

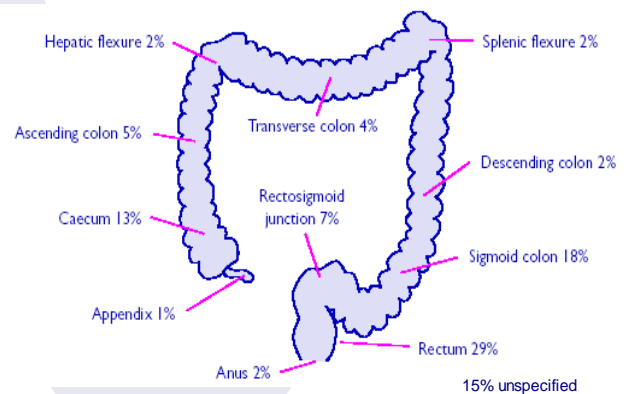


Cancer Research UK's 'CancerStats – Key Facts' series provides accessible, top line statistics and facts on cancer. The charity's Statistical Information Team also produces evidence-based reports, charts and tabulations. All of this information can be accessed on our CancerStats website: <http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/cancerstats> or by emailing stats.team@cancer.org.uk.

How common is large bowel cancer?

- ❖ Bowel cancer is the third most common cancer in the UK.
- ❖ Each year more than 37,500 people are diagnosed with bowel cancer in the UK, that's more than 100 people every day.
- ❖ Bowel cancer is the second most common cancer in women after breast cancer, with around 17,000 new cases diagnosed in 2006.
- ❖ Around 20,400 men are diagnosed with bowel cancer in the UK each year making it the third most common cancer in men after prostate and lung cancer.
- ❖ Over 8 in 10 bowel cancer cases occur in people aged 60 and over.
- ❖ Bowel cancer incidence rates have remained relatively stable for over a decade.
- ❖ Worldwide over a million new cases of bowel cancer were diagnosed in 2002.
- ❖ The lowest incidence rates of bowel cancer are seen in South Central Asia and Eastern, Western, Northern and Middle African countries. The highest rates are in Europe, North America and Australasia.

Percentage distribution of cases by site within the large bowel, England



How many people survive large bowel cancer?

- ❖ Around half of people diagnosed with bowel cancer survive the disease for at least five years after diagnosis.
- ❖ Five-year survival rates for bowel cancer have doubled over the last 30 years.
- ❖ Research suggests over 90% of bowel cancer patients will survive the disease for more than five years if diagnosed at the earliest stage.
- ❖ Younger bowel cancer patients have a better prognosis than older patients.

How many people die from large bowel cancer?

- ❖ Bowel cancer is the second most common cause of cancer death in the UK after lung cancer.
- ❖ Around 16,000 people die of bowel cancer each year in the UK.
- ❖ Bowel cancer death rates have been falling since the late 1970s. Over the last decade death rates have dropped by around 16%.
- ❖ Worldwide bowel cancer kills around half a million people each year, two-thirds of these deaths are in the more developed regions.

What causes *large bowel cancer*?

- ❖ High intake of red and processed meat will increase the chances of developing bowel cancer whereas a diet rich in fibre will reduce your risk.
- ❖ Around 75% of adults in England do not eat the recommended 5 portions of fruit and vegetables each day.
- ❖ At least 10% of colon cancers in the UK are related to overweight or obesity.
- ❖ Being inactive increases risk of bowel cancer.
- ❖ Research has shown that people drinking more than 30g/day of alcohol (around 4 units) have an increased risk of bowel cancer.
- ❖ More than 10 years regular use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) reduces the risk of bowel cancer.
- ❖ People with a first degree relative with bowel cancer are at twice the average risk of developing it themselves.



Screening for *large bowel cancer*

- ❖ The NHS Bowel Screening Programme began in England in 2006 and in Scotland in 2007.
- ❖ There could be up to 20,000 fewer deaths from bowel cancer over the next 20 years if just 60% of those eligible took up the invitation for bowel screening.

Bowel cancer - UK	Males	Females	Persons
Number of new cases (2006)	20,430	17,084	37,514
Rate per 100,000 population*	56.0	36.4	45.3
Number of deaths (2007)	8,474	7,533	16,007
Rate per 100,000 population*	22.1	14.1	17.7
Five-year survival rate – colon cancer (for patients 2000-2001**, England & Wales)	52%	53%	-
Five-year survival rate – rectal cancer (for patients 2000-2001**, England & Wales)	50%	52%	-

*age-standardised to the European population

**period estimates