



Melanoma by the Numbers 2012

- Estimates were there would be 5,800 new cases of melanoma diagnosed in 2012 and it would cause 970 deaths.¹ (New cases: Males 3,100 / Females 2,700. Deaths: Males: 600 / Females: 370)
- Melanoma is the 7th most frequent cancer in Canada.¹
- The survival rate for melanoma is high; 90% of Canadians diagnosed with melanoma will survive. Early detection of melanoma is very important as this is directly linked to the high survival rate.² Unlike many cancers, melanoma is *clearly visible on the skin*.
- Up to 70% of all melanomas are first identified by the patient themselves (53%) or close family members (17%).³
- The lifetime risk of melanoma for Canadian men is now 1 in 74. For women, it is 1 in 90.² In comparison, the lifetime risk of melanoma for Americans in the 1930's was 1 in 1,500.
- Melanoma is one of a handful of cancers where the incidence in Canadians continues to increase (1.4% a year in men, 1.4% a year in women). This is likely related to more leisure time spent in the sun without adequate protection.⁴
- Looking at all cancers found in the **15 to 29 age group**, melanoma was the 3rd most common cancer in young women and represented 11% of new cases. There is growing evidence that exposure to ultraviolet radiation through the use of tanning beds and sunlamps, increases the risk of developing melanoma especially if exposure begins in adolescence or young adulthood.²
- The death rate for men with melanoma continues to rise (0.5% a year).² Studies show older, fair skinned men are more likely to die to melanoma than any other group. This may be due to the frequent location of melanoma on the back in this group, an area which is difficult to see.

Estimated new cases of Melanoma by Gender & Province ¹

Gender	Canada	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC †	NB	NS	PE	NL †
Male	3,100	490	270	80	85	1,500	350	90	140	20	45
Female	2,700	420	240	60	75	1,350	280	85	130	20	35
Total	5,800	910	510	140	160	2,850	630	175	270	40	80

Territories are not listed separately due to small numbers.

† The actual data used to calculate the projected overall 2012 estimates may have been underestimated for this province.

Estimated deaths due to Melanoma by Gender and Province ¹

Gender	Canada	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Male	600	90	55	15	15	270	110	10	25	5	10
Female	370	60	35	10	10	160	65	10	15	--	5
Total	970	150	90	25	25	430	175	20	40	5	15

-- Fewer than three deaths. Territories are not listed separately due to small numbers.

¹ Canadian Cancer Statistics 2012

² Canadian Cancer Statistics 2009

³ Koh HK, Miller DR, Geller AC, Clapp RW, Mercer MB, Lew RA. Who discovers melanoma? *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*, 1992; 26: 914-919

⁴ Canadian Cancer Statistics 2011