

Potential years of life lost due to cancer

If a person dies from cancer before the age they might have expected to live to—given their age, sex, indigenous status, and remoteness of usual residence at the time of their death¹—then they could be said to have lost those potential years of life.

The potential years of life lost (PYLL) due to cancer in a year is the sum of all the lost potential years of life of all the people who died from cancer in that year.

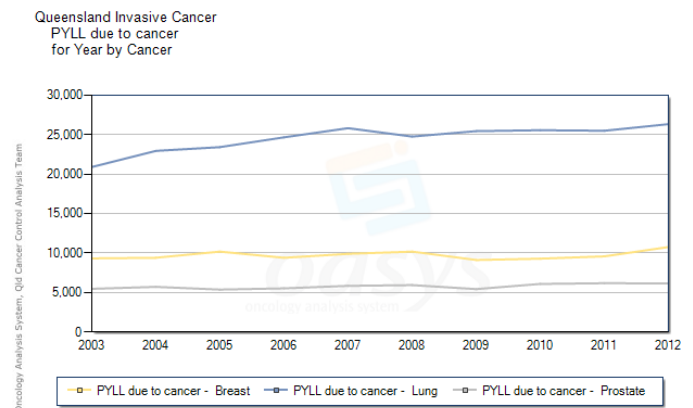
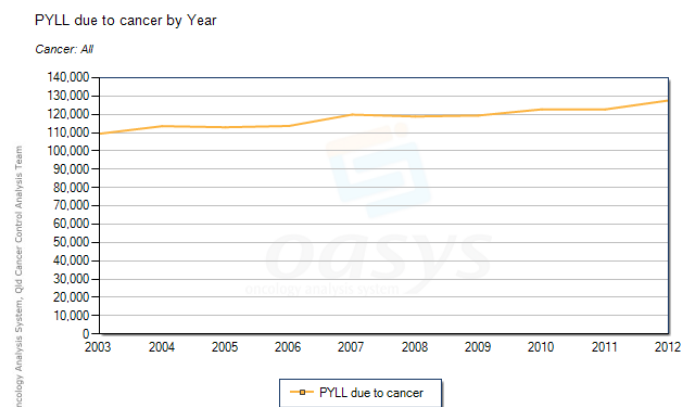
In the 10 years from 2003 to 2012, a total of over a 1,181,000 potential years of life were lost due to deaths from cancer in Queensland.

Cancers which cause a larger number of deaths, and in particular deaths at a younger age, will have a high PYLL.

For example, about 1,500 people die each year in Queensland from lung cancer—across a wide range of age groups, so it has the highest PYLL of all the cancers.

Each year about 500 people die from prostate cancer and about 500 from breast cancer—but those who die from prostate cancer are generally in older age groups than those who die from breast cancer. As a result the PYLL of prostate cancer is lower than the PYLL of breast cancer.

1. *Experimental Life Tables by Remoteness, Queensland, 2002-04 and 2005-07*, Indigenous Information Strategy Team, Health Statistics Centre, Queensland Health, 3 April 2012.



For more information on cancer in Queensland, go to:

Queensland Cancer Control Analysis Team (QCCAT) home page at <https://qccat.health.qld.gov.au>

Information on Oncology Analysis System (OASys) at <https://qccat.health.qld.gov.au/AboutOASys>

Other OASys Cancer Facts at <https://qccat.health.qld.gov.au/OtherStatistics>

For full terms and definitions refer to <https://qccat.health.qld.gov.au/OASys/PresentationLayer/PublicPages/Help/index.html?glossary.html>

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This OASys Cancer Fact was prepared by the Queensland Cancer Control Analysis Team (QCCAT), Metro South Hospital & Health Service.