



Melanoma by the Numbers 2014

- Estimates were there would be **6,500 new cases of melanoma** diagnosed in 2014 and it would cause **1,060 deaths**.¹ (New cases: Males 3,500 / Females 3,000. Deaths: Males: 660 / Females: 400)
- 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 63 (in 2012 it was 1 in 74). For women, it is 1 in 79 (in 2012 it was 1 in 90).¹ 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 (1.6% a year in men, 1.3% a year in women). This is likely related to more leisure time spent in the sun without adequate protection.¹
- 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 & Province¹

Gender	Canada	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Male	3,500	530	310	75	100	1,700	500	90	150	25	50
Female	3,000	440	260	65	75	1,400	430	85	140	15	35
Total	6,500	970	570	140	175	3,100	930	175	290	40	85

Territories are not listed separately due to small numbers.

Estimated deaths due to Melanoma by Gender and Province¹

Gender	Canada	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Male	660	85	55	15	15	300	130	15	25	5	15
Female	400	55	40	10	10	180	80	10	10	-	5
Total	1,060	140	95	25	25	480	210	25	35	5	20

— Fewer than three deaths. Column totals may not sum to row totals due to rounding. Canada totals include provincial and territorial estimates. Territories are not listed separately due to small numbers.

¹ Canadian Cancer Statistics 2014

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