

Top Types of Cancer among First Nations in Alberta

Proportion of total cancer cases by cancer type and First Nations status; 2006-2015

Cancer is a major contributor to disease burden in Canada and is a leading cause of death. In this edition of *First Nations – Health Trends Alberta*¹ the proportion of total newly diagnosed cancer cases by cancer type are presented for non-First Nations and First Nations in Alberta separately. Cancer types were selected based on their ranking by average incidence for both sexes combined between 2006 and 2015: we report the top 10 types of cancer for both First Nations and non-First Nations populations.

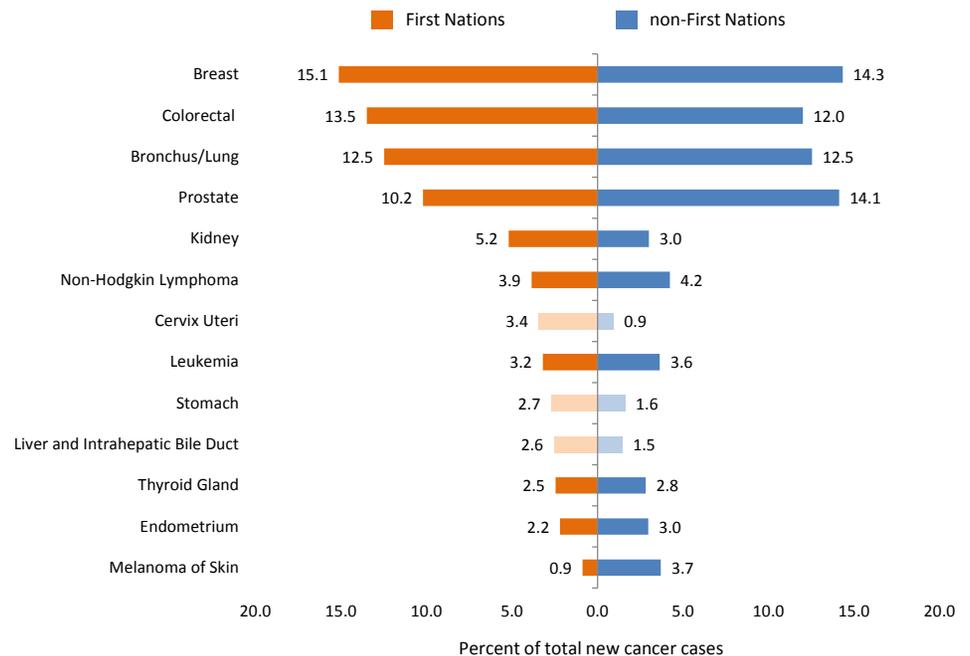
First Nations disproportionately impacted by cancers linked to infectious disease agents

Between 2006 and 2015, there was an annual average of 15,760 cases of cancer diagnosed in Alberta (305 among First Nations; 15,455 among non-First Nations). The number of cancer cases diagnosed among men and women over this time period were comparable: 49 per cent of total cancer cases were diagnosed in men among First Nations (52 per cent for non-First Nations).

For both First Nations and non-First Nations, both sexes combined, the top four cancer types observed over the ten year period were breast, colorectal, bronchus/lung, and prostate. These comprised over 50 per cent of the total cancer cases diagnosed among both populations.

The top 10 cancer types differed slightly by population: three cancer types observed among the top 10 sites for First Nations were not part of the top 10 sites for non-First Nations (lightened bars in figure). These included cancers of the cervix

(3.4 per cent), stomach (2.7 per cent), and liver and intrahepatic bile duct (2.6 per cent). Notably, these are cancers known to be caused by infectious disease agents: human papillomavirus (HPV; cervical), *Helicobacter pylori* (stomach), and hepatitis C virus (liver). It has previously been reported that Indigenous populations are disproportionately impacted by cancers related to infectious disease agents, and that public health initiatives aimed at reducing the risk of infection, such as HPV vaccination, should be strengthened.²



¹ This is the 21st in a series of First Nations-specific Health Trends compiled in collaboration by Alberta Health and the Alberta First Nations Information Governance Centre (AFNIGC). To suggest future topics, please contact the AFNIGC (communications@afnigc.ca; 403-539-5775).

² <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26476758>