

International Agency for Research on Cancer



World Health
Organization



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May 2024



Dear friends of IARC,

I am delighted to announce the availability of the IARC Biennial Report for 2022-2023, which can now be downloaded free of charge in PDF format. This report highlights a selection of significant work undertaken by IARC in partnership with a global network, reflecting our collaborative efforts in cancer research.

On 1 February 2024, IARC released its 2022 estimates of the global burden of cancer, based on the best data sources available across countries for the year. These estimates shed light on the growing global cancer burden, its disproportionate effects on underserved populations, and the critical need to tackle cancer inequities worldwide. In 2022, there were an estimated 20 million new cases of cancer and 9.7 million deaths from cancer.

The newly updated data on IARC's Global Cancer Observatory reveal that 10 types of cancer accounted for approximately two thirds of all new cases and deaths globally in 2022; the data cover 185 countries or territories and 36 types of cancer. Lung cancer was the most commonly occurring cancer worldwide, with 2.5 million new cases, followed by female breast cancer, colorectal cancer, prostate cancer, and stomach cancer.

Looking ahead, more than 35 million new cancer cases are projected for 2050, a 77% increase from 2022. The cancer burden according to the Human Development Index (HDI) underscores growing inequalities between countries: the incidence is expected to rise by 142% in low-HDI countries and by 99% in medium-HDI countries, with the increase particularly noticeable for breast cancer. The potential to prevent up to half of all cancer cases through effective preventive measures highlights the urgent need for focused research on cancer prevention as a key strategy to address the significant scientific knowledge gap and tackle the escalating cancer epidemic.

To enhance the implementation of cancer prevention strategies, IARC has reinforced its coordination and collaboration with the World Health Organization

(WHO). Over the past year, IARC has actively engaged in the joint strategic work plan for 2023-2025, enhancing the coordination of technical activities. Notably, IARC-led research on breast cancer survival in sub-Saharan Africa has informed key performance indicators for the WHO Global Breast Cancer Initiative Framework. IARC continues to support the WHO Cervical Cancer Elimination Initiative and contributes to updates in WHO guidance, establishing best practices, and aiding in the implementation of national programmes. IARC's pivotal research includes establishing the role of human papillomavirus (HPV) in cervical cancer, assessing the safety and efficacy of HPV vaccines, and developing simplified screening alternatives for low- and middle-income countries.

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of our endeavors to combat cancer globally.

Best wishes,

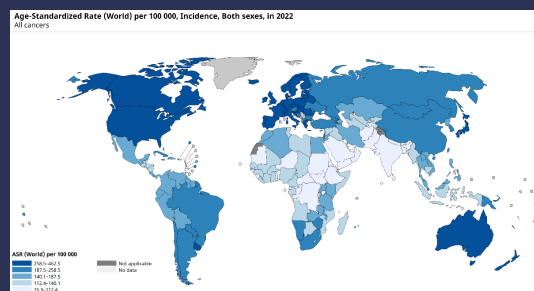
Dr Elisabete Weiderpass
IARC Director

- IARC News



IARC Monographs evaluate the carcinogenicity of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)

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Global cancer burden growing, amidst mounting need for services

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IARC and PAHO launch the 1st edition of the Latin America and the Caribbean Code Against Cancer

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The *Lancet* Commission on prostate cancer: planning for the surge in cases

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IARC-WHO joint strategic work plan for 2023-2025
IARC research to support the 3 WHO global cancer initiatives

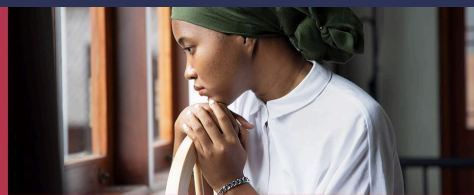
€45.37 million budget from Participating States for 2022-2023 and €24.38 million from extrabudgetary contracts (2022) with 9 main funders

- IARC Scientific IT Platform with 156 active projects and 1 PB of data
- Data Protection Framework
- Business Management System
- Research Leadership Training Programme with 78 participants, including 51 from IARC



