CANCER FACT SHEET 2022
GLOSSARY

Absolute numbers (N) : number of newly registered cancer diagnoses observed during a calendar year.

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

CR (Crude Rate) : the absolute number of cancer diagnoses (N) is divided by the corresponding Belgian population size at risk (N/100,000).

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 2013 revised European standard population (ESR) or the World standard population (WSR).

ESR : age-standardised incidence rate using the 2013 revised European 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.

Net survival: often also called the relative survival, is an estimate of the survival probability when other causes of death beside the cancer type(s) under study are excluded. As examples of other causes of death, patients with the cancer type(s) under study could also die because of an accident or unrelated cardiac conditions, *etc*.

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