

# Cancer Incidence Trends in Prince Edward Island | Health PEI

Data from 2000 to 2023

Figure 1: New cancer cases diagnosed annually\*

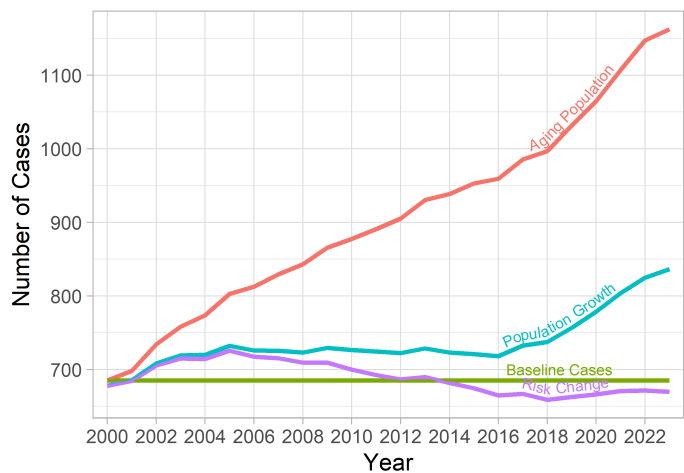
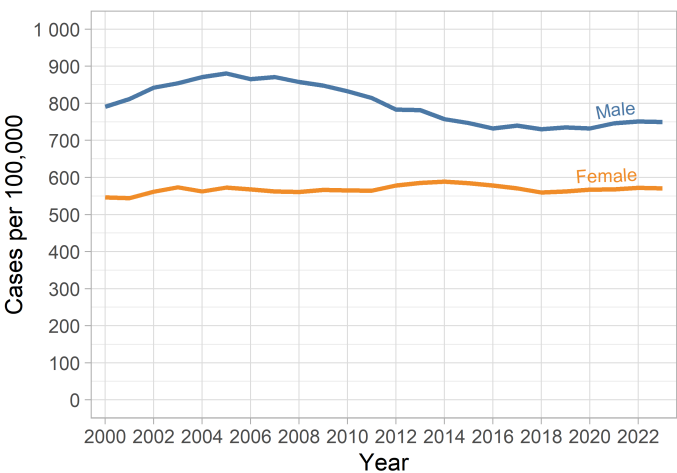


Figure 2: Age-Standardized Incidence Rate\* for Males and Females in PEI



\*5-year moving average, averages the data for two years before, the year, and two years after to smooth the trend line.

## Figure 1

- **Risk Change:** The risk of getting cancer has been decreasing since 2005, as shown by the risk change line.
- **Population Growth:** PEI's population continues to grow. The increasing number of cancer cases between the risk change and population growth lines is attributed to population growth.
- **Aging Population:** The aging population line rises sharply from 2000 to 2023, representing all cancer cases diagnosed in PEI residents. The increasing number of cancer cases 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 get cancer.
- **Number of Cases:** The number of new cancer cases in PEI increased by approximately 76.4% over the past two decades—from 658 in 2000 to 1,161 in 2023.

## Figure 2

- **Rates by Sex:** From 2000 to 2023, males had higher total cancer rate than females, but the gap is narrowing.
- **Age-Standardized Rates:** In PEI, the age-standardized cancer incidence rate rose slightly for females—from 522 to 554 cases per 100,000 between 2000 and 2023, a 6% increase—while it fell for males, from 766 to 744 cases per 100,000, a 3% decrease. The overall rate changed <1% up to 649 cases per 100,000 in 2023.

Figure 3: Number of Cancer Cases by Year and Sex

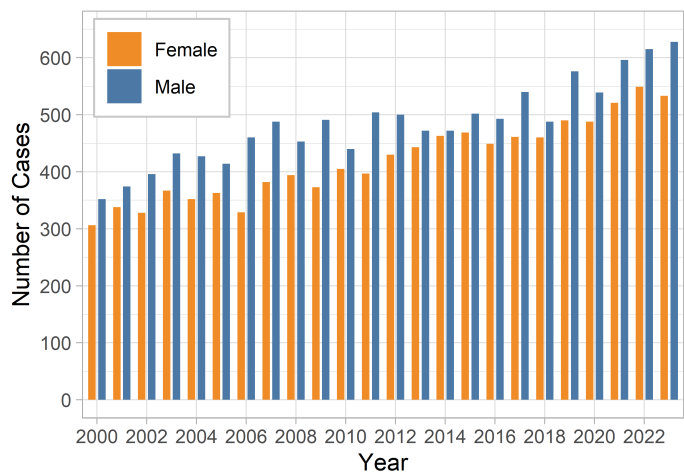
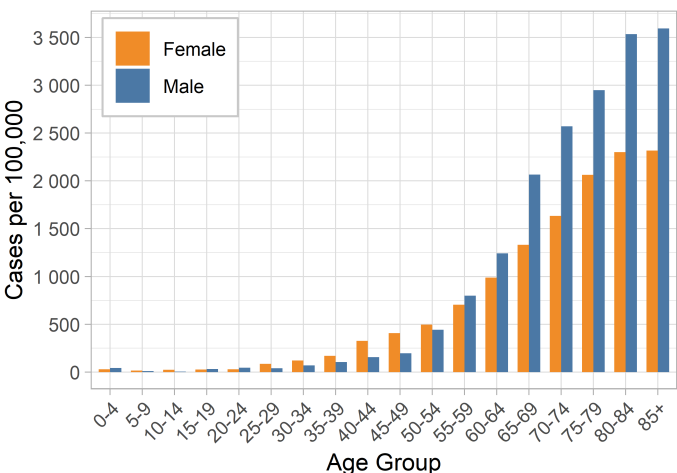


Figure 4: Crude Incidence Rate by Age Group, 2018-2022



[Figure 3](#)

- **Cancer Cases:** From 2000 to 2023, new cancer cases in PEI rose sharply for both sexes—up 78% for males (from 352 to 628) and 74% for females (from 306 to 533)—with males consistently having more cases.

