

Cancer Statistics, 2026 – Detailed Summary

This document summarizes key findings from the article “*Cancer statistics, 2026*” published in *CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians* (PMCID: PMC12798275).

Overview

For 2026, approximately 2,114,850 new cancer cases and 626,140 cancer deaths are projected in the United States. Cancer mortality continues to decline due to prevention, early detection, and treatment advances.

Data Sources

Incidence data are derived from SEER and NPCR cancer registries. Mortality data are obtained from the National Center for Health Statistics through 2023, with projections modeled from historical trends.

Key Trends

Cancer death rates have declined steadily since the early 1990s, resulting in millions of lives saved. Lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer death, though mortality has dropped significantly due to reduced smoking.

Disparities

Despite overall progress, disparities persist by race, socioeconomic status, and geographic region. Delayed diagnosis and access barriers remain key challenges.

Conclusion

Sustained investment in prevention, screening, research, and equitable healthcare is critical to continuing progress against cancer.