



**Singapore Cancer Registry  
Interim Annual Registry Report  
Trends in Cancer Incidence in Singapore  
2006-2010**

**National Registry of Diseases Office  
(NRDO)**

## **Acknowledgement**

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## **CANCER REGISTRY REPORT FOR THE YEARS 2006 – 2010**

### **1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A total number of 51,657 incident cancer cases were diagnosed among the Resident population during the period 2006-2010. Of these 25,087 (48.6%) were reported in males and 26,570 (51.4%) in females.

The crude incidence rates for total male and female cancer patients for the period 2006-2010 were 277.8 and 288.0 per 100,000 Singapore resident population per year respectively. The corresponding age-standardised incidence rates were 229.6 and 208.0 per 100,000 person-years.

Among both males and females, the crude and age-standardised rates were highest in Chinese males followed by Malays and Indians.

Colorectal, lung and prostate cancer were the top ranked cancers among the male resident population. Among female residents, breast, colorectal and lung cancer were the top ranked cancers.

The incidence (number and rates) of cancer for the period 2006-2010 has increased compared to the incidence reported for the period 2005-2009 though the composition and order of top ranked cancers have remained the same.

Lung cancer and breast cancer had the highest mortality rates in males and females respectively.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

The Singapore Cancer Registry provides information on cancer patterns and trends in Singapore. The comprehensive population-based cancer registration in Singapore began in January 1968. In April 2001, the Cancer Registry came under the auspices of the National Disease Registries Office (NDRO).

MOH enacted the National Registry of Diseases Act in 2007 to enable the disease registries to access medical information while safeguarding data confidentiality. Cancer was the first disease to be covered by the Act and National Disease Registries Office was renamed National Registry of Diseases Office.

## **3 SOURCE OF DATA AND DATA PROCESSING**

Comprehensive cancer registration was achieved through data obtained from a combination of sources, viz., (a) notifications by the medical profession, (b) pathology records, (c) hospital records, and (d) death certificates. Notifications were mandatory since 2009.

For cancer cases obtained from sources other than physician's notifications, the data were checked against known registered cases in the registry. For missed notifications, doctors-in-charge would be informed and reminded to notify. About 10% of cases were not notified by physicians, and would need to be registered by the Registry staff.

### **Data Processing**

Data were captured both manually (from case notes) and through electronic transfer of data from relevant institutions. All relevant information of new cases

would be entered into a computerised system and checked for possible duplication against a master index. The clinical data would then be verified by NRDO staff and visiting consultant pathologist.

NRDO staff do not have personal contact with the patients and are not involved in the clinical management of the patients.

The Cancer Registry adopted the International Classification of Diseases for Oncology, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (ICD-O-2) for the classification of primary sites and morphology during the period 1993 to 2002. From 2003 onwards, cases of cancer diagnosed were classified using the International Classification of Diseases for Oncology, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (ICD-O-3).

Cases of carcinoma-in-situ were registered but not included in the computation of incidence rates. Those which progressed to be invasive at a later stage would be re-registered in the year they were diagnosed as invasive carcinomas.

This report is based primarily on cancers registered in Singapore with the date of diagnosis falling within the period 1/1/2006 - 31/12/2010. The data reported in the report are as of 13 Jan 2012.

All the results refer only to the resident population (citizens and permanent residents) only.

### **Population Denominators**

In this report, we have used the population denominators obtained from Department of Statistics (DOS) to compute the rates. DOS releases mid-year population estimates annually and these population denominators are widely

used in official publications in Singapore, including those published by the Ministry of Health.

Segi's World Population was used for direct standardisation to calculate age-standardised rates.

## 4 FINDINGS

### 4.1 Notifications by Year of Diagnosis

For the period 2006 to 2010, the number of notifications by year of diagnosis showed an upward trend (Table 1).