[Figure 4](#)

- **Age Impact:** Cancer rates rise sharply with age, especially after 55 years of age.
- **Sex-based variation:** Females have higher rates at younger ages; males at older ages.

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

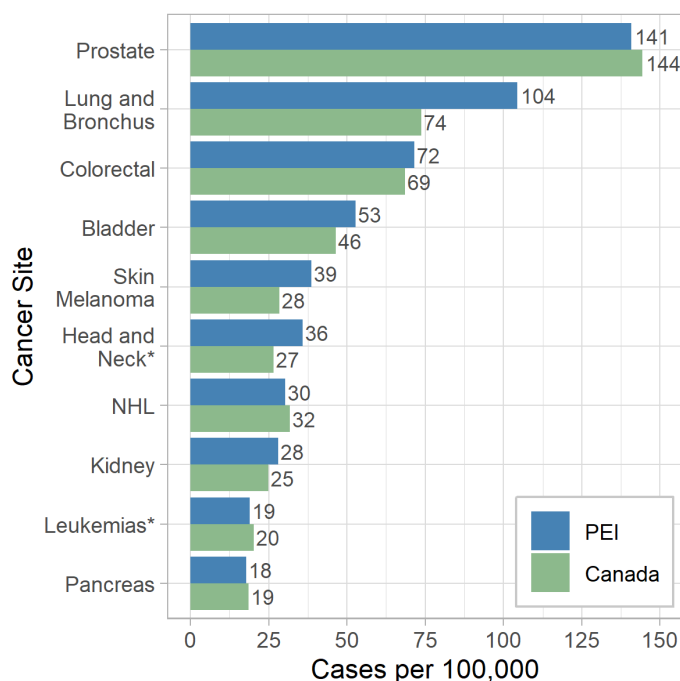
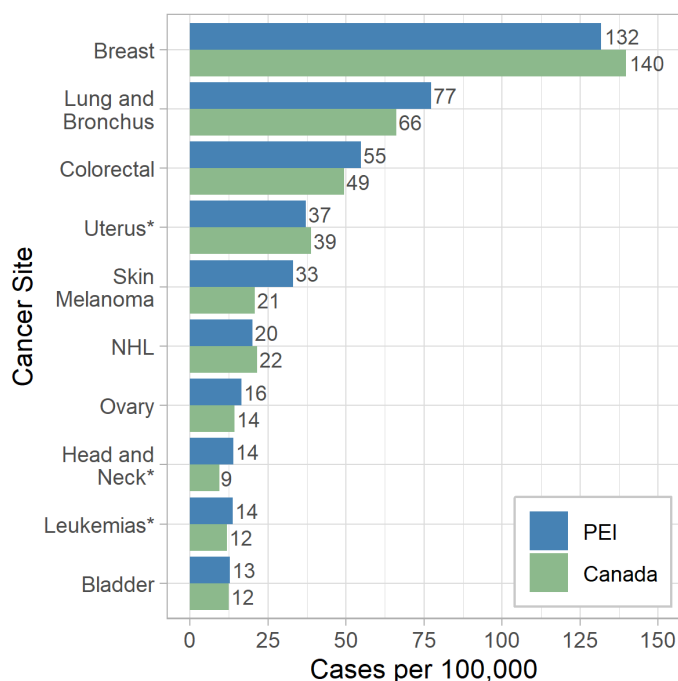


Figure 6: Average Annual Age-Standardized Incidence Rates\* per 100,000 for most common cancers in **Females** in PEI and Canada, 2018-2022



\*Data from [Statistics Canada](#) except Head and Neck, Uterus, and Leukemias from PEI Cancer Registry

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

- **Most Common Cancers:** Prostate (in males) and breast (in females) are most common, both slightly below national rates. Lung and skin cancer incidence rates are considerably higher in PEI than Canada.
- **PEI Compared to Canada:** PEI has a higher cancer rate than Canada (603 vs 567 per 100,000). Male rates are higher in PEI than Canada (689 vs 625 per 100,000), while female rates are similar (532 vs 523 per 100,000).
- **Bladder Cancer:** Ranks 4th in males but 10th in females, partly because males are more affected due to higher exposure to smoking, workplace chemicals, and hormones that may help cancer grow.

### Takeaway Messages

- About 45% of Canadians are expected to be diagnosed with cancer during their lifetime ([CCS 2023](#)).
- Cancer cases continue to rise in PEI, driven by an aging and growing population—adding pressure on patients, families, and the health care system. When we remove the effect of population size and aging, the true risk of cancer is decreasing in PEI.
- Males have higher cancer rates than females, especially in older age groups. In contrast, females under 55 have higher rates due to breast and gynecological cancers.
- PEI has a higher incidence rate than Canada and shows alarmingly high rates of lung and melanoma cancers compared to the Canadian national average, highlighting the need for early detection efforts and prevention.
- Prevention includes reducing cancer risk factors including: tobacco use, alcohol consumption, physical inactivity, overweight, low vegetable and fruit consumption, and sun and UV exposure. For tips on healthy living and reducing cancer risk factors, visit [Live Well PEI](#).