

Cancer Mortality Trends in Prince Edward Island | Health PEI

Data from 2000 to 2023

Figure 1: Annual cancer deaths in PEI*

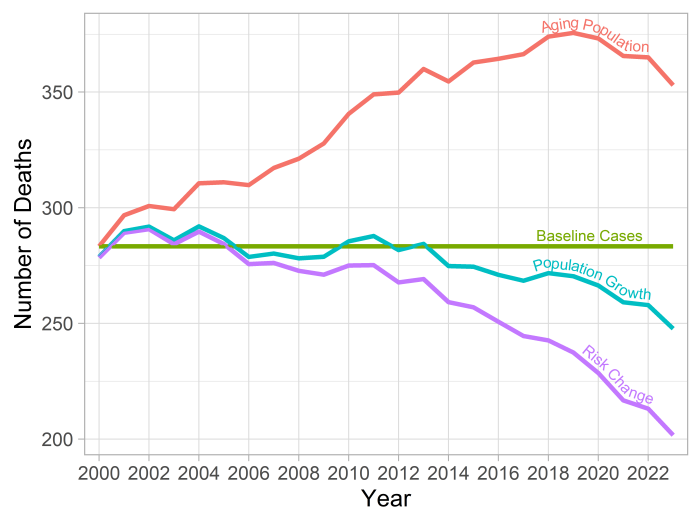
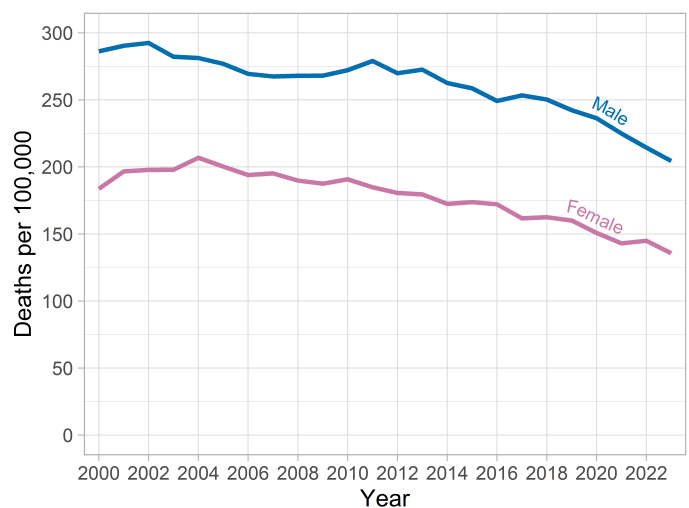


Figure 2: Age-Standardized Cancer Mortality Rate* for Males and Females in PEI



*5-year moving average shows the average over five years to smooth short-term changes and highlight the overall trends

Figure 1

- **Cancer Risk:** The risk of dying from cancer in PEI is decreasing since 2000, as shown by the risk change line.
- **Population Growth:** PEI's population continues to grow. The number of cancer deaths between the risk change and population growth lines is attributed to the increases cancer cases due to population growth.
- **Aging Population:** The aging population line rises sharply from 2000 to 2019 and then declines, representing all cancer deaths in PEI residents. The number of cancer deaths between the aging population and population growth lines is associated with the PEI population growing older. The older we live, the more likely we are to die from a cancer diagnosis.
- **Number of Deaths:** Cancer deaths in PEI increased 14.7% from 2000 to 2023—from 299 to 343.

Figure 2

- **Sex Differences of Age Standardized Rates:** In PEI, the age-standardized cancer mortality rate declined steadily over the past two decades—by 34.1% for males (from 295 to 195 per 100,000), 36.6% for females (from 200 to 127 per 100,000), and 35.1% overall across the population (from 248 to 161 per 100,000).

Figure 3: Cancer Deaths by Year and Sex in PEI

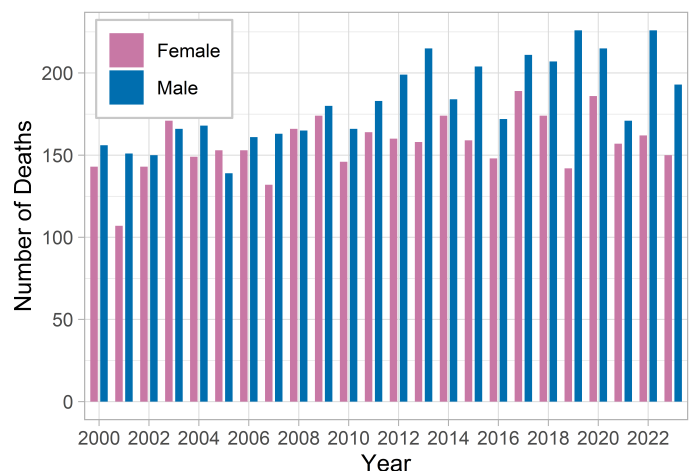
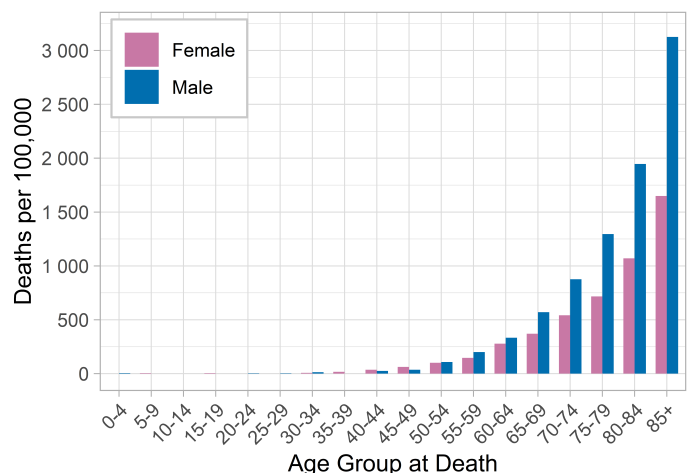


Figure 4: Crude Mortality Rate by Age Group in PEI, 2018-2022



[Figure 3](#)

- **Cancer Deaths:** In most years, more males died from cancer than females in PEI. In 2023, there were 193 male deaths and 150 female deaths.

