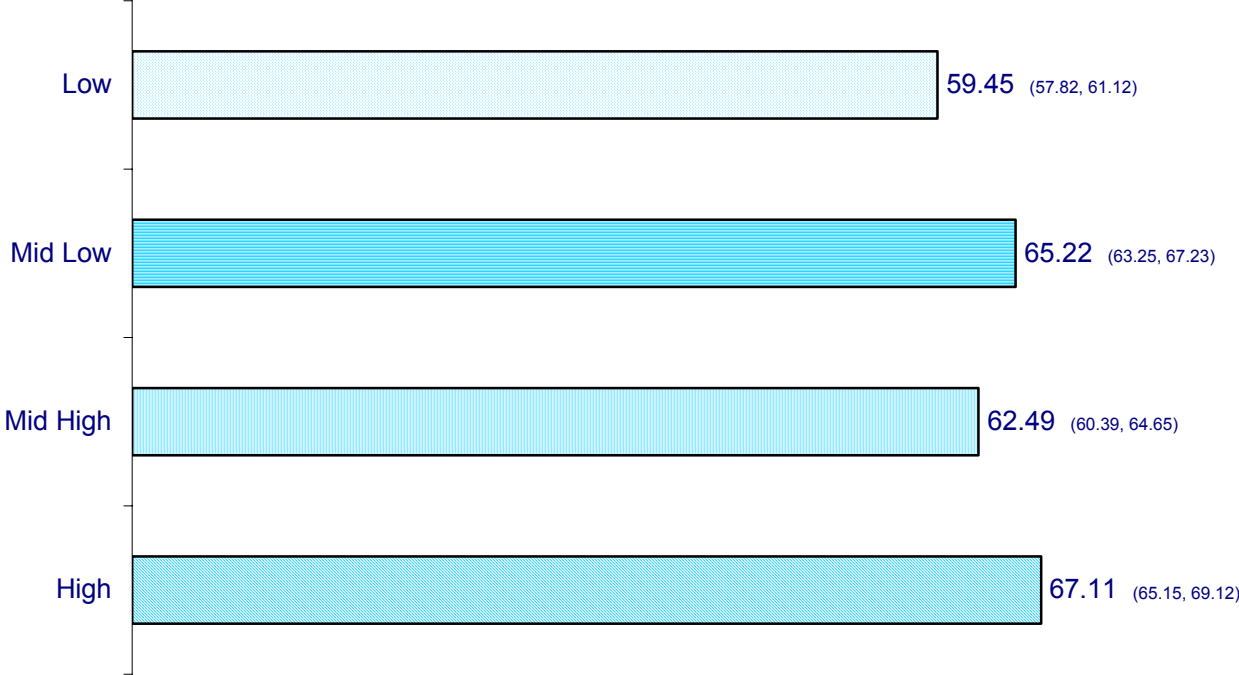


Annual incidence of cancer in South Australia in 1977-2001 by socio-economic status of place of residence per 100,000 (age-standardized to World Population)

Cancer site: **Prostate**

Males

Incidence (95% confidence limits)



PROSTATE

- South Australia and North America recorded a higher incidence of diagnosed prostate cancer than other comparison countries during 1993-97. The incidence in South Australia was 12% higher than the Australian incidence during that period. Meanwhile, the variation by region of the world was greater than 10 fold.
- Within South Australia, overseas-born residents had an incidence during 1977-2000 approximately three quarters that of the Australian born. Residents born in Asia, Southern Europe, Eastern Europe, and the United Kingdom/Ireland contributed to this lower incidence.
- **Although the incidence of prostate cancer was highest in residents of high socio-economic areas of South Australia during 1977-2001, as reported for other populations, the gradient was not consistent across socio-economic strata.**
- The Southern region of Adelaide presented a higher incidence of diagnosed disease than other Adelaide regions. Similarly, the Murray Mallee had a relatively high incidence, whereas comparatively low rates were indicated for the Far North, Flinders Ranges, Whyalla and the Lower South East.
- Incidence rates more than doubled between 1977-81 and 1997-2001, with most of the increase occurring during the 1990s when there were major increases in prostate specific antigen (PSA) testing. Meanwhile, mortality rates were relatively stable.
- Causes of prostate cancer are unknown, although diets high in fat, red meat and milk, and low in vegetables have been linked to an increased risk in some studies. Also, elevated risks have been observed to correlate with high alcohol intake and occupational exposures to cadmium and rubber. Screening for prostate cancer greatly increases the numbers of *diagnosed* lesions. Cancers found through screening would include potentially lethal lesions plus others which otherwise would have remained undetected throughout life.