

## Cancer Fact Sheets – Glossary

**N** : number of new cancer diagnoses

**Average age at diagnosis** : arithmetic mean of the patients' age at the time of their cancer diagnosis.

**CR** : Crude incidence Rate : the number of new cancer diagnoses observed during a calendar year is divided by the number of individuals from the total Belgian population alive at the start of that calendar year. The CR is expressed as the number of new cases per 100,000 person years.

**Age-specific incidence rate** : corresponds to the Crude incidence Rate (CR) but calculated within a particular 5-year age group and expressed per 100,000 person years.

**Age-standardised incidence rate** : corresponds to a weighted average of the age-specific rates using an external standard population. In the present report, it is the incidence rate that would be observed if the population had the age structure of the European standard population (ESR) or the world standard population (WSR).

**ESR** : age-standardised incidence rate using the European global standard population (expressed as the number of new cases per 100,000 person years).

**WSR** : age-standardised incidence rate using the World global standard population (expressed as the number of new cases per 100,000 person years).

**CRi** : Cumulative Risk. This measure represents the likelihood of someone being diagnosed with a cancer before a specific age. It is expressed as the number of newborns (per 100) that would be affected by a specific type of cancer before the age of 75, without taking other causes of death into account. For example, a man with no known risk factors for prostate cancer has currently a cumulative risk of getting prostate cancer of about 10%. This means one out of every ten men would be expected to be diagnosed with prostate cancer before the age of 75.

**Combined stage** : merged stage that takes into account the information on clinical and pathological stages of the cancer. In the definition of combined stage, the pathological stage prevails over the clinical, except for cases diagnosed with clinical stage IV or category M1.

**AAPC** : Average Annual Percentage Change : overall measure that quantifies the average trend over a specified time period. A multi-step statistical model was built to fit the relation of the age-standardised incidence rate based on the WSR over time (see [1] for more methodological details). A negative AAPC describes a decreasing trend and a positive AAPC describes an increasing trend. A 95% confidence interval (CI) for the overall AAPC was also calculated. When this 95% CI contains the value zero, no significant time trend is observed.

**Relative survival** : measure that estimates the net survival, which is the survival when causes of death not related to the cancer have been eliminated. It is calculated as the ratio of the observed survival in a group of patients to the expected survival in a comparable group of individuals from the general population matched on age, sex, region and calendar period (for more methodological details, see [1]). Relative survival rates close or equal to 100% do not mean that cancer patients do

not die, but that they have a similar risk of dying than a comparable group from the general population. Relative survival can exceed 100% or can increase from one interval to another, indicating that survival in the group of cancer patients is higher than survival in the matched group from the general population.

[1] "Cancer burden in Belgium 2004-2013", Belgian Cancer Registry, Brussels 2015