**Table 1: Notifications of New Cases by Year of Diagnosis 2006 - 2010**

Year of diagnosis	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2006-2010
No. of notifications	9,417	9,941	10,518	10,712	11,069	51,657

### 4.2 Incidence of Cancers for the Period, 2006-2010

A total number of 51,657 incident cases were diagnosed among the Resident population during the period 2006-2010. Of these 25,087 (48.6%) were reported in males and 26,570 (51.4%) cases in females (Table 2).

**Table 2: Incidence of Cancers by Gender 2006 - 2010**

Gender	Number	%	CR (95% CI)*	ASR (95% CI)**
Male	25,087	48.6	277.8 (274.3-281.2)	229.6 (226.7-232.5)
Female	26,570	51.4	288.0 (284.6-291.5)	208.0 (205.4-210.6)

\* CR Crude rate per 100,000 per year

\*\* ASR Age-standardised rate per 100,000 per year. ASR derived by the direct method using the "World Population".

The crude incidence rates for total male and female cancer patients for the period 2006-2010 were 277.8 and 288.0 per 100,000 Singapore resident population per year respectively. The corresponding age-standardised incidence rates were 229.6 and 208.0 per 100,000 person-years. 95% Confidence Interval (CI) was calculated assuming that the cancer counts followed the Poisson distribution.

Among the males, the crude and age-standardised rates were highest in Chinese males followed by Malays and Indians. Likewise, crude and age-standardised rates were highest in Chinese females followed by Malay and Indian females (Table 3).

**Table 3: Age-Standardised Incidence Rates for All Cancers by Ethnic Groups and Gender, 2006-2010**

Gender	Race	No.	CR (95% CI)*	ASR (95% CI)**
Male	Chinese	21,295	317.6 (313.3-321.8)	243.4 (240.1-246.8)
	Malay	2,057	166.6 (159.4-173.8)	177.9 (169.9-185.8)
	Indian	1,141	135.4 (127.5-143.2)	139.2 (130.7-147.7)
	All	25,087	277.8 (274.3-281.2)	229.6 (226.7-232.5)
Female	Chinese	22,230	321.1 (316.9-325.3)	215.0 (212.0-217.9)
	Malay	2,559	206.2 (198.2-214.2)	184.6 (177.2-192.0)
	Indian	1,242	157.6 (148.8-166.3)	153.3 (144.5-162.1)
	All	26,570	288.0 (284.6-291.5)	208.0 (205.4-210.6)

\* CR Crude rate per 100,000 per year

\*\* ASR Age-standardised rate per 100,000 per year. ASR derived by the direct method using the "World Population".

### 4.3 Ten Most Frequent Cancers, 2006-2010

Consistent with the findings of the trend report for the period 2005-2009, colorectal, lung and prostate cancer were the top ranked cancers among the male resident population. (Table 4, Figure 1).

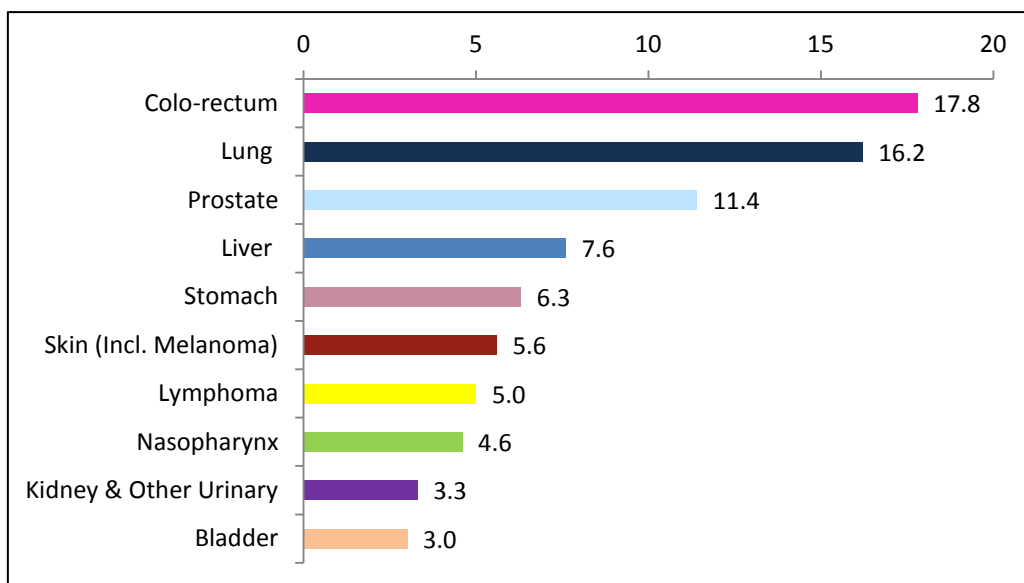
**Table 4: Ten Most Frequent Cancers in Singapore Males, 2006-2010**

