

# Caveat on use of NSWCR 2018 NSW preliminary cancer incidence data

## Date updated

30 March 2021

## Data set

NSW Cancer Registry (NSWCR) 2018 NSW preliminary cancer incidence data

## Data element

All data elements

## Definition of data element

N/A

## Caveat

Data in the NSWCR 2018 NSW preliminary cancer incidence release are incomplete due to missing "Death Certificate Only" (DCO) cancer cases for 2018. This release also contains no mortality data for 2018. Please see details below regarding impacts when using these data for analysis.

## Background

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is the National body responsible for compiling and coding mortality data (including cause of death) from source agencies: Registrars of Birth Deaths and Marriages (RBDM) for each state and territory and the National Coronial Information System.

These data are available through the Australian Coordinating Registry (ACR) and the NSW Cancer Registry (NSWCR) receives a Cause of Death Unit Record File (COD URF) as part of its process to code mortality. These data are available once a year around July.

Cancer cases that are only identified and coded as new cases on receipt of the COD URF data and are known as "Death Certificate Only" (DCO) cases.

In order to provide researchers with more relevant and updated cancer information there will be two possible releases of data from the NSW Cancer Registry (NSWCR) for each reporting year, depending on the timing of the COD URF data:

- **Preliminary cancer incidence only data release**
  - COD URF data for current reporting year not available.
  - Incidence data for current reporting year coded but not complete due to missing DCO cancer cases.
  - Mortality data for current reporting year not available.
- **Final cancer incidence and mortality data release**
  - COD URF data for current reporting year available and processed.
  - Incidence data coded and complete for current reporting year.
  - Mortality data coded and complete for current reporting year.

## Impact on 2018 cancer incidence counts

As a result of the current reporting year's COD URF data not being available there is an expected underreporting of new invasive primary cancer cases for 2018 of approximately 1.5% for all cancers, which varies by cancer type and age group. This represents the annual proportion of DCO cases in the data.

The following tables provide a breakdown of the proportion of DCO cancer cases identified from death information over the five year period from 2013 to 2017, by cancer type (ICD-9) and five year age group.

Users of the 2018 preliminary cancer incidence data release should use this information to account for the missing DCO cancer cases in their research and analysis.

**Table 1: Proportion of NSW Death Certificate Only (DCO) cancer cases, by cancer type (ICD-9), 2013 – 2017**

Cancer type (ICD-9)		Number of DCO cases (#)	Proportion of DCO cases (%)
Code	Description		
C910	Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia	3	1.2%
C920	Acute myeloid leukaemia	21	1.2%
C67	Bladder	102	2.3%
C401	Bone	2	0.4%
C71	Brain	38	1.4%
C50	Breast	150	0.5%
C98	Cancer unknown primary	801	15.4%
C72	Central nervous system	4	2.4%
C53	Cervical	3	0.2%
C18	Colon	159	0.9%
C479	Connective tissue, peripheral nerve	8	0.7%

Cancer type (ICD-9)		Number of DCO cases (#)	Proportion of DCO cases (%)
Code	Description		
C69	Eye	1	0.2%
C234	Gallbladder	32	2.0%
C81	Hodgkin lymphoma	1	0.1%
C123	Hypopharyngeal	0	0.0%
C46	Kaposi's sarcoma	0	0.0%
C648	Kidney	101	1.5%
C32	Laryngeal	8	0.8%
C00	Lip	1	0.1%
C22	Liver	139	3.7%
C334	Lung	552	2.8%
C43	Melanoma of skin	18	0.1%
C45	Mesothelioma	27	2.2%
C036	Mouth	15	1.4%
C8890	Multiple myeloma	60	2.0%
M96	Myelodysplasia	86	3.4%
C301	Nasal & sinus	2	0.6%
C11	Nasopharyngeal	4	1.3%
C82	Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	68	0.8%
C15	Oesophageal	43	1.8%
C0910	Oropharyngeal	5	0.5%
C745	Other endocrine gland	8	3.0%
C59	Other female genital	13	1.6%
M95	Other lymphatic haematopoietic	57	2.3%
C919	Other lymphoid leukaemia	44	1.5%
C6360	Other male genital	2	0.9%
C929	Other myeloid leukaemia	15	1.4%
C14	Other oral cavity & pharyngeal	5	5.6%

Cancer type (ICD-9)		Number of DCO cases (#)	Proportion of DCO cases (%)
Code	Description		
C94	Other specified leukaemia	1	0.7%
C378	Other thoracic	6	2.4%
C567	Ovarian	48	1.9%
C25	Pancreatic	266	4.7%
C58	Placental	0	0.0%
C61	Prostate	238	0.7%
C1921	Rectal	64	0.7%
C078	Salivary gland	9	1.6%
C17	Small intestinal	4	0.4%
C16	Stomach	46	1.2%
C62	Testicular	1	0.1%
C73	Thyroid	6	0.1%
C012	Tongue	7	0.5%
C95	Unspecified leukaemia	67	45.0%
C545	Uterine	25	0.6%
<b>All cancer cases</b>		<b>3,386</b>	<b>1.5%</b>

**Table 2: Proportion of NSW Death Certificate Only (DCO) cancer cases, by five year age group, 2013 – 2017**

Five year age group	Number of DCO cases (#)	Proportion of DCO cases (%)
0-4 years	4	0.7%
5-9 years	0	0.0%
10-14 years	0	0.0%
15-19 years	0	0.0%
20-24 years	0	0.0%
25-29 years	1	0.1%
30-34 years	0	0.0%
35-39 years	1	0.0%

Five year age group	Number of DCO cases (#)	Proportion of DCO cases (%)
40-44 years	3	0.0%
45-49 years	9	0.1%
50-54 years	13	0.1%
55-59 years	43	0.2%
60-64 years	77	0.3%
65-69 years	121	0.4%
70-74 years	200	0.7%
75-79 years	305	1.2%
80-84 years	581	2.8%
85+ years	2,028	9.6%
<b>All age groups</b>	<b>3,386</b>	<b>1.5%</b>

### For more information contact

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