
FOR THE RECORD

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Ministry of Health

B.C. LEADS CANADA IN OUTCOMES RELATED TO CANCER

VICTORIA – According to 2006 estimates in the Canadian Cancer Statistics report, British Columbia men and women have the lowest mortality rates in Canada.

Further facts:

- B.C. women have the highest survival rates for breast cancer, which can be attributed in part to the comprehensive province-wide screening mammography program where women over the age of 40 are eligible for free screening.
- B.C. women have the lowest incidence rate for kidney and colorectal cancer and is tied for the lowest incidence rates for cervical cancer.
- B.C. men have the lowest overall incidence rates for lung cancer, colorectal cancer and kidney cancer, and is tied for the lowest incidence rates for oral and stomach cancers.
- B.C. women have the second lowest overall incidence rate of cancer in Canada and are below most of the national incidence rates for individual cancers.
- B.C. men have the third lowest overall incidence rates of cancer in the country.
- The median wait time for patients requiring radiation treatment is 11 days.
- The median wait time for patients requiring chemotherapy is 14 days from the date when they are ready to be treated.

Treatment and care of cancer patients is funded through the provincial government to the BC Cancer Agency, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority.

Recent and ongoing investments include:

- The overall investment in drug therapies through the BC Cancer Agency has nearly tripled from \$37.5 million in 2000/01 to approximately \$100 million in this year.
- The new \$95-million BC Cancer Agency Research Centre, one of Canada's most advanced cancer research facilities, opened last year.
- Construction continues on the BC Cancer Agency's Abbotsford Centre at the \$355-million Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Care Centre, opening in 2008.

- B.C.'s first publicly funded PET/CT scanner opened last year in Vancouver.
- Government recently funded \$4.8 million to the BC Cancer Agency to complete the construction of four new radiation vaults. Two of the vaults are equipped now and in use, with the remaining two in place for future capacity needs.

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