Rank	Site	No.	%	CR (95% CI)*	ASR (95%CI)**
1	Colo-rectum	4,456	17.8	49.3 (47.9-50.8)	39.9 (38.7-41.1)
2	Lung	4,062	16.2	45.0 (43.6-46.4)	37.3 (36.1-38.4)
3	Prostate	2,860	11.4	31.7 (30.5-32.8)	27.1 (26.1-28.1)
4	Liver	1,897	7.6	21.0 (20.1-21.9)	17.0 (16.2-17.8)
5	Stomach	1,579	6.3	17.5 (16.6-18.3)	15.6 (14.8-16.4)
6	Skin (Incl. Melanoma)	1,404	5.6	15.5 (14.7-16.4)	12.8 (12.1-13.5)
7	Lymphoma	1,247	5.0	13.8 (13.0-14.6)	11.2 (10.5-11.8)
8	Nasopharynx	1,158	4.6	12.8 (12.1-13.6)	9.5 (8.9-10.0)
9	Kidney & Other	821	3.3	9.1 (8.5-9.7)	7.2 (6.7-7.7)
10	Urinary Bladder	759	3.0	8.4 (7.8-9.0)	6.8 (6.3-7.3)
	Others	4,844	19.3		
	All Sites	25,087	100.0	277.8 (274.3-281.2)	229.6 (226.7-232.5)

\*CR Crude rate per 100,000 per year

\*\* ASR Age-standardised rate per 100,000 per year. ASR derived by the direct method using the “World Population”.

**Figure 1: Ten Most Frequent Cancers (%) in Singapore Males, 2006 -2010**



Among female residents, breast, colorectal and lung cancer were the top ranked cancers among the female residents (Table 5, Figure 2); the findings were similar to the trends reported for the period 2005-2009.

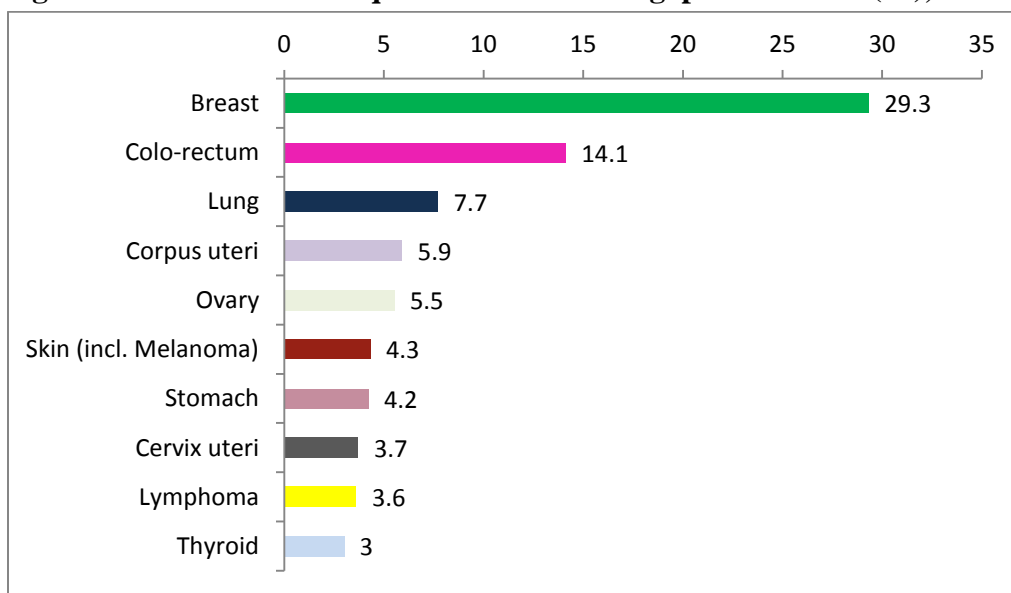
**Table 5: Ten Most Frequent Cancers in Singapore Females, 2006-2010**

