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# The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

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From: Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health  
Report: #2023-INFO-99  
Date: December 1, 2023

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**Subject:**

Canadian Cancer Statistics 2023

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**Recommendation:**

Receive for information

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**Report:**

**1. Purpose**

1.1 To provide an update on the report entitled [Canadian Cancer Statistics 2023](#), released by the [Canadian Cancer Society](#) (CCS) and the Government of Canada on November 8, 2023.

**2. Background**

2.1 CCS is a national charitable organization that supports people living with cancer across the country. CCS releases comprehensive and up-to-date surveillance statistics on cancer in Canada every other year.

2.2 The CCS report is supported by the [Canadian Cancer Statistics Dashboard](#), which provides a user-friendly and interactive visualization of projected estimates of cancer incidence and mortality.

**3. CCS Report Highlights**

3.1 This year's report focuses on incidence, mortality, survival, and other measures of impact of cancer for selected types of cancer in Canada. The information is presented by sex assigned at birth, age group, geographic region and time period.

3.2 Incidence information is useful for determining the number of diagnoses, treatment and support services needed. Mortality information is useful for determining the amount of healthcare and support services needed. Survival information allows for

comparison across populations and over time, and monitoring the effects of early detection and diagnoses and treatment on cancer outcomes.

3.3 Chapter 1 of the CCS report provides statistics and information on cancer incidence in Canada.

- a. It is estimated that 45 per cent of Canadians will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime and 239,100 new cases of cancer are expected to be diagnosed in Canada in 2023. The most frequently diagnosed cancers (i.e., lung, breast, prostate, and colorectal cancers) are estimated to account for 46 per cent of all diagnoses in 2023.
- b. The number of diagnoses each year has been increasing due to the growing and aging population. However, cancer rates have declined by 1.2 per cent annually since 2011 for males and 0.4 per cent annually since 2012 for females. It is expected that 93 per cent of new cancer cases in males and 87 per cent in females will be diagnosed in people aged 50 and older.
- c. Cancer incidence rates are lower in the western provinces and the territories and higher in the central and eastern provinces. Ontario is expected to have the third highest incidence rate in Canada.

3.4 Chapter 2 of the CCS report provides statistics and information on cancer mortality rates in Canada.

- a. It is estimated that 22 per cent of Canadians will die from cancer and this probability is higher for males compared to females. In 2023, it is estimated that 86,700 Canadians will die from cancer.
- b. Over 96 per cent of cancer deaths are expected to occur in people aged 50 and over and the types of cancers causing death in children and young people under the age of 30 are very different than the ones common in older adults. The mortality rates for all cancers peaked in 1988 and have been decreasing, however, the number of cancer deaths continues to increase annually due to the growing and aging population.
- c. Cancer mortality rates are lower in the western provinces and Ontario, and higher in Quebec and eastern provinces.

3.5 Chapter 3 of the CCS report provides statistics and information on cancer survival in Canada. Key data on net survival are provided below. Net survival is the percentage of people diagnosed with a cancer who survive a given period past their diagnosis, in the absence of other causes of death unrelated to their cancer diagnosis.

- a. Between 2015 to 2017, the estimated five-year net survival for all cancers combined was 64 per cent.

- b. Five-year net survival was higher among females (66 per cent) than among males (62 per cent).
- c. For children diagnosed with cancer, 84 per cent survived at least five years.
- d. Significant progress has been made in five-year net survival in each province studied. The five-year net survival for all cancers combined is currently highest in Ontario (64 per cent).

3.6 The CCS report provides the following notable new statistics:

- a. Colorectal cancer incidence rate is declining the fastest, however, 24,100 people are still expected to be diagnosed with colorectal cancer in 2023.
- b. The rate of cervical cancer incidence has increased in recent years.
- c. More females (15,800) than males (15,300) are expected to be diagnosed with lung cancer in 2023.
- d. The lung cancer mortality rate is decreasing at the fastest rate reported to date and is declining faster than other cancer types. However, 20,600 people are still expected to die from lung cancer in 2023.

#### 4. Previous Reports

- 4.1 Report [2021-INFO-18](#) provided an update on the report: [Ontario Cancer Screening Performance Report, 2020](#), which was released on February 2, 2021.
- 4.2 Report [2021-INFO-28](#) provided an update on the article: [The Economic Burden of Cancer in Canada](#), released by the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer on February 8, 2021.
- 4.3 Report [2021-INFO-125](#) provided an update on the report: [Canadian Cancer Statistics 2021](#), which was released by CCS and Government of Canada on November 3, 2021.
- 4.4 Report [2022-INFO-103](#) provided an update on three cancer statistics reports: [Canadian Cancer Statistics 2022: A special report on cancer prevalence](#), which was released by CCS and Government of Canada on November 8, 2022; [Ontario Cancer Statistics 2022](#), which was released by Cancer Care Ontario on December 7, 2022; and [Projected Estimates of Cancer in Canada in 2022](#), which is a research article released by Dr. Darren Brenner and a group of researchers for the Canadian Cancer Statistics Advisory Committee on May 2, 2022.

#### 5. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 5.1 This report aligns with the following strategic goal and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:

a. Goal 2: Community Vitality

- 2.3: Enhance community safety and well-being
- 2.4: Influence the social determinants of health to improve outcomes for vulnerable populations

## 6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Cancer is the leading cause of death in Canada, in addition to being the leading cause of premature death. This poses an enormous burden on both the health of Canadians and the healthcare system.
- 6.2 Progress has been made but challenges continue, including the aging and growing population in Canada, inequities in access to care and outcomes for different populations, in addition to new challenges that continue to arise.
- 6.3 Statistics can help guide cancer control by identifying disparities, gaps and opportunities in cancer control strategies and identify priority areas for clinical and health services research.
- 6.4 Local cancer rates and screening data are available on the new [Durham Region Cancer Data Tracker](#). The Cancer Data Tracker provides information about cancer incidence (new diagnosed cases of cancer) and mortality (deaths from cancer) for Durham Region and Ontario. From 2010 to 2018, there were 31,763 newly diagnosed cases of cancer and 10,795 cancer deaths among Durham Region residents.
- 6.5 Federal, provincial, and local data inform Durham Region Health Department's chronic disease prevention programs.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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