

## 8 WAYS TO PREVENT CANCER

#### Sydney University March 10, 2010

Washington University in St.Louis School of Medicine

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## Outline

- Review number of deaths due to cancer in Australia
- Review number of new cases of cancer each year
- Describe causes of cancer
- 8 ways to prevent cancer
- For academics point to some of the gaps we must fill to speed cancer prevention



## Cancer trends, Australia

- Mortality rate peaked in Australia, slow decline in lung cancer among men helps
- Rates of smoking related cancers decrease 1.4% per year from 1991 to 2001 among men but increased by 0.7% per year for women.
- Distinction
  - -Rate = no. cases or deaths per 100,000
  - Burden = total no. cases diagnosed



# Selected Causes of Death – 1970–72 AND 2002–04, Australia



(a) Persons aged 50 years and over.

(b) Deaths per 100,000 population. Standardised to 2001 Australian population.

Source: ABS Causes of Death collection.



# Mortality Rates, Annual Decline 1994 to 2004, women

Cancer	USA	Australia	Canada
Lung	+ 0.2%	+0.7%	+ 1.2%
Colon	- 4.5%	- 2.7%	- 1.7%
Breast	- 4.5%	- 2.0%	- 1.2%
Lymphoma	- 3.8%	- 1.9%	- 1.4%
Liver	+ 2.6%	+ 5.3%	+ 2.3%
Total Ca. decline/yr	- 0.8%	- 1.0%	- 0.5%

# Prevalence current smoking, 18 and over, Australia, 1980-2007



Australia The Healthiest Country, Tobacco Figure 1





## A growing population

- Today: 22,180,100 (March 10, 2010)
- 1 birth every 1 min 45 sec
- 1 immigrant every 1 min 54 sec
- 1 death every 3 min 40 sec

• Net increase 1 person every 1 min 11 sec



## **Projected Australian Population**



Population Projections, ABS 3222, 2008

## Australian Population, 2005



#### **Australia** Age Structure in 1980 Estimated Resident Population

Please note for Australia data, to ensure a consistent graph scale over the projection period, ages 100 and over are not displayed, but are used in the calculation of the total population.





#### 8 WAYS TO PREVENT CANCER

#### Australian Bureau Stats, http://bit.ly/aZOnHJ

#### **Australia** Age Structure in 1990 Estimated Resident Population

Please note for Australia data, to ensure a consistent graph scale over the projection period, ages 100 and over are not displayed, but are used in the calculation of the total population.



Year 1990 Total (millions) 17.06 Select a state or terr Australia Use the Drop Down List to s state or territory population pyramid. Details Aged: Born: Males: Females: Sex Ratio: (Males per 100 Females) Download Source Da

#### **Australia** Age Structure in 2000 Estimated Resident Population

Please note for Australia data, to ensure a consistent graph scale over the projection period, ages 100 and over are not displayed, but are used in the calculation of the total population.



Year 2000 Total (millions) 19.15 Select a state or terr Australia Use the Drop Down List to s state or territory population

### pyramid. Details Aged: Born: Males: Females: Sex Ratio: (Males per 100 Females) Download Source Da

#### **Australia** Age Structure in 2010 Projected Resident Population

Please note for Australia data, to ensure a consistent graph scale over the projection period, ages 100 and over are not displayed, but are used in the calculation of the total population.



Year 2010 Total (millions) 21.99 Select a state or terri Australia Use the Drop Down List to se state or territory population pyramid. Details Aged: Born: Males: Females: Sex Ratio: (Males per 100 Females)

#### **Download Source Da**



#### **Australia** Age Structure in 2020 Projected Resident Population

Please note for Australia data, to ensure a consistent graph scale over the projection period, ages 100 and over are not displayed, but are used in the calculation of the total population.



Year 2020 Total (millions) 25.28 Select a state or ter Australia Use the Drop Down List to state or territory populatio pyramid. Details Aged: Born: Males: Females: Sex Ratio: (Males per 100 Females) Download Source E

#### **Australia** Age Structure in 2030 Projected Resident Population

Please note for Australia data, to ensure a consistent graph scale over the projection period, ages 100 and over are not displayed, but are used in the calculation of the total population.



Year 2030 Total (millions) 28.48 Select a state or terri Australia Use the Drop Down List to se state or territory population pyramid. Details Aged: Born: Males: Females:

Sex Ratio: (Males per 100 Females)

Download Source Dat





#### Year 2040 Total (millions) 31.33 Select a state or terr Australia Use the Drop Down List to s state or territory population pyramid. Details Aged: Born: Males: Females: Sex Ratio: (Males per 100 Females) Download Source Da

### Trends in new cases, population structure, and burden of cancer, females, Canada 1980 to 2009



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Canadian Cancer Statistics 2009

## New cancer cases, 2005



Cancer in Australia, an Overview, 2008 <u>http://bit.ly/aiBzPa</u>

## New cancer cases, 2005



#### Cancer in Australia, an Overview, 2008 http://bit.ly/aiBzPa

## Total cases, Australia, 2005



Source: National Cancer Statistics Clearing House, AIHW.