Rank	Site	No.	%	CR (95% CI)*	ASR (95% CI)**
1	Breast	7,781	29.3	84.4 (82.5-86.2)	60.7 (59.3-62.0)
2	Colo-rectum	3,750	14.1	40.7 (39.4-42.0)	28.2 (27.2-29.1)
3	Lung	2,057	7.7	22.3 (21.3-23.3)	15.3 (14.6-16.0)
4	Corpus uteri	1,574	5.9	17.1 (16.2-17.9)	12.4 (11.8-13.0)
5	Ovary	1,455	5.5	15.8 (15.0-16.6)	12.0 (11.4-12.7)
6	Skin (incl. Melanoma)	1,136	4.3	12.3 (11.6-13.0)	10.3 (9.7-11.0)
7	Stomach	1,113	4.2	12.1 (11.4-12.8)	8.0 (7.5-8.5)
8	Cervix uteri	993	3.7	10.8 (10.1-11.4)	7.2 (6.8-7.7)
9	Lymphoma	960	3.6	10.4 (9.7-11.1)	7.5 (7.0-8.0)
10	Thyroid	808	3.0	8.8 (8.2-9.4)	6.8 (6.3-7.2)
	Others	4,943	18.6		
	<b>All Sites</b>	<b>26,570</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>288.0 (284.6-291.5)</b>	<b>208.0 (205.4-210.6)</b>

\*CR Crude rate per 100,000 per year

\*\* ASR Age-standardised rate per 100,000 per year. ASR derived by the direct method using the “World Population”.

**Figure 2: Ten Most Frequent Cancers in Singapore Females (%), 2006 – 2010**



#### 4.4 Highest Ranking Cancers in Different Ethnic Groups, 2006-2010

During the period 2006-2010, colorectal cancer, lung cancer and prostate cancer were the three most common male cancers among the three major ethnic groups (Tables 6, 7 and 8).

**Table 6: Highest Ranking Cancers among Chinese Residents, 2006-2010**

<b>Males</b>					
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>CR (95% CI)*</b>	<b>ASR (95% CI)**</b>
1	Colo-Rectum	3,912	18.4	58.3 (56.5-60.2)	43.6 (42.2-45.0)
2	Lung	3,497	16.4	52.1 (50.4-53.9)	39.9 (38.5-41.2)
3	Prostate	2,432	11.4	36.3 (34.8-37.7)	28.3 (27.2-29.5)
4	Liver	1,623	7.6	24.2 (23.0-25.4)	18.1 (17.2-19.0)
5	Stomach	1,259	5.9	18.8 (17.7-19.8)	14.3 (13.5-15.1)
6	Nasopharynx	1,189	5.6	17.7 (16.7-18.7)	15.1 (14.1-16.0)
7	Skin (incl. Melanoma)	1,057	5.0	15.8 (14.8-16.7)	11.1 (10.4-11.7)
8	Lymphoma	1,003	4.7	15.0 (14.0-15.9)	11.4 (10.6-12.1)
9	Kidney & Other Urinary	687	3.2	10.2 (9.5-11.0)	7.5 (7.0-8.1)
10	Bladder	599	2.8	8.9 (8.2-9.6)	6.7 (6.2-7.3)
	Other sites	4,037	19.0		
	<b>All Sites</b>	<b>21,295</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>317.6 (313.3-321.8)</b>	<b>243.4 (240.1-246.8)</b>

