

## Incidence of melanoma in Queensland

People who live in Queensland have the highest rates of melanoma in the world. However, the incidence of melanoma varies between Queensland Health's Hospital and Health Services.

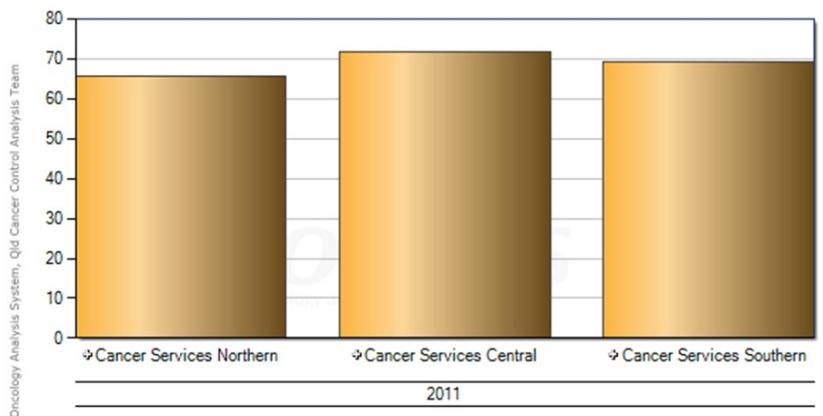
In 2011 (the latest year for which Queensland data is available) there was very little difference in the incidence of melanoma between the geographical areas covered by Queensland Health's 3 Cancer Services. This similarity in the incidence of melanoma was evident back to 2003 (the earliest year for which a 3-year moving average of age standardised incidence data is available).

However, looking at the geographical areas covered by the Hospital and Health Services within the 3 Cancer Services, there are far greater differences in the incidence of melanoma. This variation is evident back to 2003.

Hospital and Health Services such as Torres Strait-Northern Peninsula, Cape York (now amalgamated into Torres and Cape), North West, Central West, and South West have small populations and so only very small numbers of people being diagnosed with melanoma each year. This means that the incidence of melanoma in these Hospital and

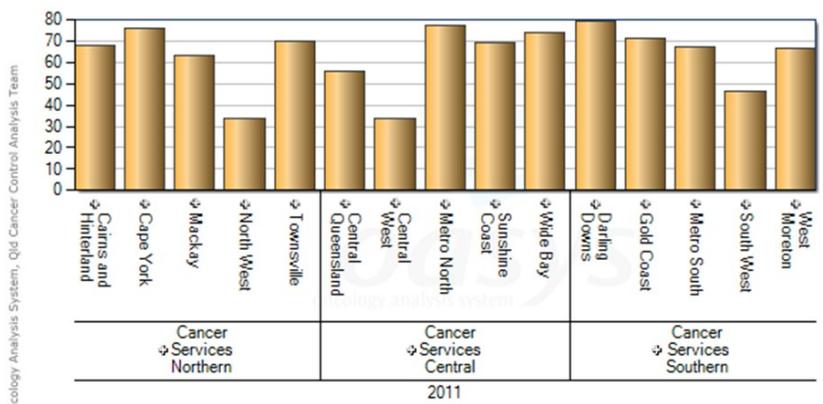
Queensland Invasive Cancer  
Incidence ASR 3-year moving average  
for Year and Residence

Cancer: Melanoma



Queensland Invasive Cancer  
Incidence ASR 3-year moving average  
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Health Services varies quite markedly from year to year (when using a 3-year moving average of an age standardised rate). Keeping this limitation in the data in mind, the North West, Central West, and South West Hospital and Health Services have each consistently had one of the lowest incidence of melanoma in their respective Cancer Service areas. This could be because people in these 'remote' geographical areas take better precautions with respect to their UV exposure, or because there are differences in the screening, detection and reporting processes in these geographical areas to the processes in other areas.

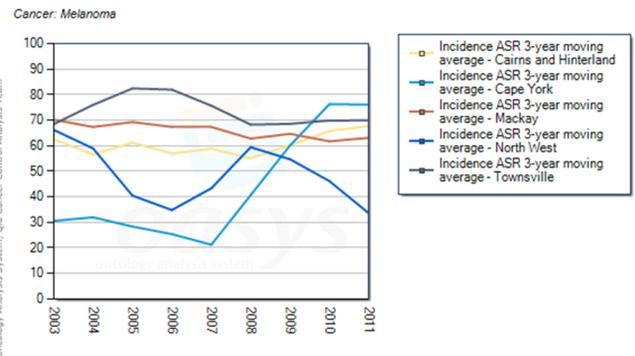
As for the incidence of melanoma in the other Hospital and Health Services, no clear trends really emerge.

Darling Downs (a 'rural' area) has had the highest incidence of melanoma within its Cancer Services area for a number of years, while Mackay and Central Queensland (other 'rural' areas) have not.

Similarly, Metro South (a non 'rural' area) generally had one of the lowest incidence of melanoma within Cancer Services Southern up to and including 2011, while Metro North (another non 'rural' area) had the highest incidence of melanoma in Cancer Services Central in 2011.

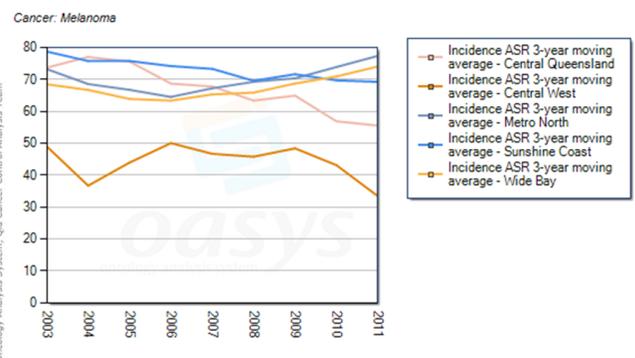
Queensland Invasive Cancer  
Incidence ASR 3-year moving average  
for Year by Residence

### Cancer Services Northern



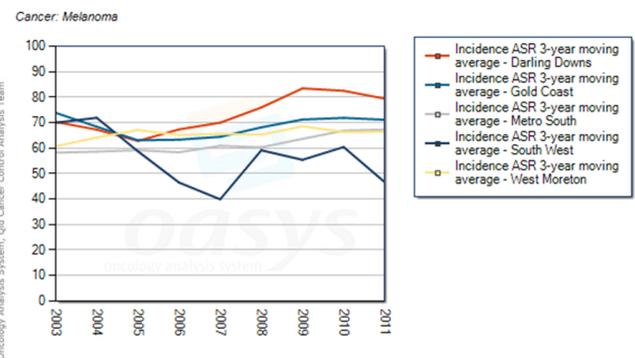
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### Cancer Services Central



Queensland Invasive Cancer  
Incidence ASR 3-year moving average  
for Year by Residence

### Cancer Services Southern



### 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.