IARC Biennial Report 2022-2023

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**WORLD
IMMUNIZATION
WEEK 2024**

World Immunization Week 2024

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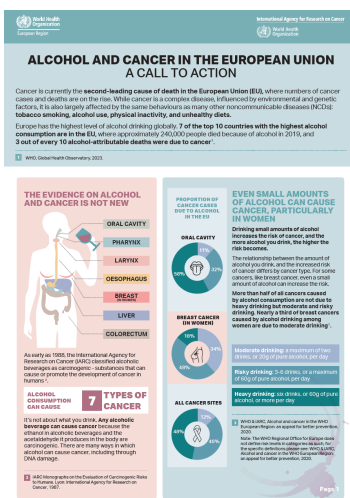
- Focus on IARC-WHO collaboration



Providing evidence for action

The close working relationship between IARC and WHO enables the Agency's research findings to be translated effectively into timely policies for cancer control. This is evident, for example, in the update of the WHO position on vaccination against human papillomavirus (HPV). Thanks largely to research carried out by IARC, WHO now supports an off-label option of a single-dose schedule in girls and boys aged 9-20 years, in addition to the more common two-dose schedule. The advantages of the single-dose schedule, which offers comparable efficacy and duration of protection to a two-dose schedule, include greater efficiency, improved affordability, and the ability to enhance vaccination coverage.

[Read more](#)



One voice for cancer control

IARC informs WHO and policy-makers in many areas related to cancer control and prevention, enabling decision-makers to base their actions on the most recent and most robust evidence. IARC Director Dr Elisabete Weiderpass and WHO Regional Director for Europe Dr Hans Kluge recently made a joint statement raising awareness of the link between alcohol and cancer, a link that is not well known or well understood among the general population. The statement, aimed at policy-makers coordinating Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and related initiatives, notes that the contribution of alcohol consumption to cancer incidence and mortality should be clearly recognized without the use of any qualifiers or misleading adjectives such as "harmful" or "heavy" consumption of alcohol or "responsible drinking", and that measures should be taken to clearly inform the public of this risk, including the use of warning labels on alcoholic beverage containers.

[Read the joint statement](#)



Leveraging the reach of WHO

WHO has the scale and the name recognition to generate media interest in ways that IARC cannot. For this reason, IARC coordinates with WHO to ensure that some of its most important findings for public health are communicated as widely as possible to policy-makers and the public. IARC has used the facilities kindly made available by WHO to announce such important results as the *IARC Monographs* evaluation of aspartame and the newest IARC GLOBOCAN estimates of the global burden of cancer incidence and mortality. In this way, IARC can deliver its message and present its research for the greatest benefit, while simultaneously strengthening its ties with WHO and informing WHO's stance on various issues.



Advisory Group recommendations on priorities for the IARC Monographs

The results of the recent meeting of the Advisory Group to Recommend Priorities for the IARC Monographs during 2025-2029 have now been published in *The Lancet Oncology*. This summary article presents the conclusions of the Advisory Group.

[Read the article](#)



Publication of WHO Classification of Tumours, 5th Edition, Volume 7: Paediatric Tumours

WHO Classification of Tumours: Paediatric Tumours is now available in print. Paediatric Tumours is Volume 7 in the 5th edition of this series, also known as the WHO Blue Books, the gold standard for the diagnosis of tumours.

See *WHO Classification of Tumours: Paediatric Tumours*



The IARC perspective on alcohol reduction or cessation and cancer risk

A Special Report published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* reviews and summarizes evidence on the effectiveness of reduction or cessation of alcohol consumption in reducing alcohol-related cancers. The report summarizes the outcomes of a Working Group meeting for Volume 20A of the IARC Handbooks series.

[Read the article](#)



The IARC Cross-Cutting Working Group on Cancer Prevention Knowledge Translation and Transfer produces the **Evidence Summary Briefs series** to call attention to scientific studies leading to cancer prevention.

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#cancerresearchthatmatters

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