<b>Females</b>					
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>CR (95% CI)*</b>	<b>ASR (95% CI)**</b>
1	Breast	6,287	28.3	90.8 (88.6-93.1)	61.7 (60.2-63.3)
2	Colo-rectum	3,349	15.1	48.4 (46.7-50.0)	30.3 (29.3-31.4)
3	Lung	1,850	8.3	26.7 (25.5-27.9)	16.6 (15.8-17.3)
4	Corpus Uteri	1,251	5.6	18.1 (17.1-19.1)	12.3 (11.6-13.0)
5	Ovary	1,155	5.2	16.7 (15.7-17.6)	12.1 (11.3-12.8)
6	Skin (incl. Melanoma)	978	4.4	14.1 (13.2-15.0)	8.4 (7.8-8.9)
7	Stomach	905	4.1	13.1 (12.2-13.9)	7.9 (7.4-8.5)
8	Cervix Uteri	844	3.8	12.2 (11.4-13.0)	9.7 (8.9-10.4)
9	Thyroid	811	3.6	11.7 (10.9-12.5)	7.9 (7.3-8.4)
10	Lymphoma	625	2.8	9.0 (8.3-9.7)	6.7 (6.1-7.2)
	Other sites	4,175	18.8		
	<b>All Sites</b>	<b>22,230</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>321.1 (316.9-325.3)</b>	<b>215.0 (212.0-217.9)</b>

\* CR Crude rate per 100,000 per year

\*\* ASR Age-standardised rate per 100,000 per year. ASR derived by the direct method using the "World Population".

**Table 7: Highest Ranking Cancers among Malay Residents, 2006-2010**

<b>Males</b>					
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>CR (95% CI)*</b>	<b>ASR (95% CI)**</b>
1	Lung	394	19.2	31.9 (28.8-35.1)	34.5 (31.0-38.1)
2	Colo-rectum	314	15.3	25.4 (22.6-28.2)	27.3 (24.2-30.5)
3	Prostate	228	11.1	18.5 (16.1-20.9)	19.7 (17.0-22.3)
4	Lymphoma	207	10.1	16.8 (14.5-19.0)	19.8 (17.0-22.5)
5	Liver	165	8.0	13.4 (11.3-15.4)	14.0 (11.8-16.3)
6	Leukaemia	84	4.1	6.8 (5.3-8.3)	6.1 (4.8-7.5)
7	Bladder	83	4.0	6.7 (5.3-8.2)	7.2 (5.6-8.8)
8	Nasopharynx	72	3.5	5.8 (4.5-7.2)	6.3 (4.8-7.8)
9	Stomach	63	3.1	5.1 (3.8-6.4)	5.4 (4.0-6.8)
10	Kidney & Other Urinary	58	2.8	4.7 (3.5-5.9)	5.1 (3.8-6.5)
	Other sites	389	18.9		
	All Sites	2,057	100.0	166.6 (159.4-173.8)	177.9 (169.9-185.8)
<b>Females</b>					
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>CR (95% CI)*</b>	<b>ASR (95% CI)**</b>
1	Breast	849	33.2	68.4 (63.8-73.0)	57.2 (53.3-61.2)
2	Colo-rectum	254	9.9	20.5 (18.0-23.0)	19.9 (17.4-22.5)
3	Ovary	194	7.6	15.6 (13.4-17.8)	13.5 (11.5-15.4)
4	Corpus uteri	192	7.5	15.5 (13.3-17.7)	14.6 (12.5-16.8)
5	Lung	184	7.2	14.8 (12.7-17.0)	13.0 (11.1-15.0)
6	Lymphoma	157	6.1	12.7 (10.7-14.6)	11.8 (9.9-13.7)
7	Thyroid	113	4.4	9.1 (7.4-10.8)	8.0 (6.5-9.5)
8	Cervix uteri	97	3.8	7.8 (6.3-9.4)	7.2 (5.8-8.7)
9	Leukaemia	53	2.1	4.3 (3.1-5.4)	4.3 (3.1-5.5)
10	Liver	52	2.0	4.2 (3.1-5.3)	3.9 (2.8-5.0)
	Other sites	414	16.2		
	All Sites	2,559	100.0	206.2 (198.2-214.2)	184.6 (177.2-192.0)