## Cancer cases and % total, 2005

Cancer type	Number	Per cent of total	
Males			
Prostate	16,349	29.1	
Colorectal	7,181	12.8	
Melanoma	6,044	10.8	
Lung	5,738	10.2	620/
Lymphoma	2,373	4.2	62%
Bladder	1,707	3.0	

Cancer in Australia, an Overview, 2008 http://bit.ly/aiBzPa

# Cancer cases and % of total, 2005

Females			
Breast	12,170	27.4	
Colorectal	5,895	13.3	
Melanoma	4,640	10.5	
Lung	3,444	7.8	59%
Lymphoma	2,057	4.6	$\bigcirc$
Uterus	1,706	3.8	

Cancer in Australia, an Overview, 2008 http://bit.ly/aiBzPa

## Cancer Deaths, 2005



# Avoidable sources of the cancer burden

- Tobacco, tobacco, tobacco
   Risk is big, half are killed
- Obesity
- Lack of exercise inactivity
- Chronic infection
- Occupational factors
- Exogenous hormones
- Alcohol



## Preventable vs genetic

- Optimistically, 80% could be prevented with what we know today
  - In Australia 22.2 M population with 105,000
  - 85,000 cases could be prevented!
- 5-10% due to inherited genetic factors

   5,000 10,000 cases not readily modifiable yet, research continues aiming to identify strategies for those with major genetic risks



# How do we know lifestyle is important?

- International variation in rates of cancer
  - These relate to diet, physical activity, obesity, and environmental exposures
- Migrant studies
  - This takes account of genetic predisposition
  - Japanese who migrated to Hawaii and California
  - Italians and Greeks who migrated to Australia
- Trials and other studies
  - Vaccines
  - Anti-estrogens (Tamoxifen & Evista)
  - Smoking cessation and risk of lung cancer, etc.



#### Proportion of cancer deaths attributed to non-genetic factors.



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Colditz GA *et al.* (2006) Epidemiology—identifying the causes and preventability of cancer? *Nat. Rev. Cancer.* **7:** 2–9 doi:10.1038/nrc1784







## 8 WAYS TO PREVENT CANCER

# 50% of all cancer can be prevented

- Healthy lifestyles can prevent more than half of all cancers
- 8 simple steps can help keep us healthy & prevent cancer and other diseases





## Maintain a healthy weight

- Overweight and obesity cause cancer
- More than 14 percent of cancer deaths in men are due to overweight and obesity
- More than 20% of cancer deaths in women due to overweight and obesity
- ~ 6,500 cancer deaths per year in Australia
- These cancer deaths could be avoided if we did not gain weight through our adult years



## **1** Maintain a healthy weight

### New cases of cancer

- Overweight and obesity also cause new cases of:
  - Breast
  - Colon
  - Esophagus
  - Kidney
  - Pancreas
  - Lymphoma





### **Review of Evidence**

**Obesity** 

Level of Evidence	Risk Increase Associated with Obesity			
	Small (RR 1.09-1.34)	Moderate (RR 1.35 - 1.99)	Large (RR 2.0 - 4.9)	Very Large (RR 5.0+)
Convincing				
		Colon	Breast Uterus Kidney	Esophagus
Probable				
		Prostate Myeloma Lymphoma		

Risk of Cancer with Increased BMI				
Cancer	Sample Size	Follow-up (yrs)	RR Men	RR Women
Breast (premenopausal)	2.5 mil	11.0	-	0.92**
Breast (postmenopausal)	2.5 mil	11.0	-	1.12***
Colon	4.8 mil	11.0	1.24*	1.09*
Endometrium	3.0 mil	10.6	-	1.59*
Gallbladder	3.3 mil	12.7	1.09	1.59***
Gastric	4.7 mil	10.8	0.97	1.04
Leukemia	4.7 mil	13.7	1.08**	1.17***
Liver	3.3 mil	12.7	1.24	1.07
Lung	2.6 mil	11.9	0.76*	0.80***
Multiple myeloma	5.2 mil	14.6	1.11*	-
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	5.0 mil	12.4	1.06*	1.07
Oesophageal adenocarcinoma	4.7 ml	10.8	1.52*	1.51*

Relative risk for a 5 point increase in BMI. For example, the relative risk linked to a BMI of 28 compared to a BMI of 23; or a BMI of 32 compared to 27. \*p < .001; \*\*p < .01; \*\*p < .01; \*\*p < .05

)

CANCER



## Maintain a healthy weight

### Weight loss lowers risk

- Risk of breast cancer dropped by 60% in women who lost more than 10 kg (22 pounds) after menopause
- Loss of just 5 pounds lowered risk by 15%





#### Sustained Weight Loss and Risk of Breast Cancer in Postmenopausal Women Who Never Used Postmenopausal Hormones



Amount of sustained weight loss since menopause

Eliassen et al, JAMA 2006
## Maintain a healthy weight

#### Take home messages

- Keeping weight in check can be hard—but well worth it.
- For many, just not gaining any more weight can improve health.
- Taking off some extra pounds (kilos) gives an even greater health boost.





