

Statistics

rectal cancer

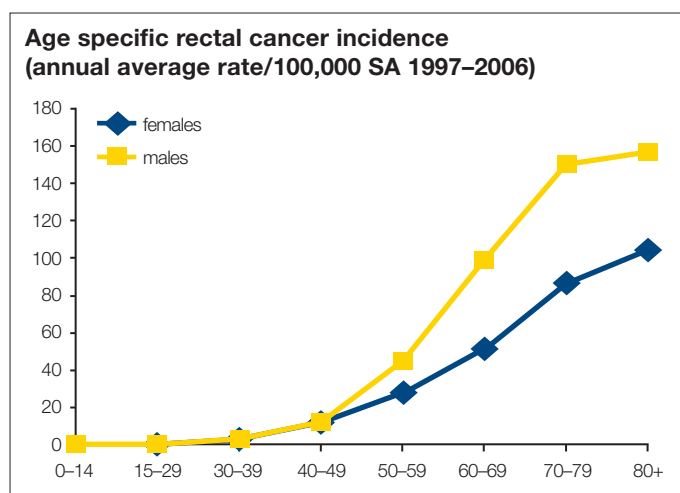
South Australia 2006 figures	males	females	total
number of cases	243	165	408
number of deaths	109	65	174
incidence/100,000 (ASR* Aust 2001 population)	28.9	17.0	22.2
mortality/100,000 (ASR* Aust 2001 population)	13.0	6.2	9.2
risk of developing rectal cancer (by age 75 years)	1 in 46	1 in 79	1 in 59

*ASR – Age Standardised Rate

Patterns in incidence and mortality

Age

Rectal cancers are rarely diagnosed in people under the age of 40 years. From this age onward, the incidence of rectal cancer increases with increasing age.



Gender

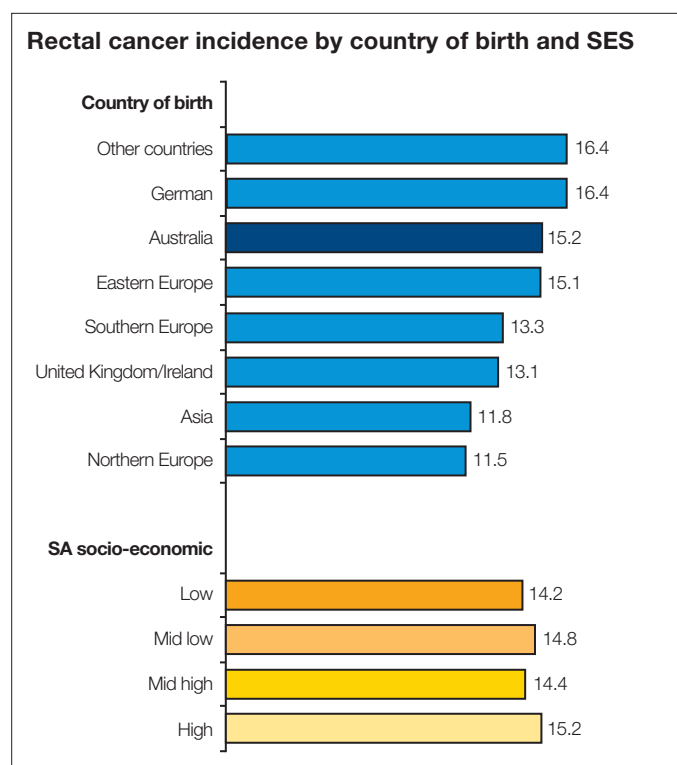
Males are more likely than females to develop rectal cancer.

Country of birth

Within South Australia, residents born overseas had an incidence about 11% lower than the Australian born during 1977–2000. In particular, low rates applied to residents born in a number of Northern European countries (apart from Germany), Asia, the United Kingdom/Ireland, and Southern Europe.

SES/region

A consistent socio-economic gradient in incidence was not apparent in South Australia in 1977–2001. Moreover, similar incidence rates generally applied in Adelaide and country regions. As for colon cancer, a low incidence was evident in Adelaide for the Northern region and in the country for the Far North.



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

Global comparisons

As for colon cancer, South Australia has a high incidence of rectal cancer than for all of Australia overall. Australia and South Australia have a relatively high incidence of rectal cancer by international standards, based on data from Globocan 2000*. The incidence around the world varies approximately 10-fold and is likely to be related to dietary patterns.

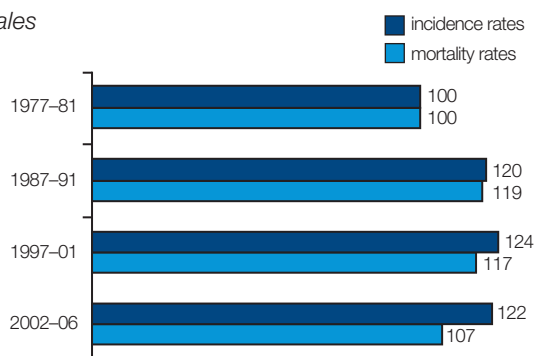
* More recent data from Globocan is not available for rectal cancers.

Trends

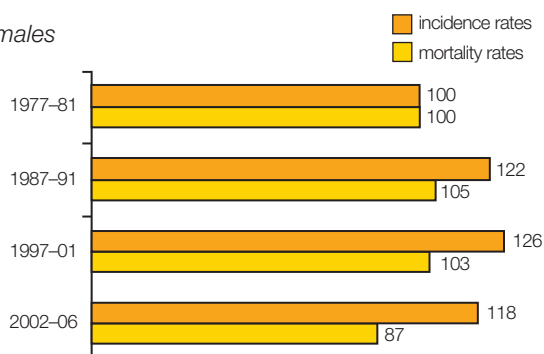
There has been an increase in incidence of about a 20% between 1977–81 and 2002–2006. Mortality rates have also risen slightly for males but appear to have decreased recently among females. Reduced mortality may reflect earlier detection through screening as well as improvements in treatment.

Trends in rectal cancer incidence and mortality SA (rates for 1977–81 set at '100')

males



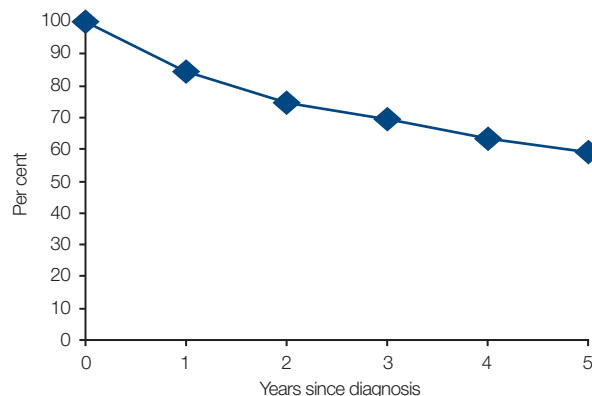
females



Survival

Survival outcomes for rectal cancer have improved in South Australia, from 48% of those diagnosed between 1977 and 1981 surviving five years or more after diagnosis to 59% of those diagnosed between 1997 and 2003.

Survival from rectal cancer (SA, 1997–2003)



Risk factors

Behavioural and related risk factors include:

- diets low in vegetables and potentially, those high in processed meat and fat
- excess body weight
- possibly, drinking excess alcohol.

Updated March 2009 based on latest SA data (2006)

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