Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer in men and the second most common cancer in women. In 2012, worldwide, there are estimated to have been 746 000 new cases in men (10.0% of all incident cancer cases in men) and 614 000 new cases in women (9.2% of all incident cancer cases in women). Almost 55% of these cases occur in more developed regions. There is substantial geographical variation in incidence across the world, and the geographical patterns are very similar in men and women. In both sexes, incidence rates vary by a factor of 10 worldwide. The highest estimated 2012 age-standardized incidence rates (per 100 000 population) are in Australia/New Zealand (44.8 and 32.2 cases in men and women, respectively), and the lowest are in western Africa (4.5 and 3.8 cases in men and women, respectively).

Mortality is substantially lower than incidence, with an estimated 694 000 colorectal cancer deaths in 2012 (8.5% of all cancer deaths that year). More colorectal cancer deaths (52% in 2012) occur in the less developed regions of the world, reflecting poorer survival in these regions. Worldwide, mortality rates vary less than incidence rates, with mortality varying across regions by a factor of 6 in men and 4 in women. In both sexes, the highest estimated 2012 mortality rates (per 100 000 population) are in central and eastern Europe (20.3 deaths in men and 11.7 in women), and the lowest in western Africa (3.5 deaths in men and 3.0 in women).
### Estimated incidence, mortality and prevalence (5 years) worldwide in 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated numbers</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Both sexes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cases</td>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>5-year-prev</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td>746 298</td>
<td>373 639</td>
<td>15 296 119</td>
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<tr>
<td>More developed regions</td>
<td>398 903</td>
<td>175 397</td>
<td>8 549 600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less developed regions</td>
<td>347 395</td>
<td>198 242</td>
<td>6 746 519</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHO African Region</td>
<td>15 505</td>
<td>11 315</td>
<td>467 820</td>
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<td>WHO Region of the Americas</td>
<td>125 079</td>
<td>57 095</td>
<td>3 843 203</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region</td>
<td>18 105</td>
<td>11 768</td>
<td>461 190</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHO European Region</td>
<td>254 769</td>
<td>120 387</td>
<td>4 791 316</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHO South-East Asia Region</td>
<td>68 235</td>
<td>48 093</td>
<td>1 237 475</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHO Western Pacific Region</td>
<td>264 479</td>
<td>124 920</td>
<td>4 492 687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IARC Member State (24 countries)</td>
<td>417 775</td>
<td>186 665</td>
<td>9 192 817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td>69 045</td>
<td>28 740</td>
<td>2 402 172</td>
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<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>146 528</td>
<td>79 074</td>
<td>2 495 611</td>
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<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>36 917</td>
<td>27 814</td>
<td>664 538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Union (EU-28)</td>
<td>193 426</td>
<td>82 959</td>
<td>3 692 805</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Estimated age-standardized rates (World) of incidence cases, males, colorectal cancer, worldwide in 2012

Data source: GLOBOCAN 2012
Graph production: IARC
(http://gco.iarc.fr/today)
World Health Organization

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Estimated age-standardized rates (World) of incidence cases, males, colorectal cancer, worldwide in 2012

* Regional data
NORDCAN (www.ancr.nu)
ECO (eco.iarc.fr)
England: www.ons.gov.uk

* Regional data
CI5.iarc.fr

* Regional data
Australia: www.aih.gov.au
New Zealand: www.health.govt.nz
USA: seer.cancer.gov
Estimated age-standardized rates (World) of deaths, males, colorectal cancer, worldwide in 2012

- ≥ 30.1
- 9.0–14.4
- 6.0–9.0
- 4.1–6.0
- < 1.2
- No data
- Not applicable

Data source: GLOBOCAN 2012
Graph production: IARC
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Estimated age-standardized rates (World) of deaths, males, colorectal cancer, worldwide in 2012

WHO (www.who.int/healthinfo/en/)
Estimated age-standardized rates (World) of incidence cases, females, colorectal cancer, worldwide in 2012

* Regional data
NORDCAN (www.ancr.nu)
ECO (eco.iarc.fr)
England: www.ons.gov.uk

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Estimated age-standardized rates (World) of deaths, females, colorectal cancer, worldwide in 2012

Data source: GLOBOCAN 2012
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Estimated age-standardized rates (World) of deaths, females, colorectal cancer, worldwide in 2012

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