

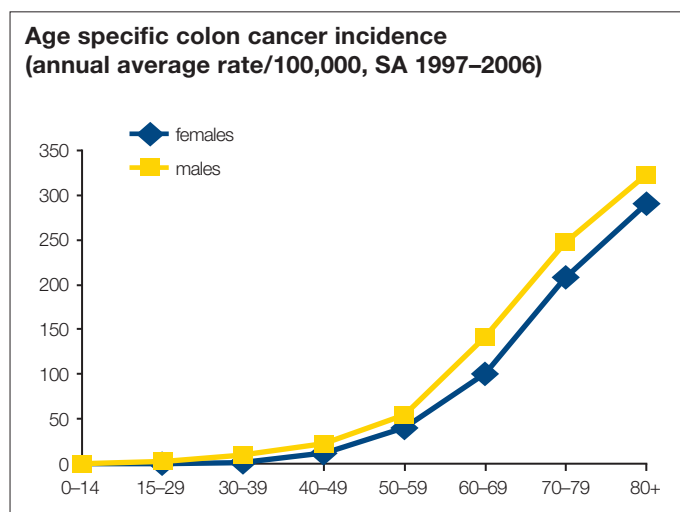
South Australia 2006 figures	males	females	total
number of cases	404	355	759
number of deaths	142	131	273
incidence/100,000 (ASR* Aust 2001 population)	48.4	34.0	40.5
mortality/100,000 (ASR* Aust 2001 population)	16.9	11.4	14.0
risk of developing colon cancer (by age 75 years)	1 in 32	1 in 41	1 in 36

*ASR – Age Standardised Rate

Patterns in incidence and mortality

Age

The incidence of colon cancer increases with increasing age, with the highest incidence among those aged 80 years and over.



Gender

Males have a slightly higher overall incidence of colon cancer.

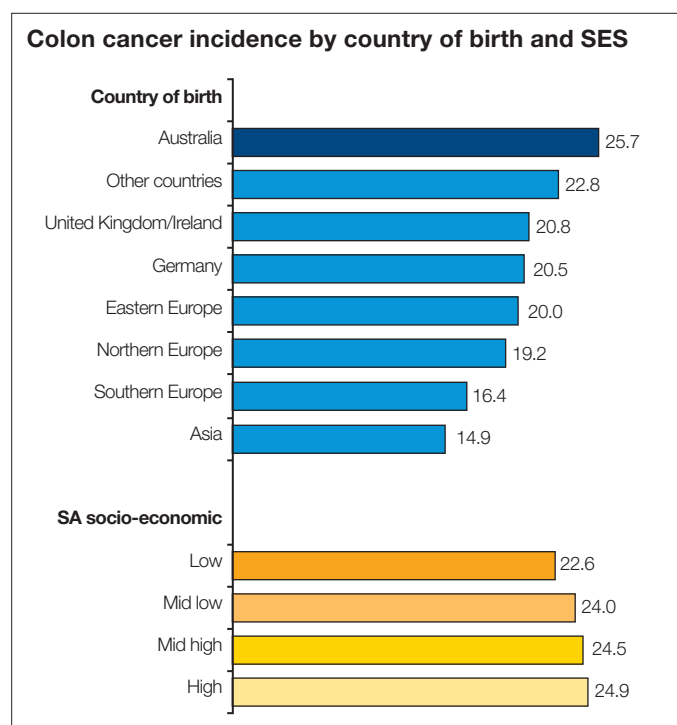
Country of birth

Within South Australia, residents born overseas had an incidence only about three quarters that of the Australian born during 1977-2000. The overseas born had lower rates, irrespective of whether they were born in the United Kingdom/Ireland, Germany or other Northern European countries, Eastern Europe, Southern Europe or Asia.

SES/region

Residents of upper socio-economic areas of South Australia had higher incidence rates for cancers of the colon in 1977-2001 than observed in lower socio-economic areas. This is consistent with socio-economic trends reported for other populations predominantly of European extraction.

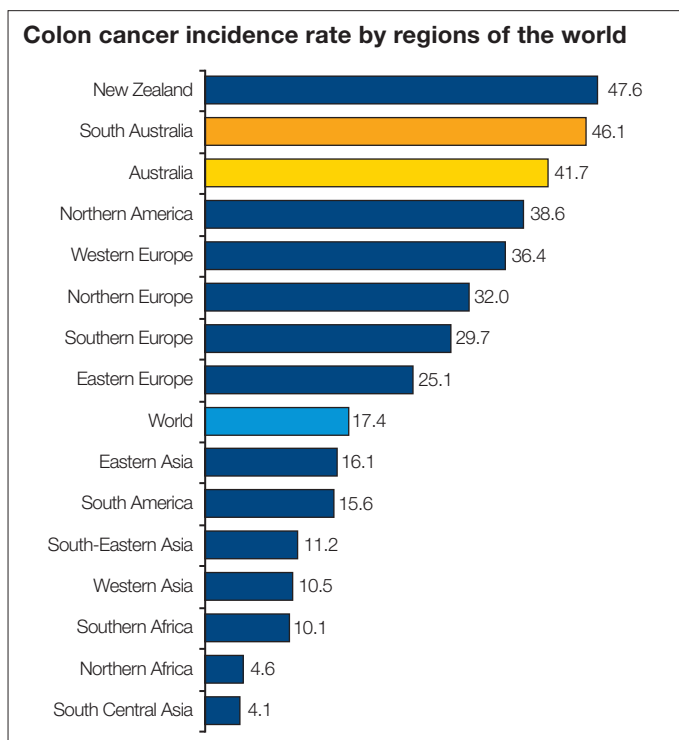
In general, the incidence was about 7% higher in Adelaide than country regions in 1977-2001. Within Adelaide, the Northern region had a lower incidence than other regions, although not as low as in some country regions (ie, Far North and Riverland).



