Cancer

Cancer is one of New Zealand’s biggest causes of death. Many cancers can be cured if they are found and treated in time.

On the right are some findings related to cancer registration from 1996–98 to 2013–15 and cancer mortality from 1996–98 to 2012–14 for Māori and non-Māori adults aged 25 years and over. Data was sourced from the Ministry of Health New Zealand Cancer Registry (NZCR) and the Mortality Collection Data Set (MORT).

We also present breast and cervical cancer screening rates for Māori and non-Māori women. Data was sourced from the National Screening Unit at the Ministry of Health, from 2002 to 2017.

Males

Common cancer registration and mortality for Māori males

The most common cancers registered by Māori males were prostate cancer and lung cancer, and this has not changed over time.

Lung cancer is one of the leading causes of death for Māori males and this has not changed over time.

Lung cancer registration and mortality rates decreased over time for Māori males and the differences between Māori and non-Māori males also decreased.

Females

Common cancer registration and mortality for Māori females

The most common cancers registered by Māori females were breast cancer and lung cancer, and this has not changed over time.

Lung cancer and breast cancer are two major leading causes of death for Māori females, and this has not changed over time.

Breast cancer registration rates increased over time for Māori females and the difference between Māori and non-Māori females remained similar over time.

Lung cancer and breast cancer mortality rates decreased over time for Māori females, and the differences in lung cancer mortality rates between Māori and non-Māori females decreased over time.

Breast and cervical cancer screening for Māori females

Māori females had lower rates of breast and cervical cancer screening than non-Māori females.

The breast cancer screening rates increased for both Māori and non-Māori. Most increases occurred between 2007 and 2012, with few or no increases since 2012.

The cervical screening rates for both Māori and non-Māori did not change much over time.