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**Coverage**  
England  
**Theme**  
Health and Care

# Cancer survival, England, 1993-2000

New survival statistics for eight cancers for patients in England diagnosed during 1993-95 and followed up to 31 December 2000 are released today by National Statistics.

Corresponding figures for patients diagnosed in 1992-94 and followed up to 31 December 1999 were published by ONS in January 2001.

One- and five-year cancer survival rates are given in the table below for the three most common cancers in men and in women. These account for around 50 per cent of all cancers in adults.

## One-year and five-year relative survival (%) for patients diagnosed during 1993-95, major cancers, England

	No. of patients	One-year survival (%)	Five-year survival (%)
<b>Men</b>			
Lung	52,064	21.4	5.5
Prostate	46,010	84.2	59.8
Colon	21,287	66.3	43.5
<b>Women</b>			
Breast	78,780	92.6	75.9
Lung	27,119	21.8	5.5
Colon	22,003	64.0	43.3

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Detailed tables giving one- and five-year survival rates by sex and age group for all eight of the cancers examined (that is, bladder, cervix, oesophagus and stomach in addition to the four in the table above) are available on the National Statistics website:

[www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/ssdataset.asp?vlnk=4924&B3.x=31&B3.y=1](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/ssdataset.asp?vlnk=4924&B3.x=31&B3.y=1)

The latest survival figures for the eight cancers generally showed only small differences compared with those for patients diagnosed during 1992-94 (which are also given in the detailed tables on the website). For prostate cancer, however, there were rises of 2 percentage points in one-year survival, and 5 percentage points in five-year survival, similar increases to those for patients diagnosed in 1992-94 compared with those diagnosed in 1991-93. This may be due in part to the increasingly widespread use of prostate specific antigen (PSA) testing in the early 1990s.

## **BACKGROUND NOTES**

1. The PSA test enables invasive prostate cancer to be identified earlier than it might otherwise have been, leading to an apparent increase in survival time even for patients who do not actually live longer. The PSA test also identifies latent, non-lethal tumours that may never cause symptoms and may never be diagnosed in life.
2. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the press office.
3. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference. © Crown copyright 2002.