\* CR Crude rate per 100,000 per year

\*\* ASR Age-standardised rate per 100,000 per year. ASR derived by the direct method using the "World Population".

**Table 8: Highest Ranking Cancers among Indian Residents, 2006-2010**

<b>Males</b>					
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>CR (95% CI)*</b>	<b>ASR (95% CI)**</b>
1	Colo-rectum	168	14.7	19.9 (16.9-22.9)	20.2 (17.0-23.4)
2	Prostate	135	11.8	16.0 (13.3-18.7)	17.8 (14.7-21.0)
3	Lung	128	11.2	15.2 (12.6-17.8)	15.9 (13.0-18.8)
4	Liver	123	10.8	14.6 (12.0-17.2)	14.9 (12.1-17.7)
5	Lymphoma	85	7.4	10.1 (7.9-12.2)	10.2 (7.9-12.5)
6	Stomach	71	6.2	8.4 (6.5-10.4)	8.6 (6.5-10.7)
7	Bladder	56	4.9	6.6 (4.9-8.4)	7.0 (5.1-8.9)
8	Leukaemia	47	4.1	5.6 (4.0-7.2)	5.8 (4.1-7.6)
9	Kidney & Other Urinary	37	3.2	4.4 (3.0-5.8)	4.2 (2.8-5.7)
10	Pancreas	26	2.3	3.1 (1.9-4.3)	3.2 (1.9-4.5)
	Other sites	265	23.2		
	All Sites	1,141	100.0	135.4 (127.5-143.2)	139.2 (130.7-147.7)

<b>Females</b>					
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>CR (95% CI)*</b>	<b>ASR (95% CI)**</b>
1	Breast	468	37.7	59.4 (54.0-64.8)	54.8 (49.7-59.9)
2	Corpus uteri	113	9.1	14.3 (11.7-17.0)	14.1 (11.4-16.8)
3	Colo-rectum	99	8.0	12.6 (10.1-15.0)	12.6 (10.1-15.2)
4	Ovary	81	6.5	10.3 (8.0-12.5)	9.7 (7.5-11.9)
5	Lymphoma	77	6.2	9.8 (7.6-12.0)	10.1 (7.8-12.4)
6	Leukaemia	45	3.6	5.7 (4.0-7.4)	5.4 (3.7-7.0)
7	Thyroid	34	2.7	4.3 (2.9-5.8)	4.0 (2.6-5.4)
8	Lung	33	2.7	4.2 (2.8-5.6)	4.5 (2.9-6.0)
9	Stomach	33	2.7	4.2 (2.8-5.6)	4.2 (2.7-5.7)
10	Liver	24	1.9	3.0 (1.8-4.3)	3.3 (2.0-4.7)
	Other sites	235	18.9		
	All Sites	1,242	100.0	157.6 (148.8-166.3)	153.3 (144.5-162.1)

\* CR Crude rate per 100,000 per year

\*\* ASR Age-standardized rate per 100,000 per year. ASR derived by the direct method using the "World Population".

