

## Colorectal cancer deaths ages 0 to 74 years (2015 to 2019, MLHD)

Colorectal cancer is the 5th leading cause of death in people 0 to 74 years

Colorectal cancer deaths are considered potentially avoidable at ages less than 75 years

There are on average 30 colorectal cancer deaths per year in under 75yrs  
19 of those are in MALES  
12 in FEMALES

Average age of colorectal cancer death is 64 years for those under 75yrs  
65 for males and 63 for females

61% of colorectal cancer deaths 0-74 yrs are in MALES

Colorectal cancer is the 6th leading cause of death in females and males under 75 yrs

### What is bowel cancer?

Bowel cancer, also known as colorectal cancer, develops from the inner lining of the bowel and is usually preceded by growths called polyps, which may become invasive cancer if undetected. Depending on where the cancer begins, bowel cancer may be called colon or rectal cancer.

Bowel cancer is the third most common cancer in both men and women in Australia and is more common in people over the age of 50.

About 90 per cent of bowel cancers are adenocarcinomas, which start in the glandular tissues lining the bowel. Other less common types of cancer can also affect the bowel, including lymphomas and neuroendocrine tumours.

Cancer can also start in the small bowel but this is a rare cancer.

The chance of surviving bowel cancer for at least five years, is 70%.

Some factors that increase your risk of bowel cancer include: inherited genetic risk and family history

- \* inflammatory bowel disease such as Crohn's disease
- \* high red meat consumption, especially processed meats
- \* polyps
- \* being overweight or obese
- \* high alcohol consumption
- \* smoking tobacco
- \* having a previous diagnosis of bowel cancer.

Source: