Glossary

AGE-STANDARDIZED INCIDENCE RATE (ASIR):
A weighted average (based on a standard population) of the number of new cases of cancer per 100,000 people in a five-year age group (zero to four, five to nine, …, 85 and older) diagnosed during a year divided by the total number of people in that age group that year. Age-standardized rates give the rate that would occur if the population of interest had the same age distribution as a given standard population. In this report, the standard population is the 2011 Canadian population.

AGE-STANDARDIZED MORTALITY RATE (ASMR):
A weighted average (based on a standard population) of the number of deaths from cancer per 100,000 people in a five-year age group (zero to four, five to nine, …, 85 and older) that occurred during a year divided by the number of people in that age group that year. Age-standardized rates give the rate that would occur if the population of interest had the same age distribution as a given standard population. In this report, the standard population is the 2011 Canadian population.

ANNUAL PERCENT CHANGE (APC):
A measure to assess the rate of change over time of an incidence or mortality rate. It is calculated by fitting a linear model to the annual rates after applying a logarithmic transformation. The estimated slope is then transformed back to represent a percentage increase or decrease per year. The method allows for a series of straight line segments with different slopes to be fitted to long-term trend data.

AVERAGE ANNUAL PERCENT CHANGE (AAPC):
The weighted average of the APCs during a specified time period.

CANCER INCIDENCE:
The number of new cancer cases diagnosed during a specific time period in a population.

CANCER MORTALITY:
The number of deaths due to cancer during a specific time period in a population.

COMORBIDITY:
A disease or condition that exists alongside the cancer of interest but is not an adverse effect of the cancer or its treatment.

CONDITIONAL SURVIVAL:
The probability of surviving a certain number of years given that a patient has already survived "n" years.

DEATH CERTIFICATE ONLY (DCO):
Cases for which the only data source is a death certificate. Such cases are excluded from survival analyses.

POPULATION AGING:
Refers to an increasing proportion of people 65 years of age or older in the population, as defined in demographic terms.

PREVALENCE:
The number of people still alive who have ever been diagnosed with cancer.

PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT (PHU):
An official health agency established by a group of urban and rural municipalities in Ontario to provide health promotion and disease prevention programs. There are 36 PHUs in Ontario.

RELATIVE SURVIVAL RATIO (RSR):
The proportion of people alive after a specific period of time after cancer diagnosis (e.g., five years) compared to the expected survival of similar people (based on age, sex and time period) in the general population.

WAIT TIME:
The time before a patient receives treatment. In this report, this is defined as the time between the decision to treat and the first surgical treatment. Other publications may define this term differently (e.g., by commencing the wait time at the date of diagnosis).