Among Chinese and Malay females, breast cancer and colorectal cancer were the most common and second most common cancers respectively (Tables 6, 7 and 8). Colorectal cancer was the second most common cancer in Chinese and Malay females whereas it was ranked third in Indian females. Corpus-uteri cancer was the second most common cancer in Indian females. Lung cancer

was the third most common cancer among Chinese females and ovarian cancer was the third most common cancer among Malay females.

Due to the small numbers of Indian residents, the confidence intervals of the incidence rates were wider.

#### 4.5 Mortality Rates by Gender, 2006-2010

Though colorectal cancer and breast cancer were the most common cancers respectively in the male and female resident population, lung cancer and breast cancer had the highest mortality rates in males and females respectively, based on the mortality data from the Registry of Births and Deaths (RBD), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) (Tables 9 & 10).

**Table 9: Ten Most Frequent Cancer Deaths in Singapore Males, 2006-2010**  
(Source: RBD, MHA)

Rank	Site	Number	%	CR (95% CI)*	ASR (95% CI)**
1	Lung	3,567	28.1	39.5 (38.2-40.8)	32.8 (31.7-33.9)
2	Colo-rectum	1,875	14.8	20.8 (19.8-21.7)	17.0 (16.2-17.7)
3	Liver	1,593	12.6	17.6 (16.8-18.5)	14.4 (13.7-15.2)
4	Stomach	922	7.3	10.2 (9.5-10.9)	8.4 (7.9-9.0)
5	Pancreas	609	4.8	6.7 (6.2-7.3)	5.6 (5.1-6.0)
6	Prostate	575	4.5	6.4 (5.8-6.9)	5.3 (4.8-5.7)
7	Nasopharynx	530	4.2	5.9 (5.4-6.4)	4.5 (4.1-4.9)
8	Oesophagus	366	2.9	4.1 (3.6-4.5)	3.3 (3.0-3.6)
9	Lymphoma	334	2.6	3.7 (3.3-4.1)	3.1 (2.8-3.4)
10	Leukaemia	301	2.4	3.3 (3.0-3.7)	2.9 (2.6-3.2)
	All Sites	12,680	100.0	140.4 (137.9-142.8)	115.5 (113.5-117.6)

\* CR Crude rate per 100,000 per year

\*\* ASR Age-standardised rate per 100,000 per year. ASR derived by the direct method using the "World Population".

**Table 10: Ten Most Frequent Cancer Deaths in Singapore Females, 2006-2010  
(Source: RBD, MHA)**

Rank	Site	Number	%	CR (95% CI)*	ASR (95% CI)**
1	Breast	1,841	18.0	20.0 (19.0-20.9)	14.1 (13.5-14.8)
2	Lung	1,739	17.0	18.9 (18.0-19.7)	12.6 (12.0-13.2)
3	Colo-rectum	1,562	15.2	16.9 (16.1-17.8)	11.1 (10.5-11.6)
4	Stomach	635	6.2	6.9 (6.3-7.4)	4.4 (4.1-4.8)
5	Liver	596	5.8	6.5 (5.9-7.0)	4.3 (3.9-4.6)
6	Pancreas	528	5.2	5.7 (5.2-6.2)	3.8 (3.5-4.2)
7	Ovary	499	4.9	5.4 (4.9-5.9)	3.8 (3.4-4.1)
8	Cervix Uteri	357	3.5	3.9 (3.5-4.3)	2.7 (2.4-3.0)
9	Leukaemia	255	2.5	2.8 (2.4-3.1)	2.1 (1.8-2.4)
10	Lymphoma	246	2.4	2.7 (2.3-3.0)	1.9 (1.6-2.1)
	All Sites	10,243	100.0	111.0 (108.9-113.2)	75.5 (73.9-77.0)

\* CR Crude rate per 100,000 per year

\*\* ASR Age-standardised rate per 100,000 per year. ASR derived by the direct method using the "World Population".