**COSTA RICA**

**Cancer Country Profile 2020**

**BURDEN OF CANCER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total population (2019)</th>
<th>5,047,561</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total # cancer cases</td>
<td>12,957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2018)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total # cancer deaths</td>
<td>5,709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2018)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Premature deaths from NCDs (2016) 7,191

Cancer as % of NCD premature deaths (2016) 35.0%

**Most common cancer cases (2018)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cancer Type</th>
<th>Incidence</th>
<th>Mortality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breast</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cervix uteri</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorectum</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leukaemia</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liver</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hodgkin lymphoma</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prostate</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stomach</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thyroid</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PAFs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Factor</th>
<th>13.2%</th>
<th>4.0%</th>
<th>15.0%</th>
<th>4.4%</th>
<th>44.7%</th>
<th>1.1%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco (2017)(^a)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Alcohol (2016)(^a)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Infections (2012)(^b)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Obesity (2012)(^b)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>UV (2012)(^c)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Occupational risk (2017)(^c)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

\(^a\) PAF, cancer deaths \(^b\) PAF, cancer cases \(^c\) PAF, melanoma cases

**TRENDS**

**Estimated past and future trends in total cases per year (breast and lung)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Breast Cancer</th>
<th>Lung Cancer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1,149</td>
<td>363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>1,501</td>
<td>452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2040</td>
<td>2,406</td>
<td>995</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Probability of premature death from cancer per year**

- Past trends
- Projected linear trend
- SDG target

**INVESTMENT CASE (2019)**

*Upper middle income*

At this income level, investing in a package of essential services and scaling-up coverage will:

- **Costs per year**
  - 2020: US$2.00
  - 2022: US$2.30
  - 2024: US$2.60
  - 2026: US$2.90
  - 2028: US$3.20
  - 2030: US$3.50

- **Projected lives saved per year**
  - 2020: 500
  - 2022: 800
  - 2024: 1,000
  - 2026: 1,200
  - 2028: 1,400
  - 2030: 1,600
COSTA RICA

HEALTH SYSTEM CAPACITY

Availability of population-based cancer registry (PBCR)**
- 2019: High quality PBCR

Quality of mortality registration***
- 2007-2016: Medium

# of external beam radiotherapy (photon, electron)*
- 2019: 3.9

# of mammograms*
- 2020: 46.3

# of CT scanners*
- 2020: 19.3

# of MRI scanners*
- 2020: 7.7

# of PET or PET/CT scanners*
- 2020: 1.5

WORKFORCE

Available staff in Ministry of Health who dedicates significant proportion of their time to cancer
- 2019: yes

# of radiation oncologist*
- 2019: n/a

# of medical physicists*
- 2019: 24.7

# of surgeons*
- 2014: 313.3

# of radiologists*
- 2019: 121.2

# of nuclear medicine physician*
- 2019: 6.2

# of medical & pathology lab scientists*
- 2013: 481.6

FORMULATING RESPONSE

Integrated NCD plan
- 2019: operational

NCCP (including cancer types)
- 2019: operational

MPOWER measures fully implemented and achieved
- 2018: 2

Cancer management guidelines
- 2019: yes

Palliative care included in their operational, integrated NCD plan
- 2019: yes

# of treatment services (surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy)
- 2019: 3

Breast cancer screening program
- 2019: yes

Breast cancer screening program: Starting age, target population
- 2019: 45

# Public cancer centres per 10,000 cancer patients
- 2019: 5.4

Early detection programme/ guidelines for 4 cancers (breast, cervix, colon, childhood)
- 2019: 2 cancer(s)

Pathology services
- 2019: generally available

Bone marrow transplantation capacity
- 2019: generally available

Palliative care availability: community/home-based care
- 2019: generally available

Availability of opioids* for pain management

Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer

Annual cancer cases (0-14 years old)
- 2020: 155

Defined referral system
- 2019: yes

HPV vaccination programme coverage
- 2018: n/a

Cervical cancer screening
- 2019: yes

Screening programme type
- 2019: organised

Screening programme method
- 2019: PAP smear

Screening participation rates
- 2019: don’t know

Early detection programme/guidelines
- 2019: yes

Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer

- Acute lymphoid leukaemia
- Hodgkin lymphoma
- Burkitt lymphoma
- CNS, low grade tumours
- Retinoblastoma
- Wilms tumour
- Other childhood cancer

Cancer Country Profile 2020