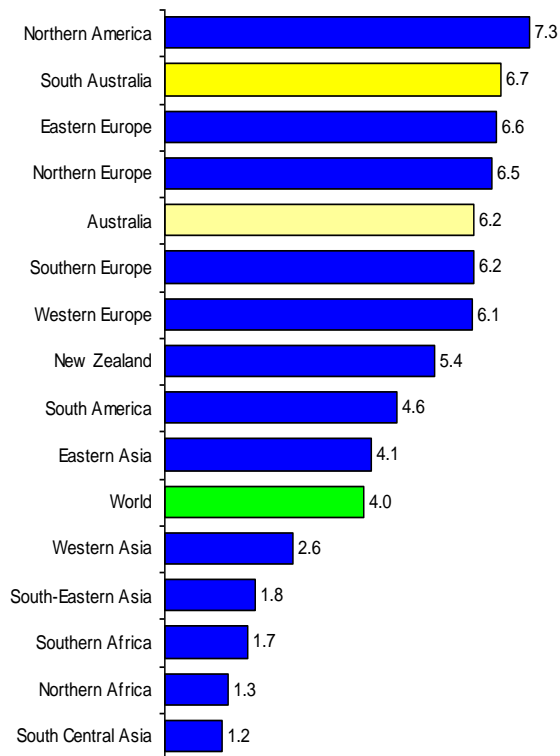


(Annual rate/100,000 – SA 1977-2001 – ASR World Pop.)

GLOBAL COMPARISONS

South Australia has a relatively high incidence of this cancer by international standards being surpassed only by North America. The rate for SA was slightly higher than Australia as a whole. Meanwhile there was an approximate five fold variation in incidence around the world, with the lowest incidence being noted in developing countries.

Pancreatic cancer incidence rate by regions of the world

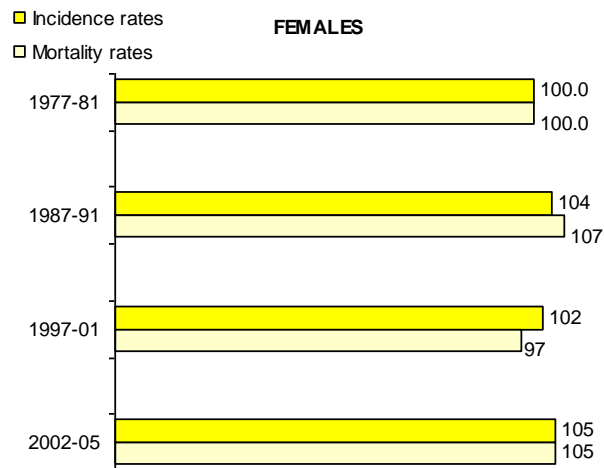
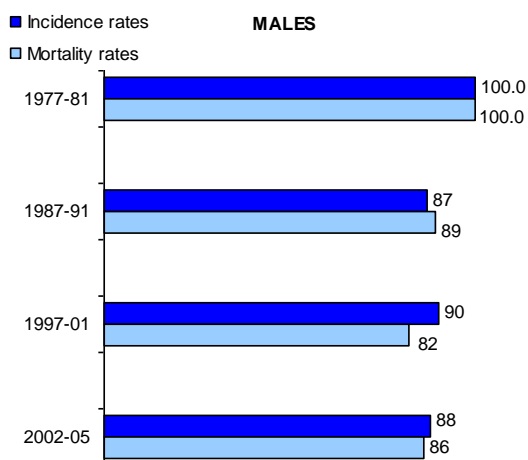


(Rate/100,000 ASR World Pop., Globocan 2002)

TRENDS

Changes in incidence and mortality during 1977-2005 were not pronounced and are potentially random fluctuations.

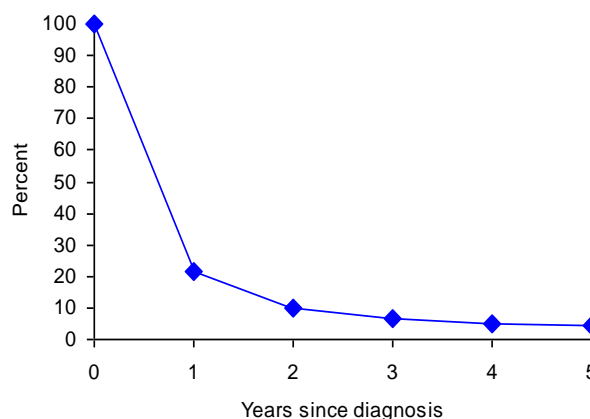
Trends in pancreatic cancer incidence and mortality in SA (Rates for 1977-81 set at '100')



SURVIVAL

Outcomes from pancreatic cancer are very poor with only 4% of cases surviving 5 years from diagnosis. Outcomes are poor even when the disease appears to be localised at diagnosis. Patterns in South Australia are typical of outcomes in other countries.

Survival from pancreatic cancer (SA, 1997-2003)



RISK FACTORS

Behavioural and related risk factors include:

- Tobacco smoking.
- Diabetes mellitus and diabetes risk factors such as obesity and high serum levels of triglycerides and cholesterol.
- Probably diets low in fruit and vegetables.