

CANCER IN PEI

Cancer refers to a collection of related diseases that cause a body's cells to divide uncontrollably and grow abnormally, spreading into surrounding tissues. Cancer can involve any tissue in the body; most cancers are named for the type of cell or organ in which they originate.

1/10
Islanders (aged 20+) have ever been diagnosed with cancer

Almost **4%** of Islanders have ever been diagnosed with colorectal, lung or breast cancer – the three most common cancers in PEI.

Seniors (65+) are almost **9X** as likely to be diagnosed with cancer as younger adults (less than 50 years old).

CANCER AND SOCIAL FACTORS



INCOME
1.3X

Low-income Islanders are 1.3 times as likely to be diagnosed with cancer as high-income Islanders.



EDUCATION
1.3X

Islanders without a high school diploma are 1.3 times as likely to be diagnosed with cancer as Islanders with post-secondary education.



EMPLOYMENT
2.8X

Islanders who were unemployed in the last year are 2.8 times as likely to be diagnosed with cancer as Islanders who were employed.



MARITAL STATUS
2.1X

Islanders who are widowed are 2.1 times as likely to be diagnosed with cancer as Islanders who are married.



LIVING ALONE
2X

Islanders who live alone are 2 times as likely as those not living alone to be diagnosed with cancer.

These social factors play a large role in one's risk of having/living with cancer.

It will take all levels of government, working together with individuals and communities, to address these social factors and reduce the burden of cancer in the Island population.

THINGS YOU CAN DO TO REDUCE YOUR RISK

Avoid all tobacco use

Eat a balanced diet

Exercise regularly

Limit your alcohol intake

Practice sun safety

Get regular screening tests



Chief Public Health Office, 2020

Data sources: Canadian Community Health Survey (2000-01, 2003, 2005, 2007 to 2014); Canadian Chronic Disease Surveillance System.