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

Global comparisons

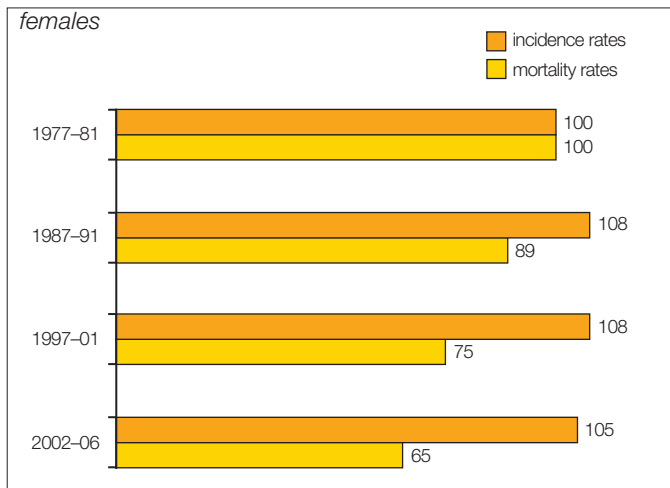
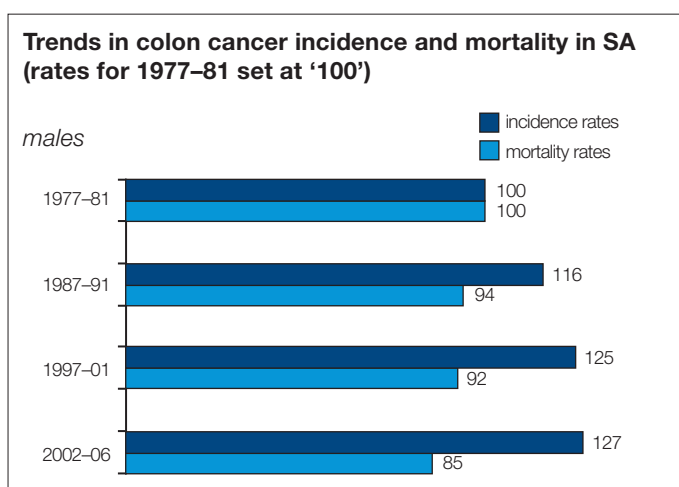
Australia and South Australia specifically have a high incidence of colon cancer by world standards. Rates for males and females are similar to those of New Zealand and slightly higher than those for Northern America. The incidence varies by about ninefold around the world. Diet is thought to be a major contributor to this variation.



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

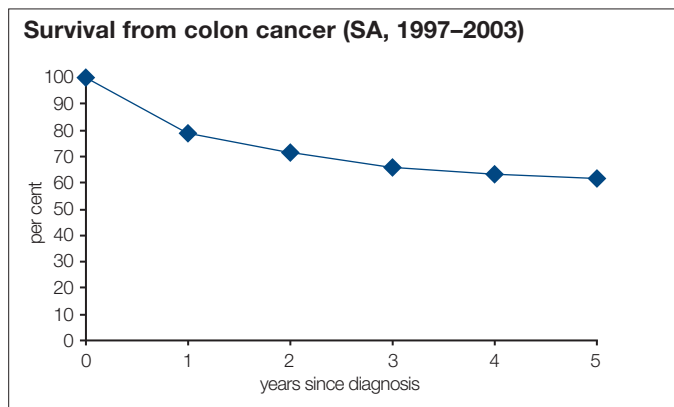
Time trends

Incidence rates among males and females combined have increased by about 16% between 1977–81 and 2002–06, mostly due to an increase in males. By comparison, mortality rates have declined by over 20%, largely due to a reduction in females. Survival from these cancers has increased, such that reductions in mortality were possible despite the increase in incidence.



Survival

Survival outcomes for colon cancer have improved significantly over the past two decades, with a five year survival of 62% for those diagnosed between 1997 and 2003 compared with 46% for those diagnosed between 1977 and 1981. This increase is attributed to both earlier detection and treatment advances.



Risk factors

Risk factors include:

- diets low in vegetables and potentially, those high in processed meat and fat
- excess body weight
- lack of exercise
- possibly drinking excess alcohol
- inherited factors: Familial Adenomatous Polyposis [FAP], Hereditary Non-Polyposis Colorectal Cancer [HNPCC] which account for ~10% of cases
- history of inflammatory bowel disease.

Updated March 2009 based on latest SA data (2006)

Data source:
Cancer Registry Reports, SA Dept Health
Globocan 2002, IARC