[Figure 4](#)

- **Age and Sex Differences:** Cancer mortality rates increased with age, especially in older men.

Figure 5: Average Annual Age-Standardized Mortality Rates* per 100,000 for most common cancers deaths in **Males** in PEI and Canada, 2018-2022

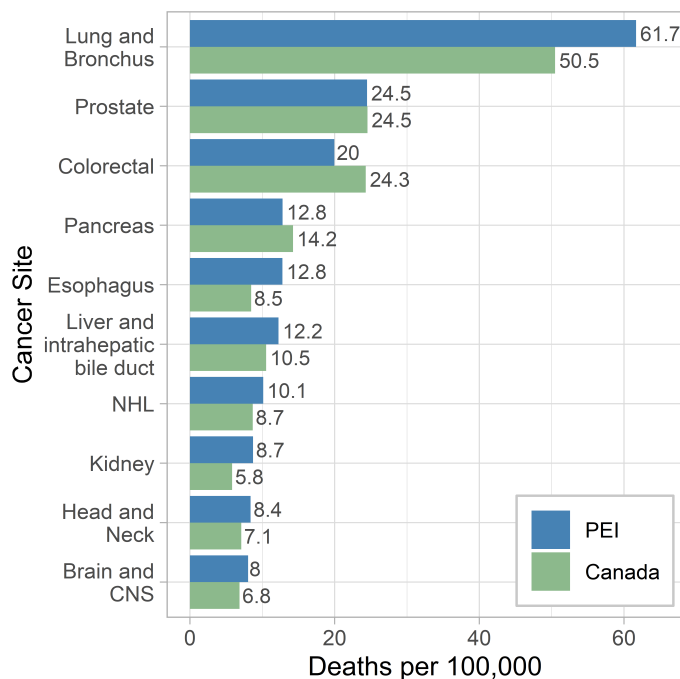
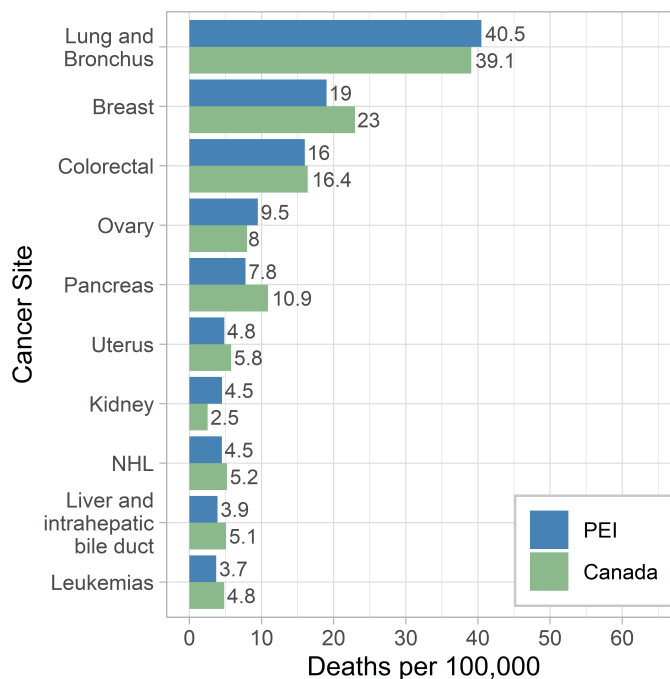


Figure 6: Average Annual Age-Standardized Mortality Rates* per 100,000 for most common cancers deaths in **Females** in PEI and Canada, 2018-2022



*Data from [Statistics Canada](#)

[Figure 5](#) and [Figure 6](#)

- **Most Common Cancer Mortality:** Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death for both males and females in PEI. Prostate cancer (in men) and breast cancer (in women) are the second most common.
- **Sex Differences in Cancer Mortality:** Certain cancers like esophagus, head & neck, and brain/CNS rank in top 10 for males only, while sex associated cancers and leukemias appear in the top 10 for females.
- **PEI Compared to Canada:** Overall cancer mortality rate in PEI is higher than the national average (197 vs 182 per 100,000). In particular, lung and renal cancer mortality rates are considerably higher.

Takeaway Messages

- According to the [2023 Canadian Cancer Statistics](#), 22% of Canadians are expected to die from cancer, with lifetime risk higher for males (24%) than females (21%).
- Cancer deaths in PEI increased until 2019, mainly due to a growing and aging population. Since then, the number of cancer deaths has declined, likely because of earlier diagnosis and improved treatment.
- Males have higher cancer death rates than females, especially in older age groups, while females under 50 have higher death rates due to colorectal, breast and gynecological cancers.
- PEI has a higher mortality rate than Canada. Lung and kidney cancer deaths are notably high in PEI, indicating the need for continuous improvement in prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.
- Reducing cancer mortality requires prevention, early detection, timely treatment, equitable access to care, survivorship support, and efforts to reduce risk factors like tobacco and alcohol use, inactivity, excess weight, poor diet, and UV exposure. For tips on healthy living and reducing cancer risk factors, visit [Live Well PEI](#).