## **1** Maintain a healthy weight

#### Tips

- Bring physical activity and movement into your life.
- Limit time in front of the TV and computer.
- Eat a diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.
- Choose smaller portions, and eat more slowly.





## **2** Exercise regularly

- Lack of exercise causes breast and colon cancers
- Regular exercise reduces breast cancer risk by 20%
- Regular exercise reduces colon cancer by a half – you can walk away from colon cancer





### **Energy Balance**

- Retrospective data Bernstein suggests sustained high activity from menarche reduces risk premenopausal breast cancer (RR = 0.42; 3.8 hr per week vs inactive)
  - Bernstein et al., JNCI 1994
- NHSII prospective data show similar results
  - Maruti et al., JNCI 2008





#### Ē

# What Time Period is Important?

Total activity (MET-h/wk) during different ages and breast cancer



Maruti et al JNCI 2008 100:728-737

## **2** Exercise regularly

#### Take home messages

- Few things are as good for you as regular physical activity.
- It can be hard to find the time, but it's important to fit in at least 30 minutes of activity every day.
- More is even better, but any amount is better than none.





### **2** Exercise regularly

#### **Exercise tips**

- Choose activities you enjoy—walking, gardening, and dancing.
- Make exercise a habit by setting aside the same time for it each day.
- Stay motivated by exercising with someone.
- Be active with your kids--go on family walks ride bikes, dance together.







## Smoking increases the risk of 11 different cancers, including:

- Lung
- Stomach
- Kidney
- Myeloid Leukemia
- Pancreas
- Esophagus



- Bladder
- Larynx (wind pipe)
- Oropharynx (mouth)
- In total over 30% cancer deaths,
  - but decreasing contribution due to tobacco control



#### Quitting helps

- You've heard it before: quitting is the best thing you can do for your health.
- It's hard, but far from impossible.
- Many Australians stop for good every day.



![](_page_44_Picture_6.jpeg)

#### The Risk of Lung Cancer After Quitting Smoking

![](_page_45_Figure_1.jpeg)

Years since quitting

Speizer et al, 1999

#### Cumulative Risk of Death from Lung Cancer, United Kingdom

Peto et al. BMJ, 2000

![](_page_46_Figure_2.jpeg)

## **3 Don't smoke**

#### Tips

- Keep trying! It often takes 6 or 7 tries before you quit for good.
- Join a quit-smoking program. Your workplace or health plan may offer one.
- When appropriate, talk to your kids about the dangers of smoking and chewing tobacco.
- The best message to kids is being smoke-free vourself.

![](_page_47_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_47_Picture_7.jpeg)

### Diet

![](_page_48_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_48_Picture_2.jpeg)

- Fat is not related to breast cancer risk
- But diet is important for many cancers
  - Red meat increases colon cancer
  - Tomatoes reduce prostate cancer
  - Diet rich in whole grains reduces risk of several cancers
  - Folate reduces risk of colon cancer

![](_page_49_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_49_Picture_8.jpeg)

## Relative Risk of breast cancer and (95% CI) by levels of energy from fat

(4980 cases, 7 cohorts)

![](_page_50_Figure_2.jpeg)

Hunter et al, NEJM 1996

- Fat is not related to breast cancer risk
- But diet is important for many cancers
  - Red meat increases colon cancer
  - Tomatoes reduce prostate cancer
  - Diet rich in whole grains reduces risk of several cancers

- Folate reduces risk of colon cancer

![](_page_51_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_51_Picture_8.jpeg)

#### Take home messages

- Despite confusing reports, healthy eating is actually quite simple.
- Focus on fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.
- Keep red meat to a minimum.
- Cut back on bad fats (saturated and trans fats).
- Choose healthy fats (polyunsaturated and monounsaturated fats) more often.

![](_page_52_Picture_7.jpeg)

#### **Diet tips**

- Make fruits and vegetables part of every meal.
- Choose chicken, fish, or beans, instead of red meat.
- Choose whole-grain cereal, brown rice, and whole-wheat bread over more refined counterparts (like white bread, white rice).
- Choose dishes made with olive or canola oil, which are high in healthy fats.
- Cut back on fast food and store-bought snacks (like biscuits and chips), which are high in bad fats.

![](_page_53_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_53_Picture_8.jpeg)

**5** Drink alcohol only in moderation

Alcohol is good for the heart, but can also increase the risk of cancer

- Breast cancer
- Colon cancer
- Head and neck cancer, to name a few

![](_page_54_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_54_Picture_6.jpeg)

**5** Drink alcohol only in moderation

#### Take home messages

- If you don't drink, no need to start.
- If you already drink moderately (about 1 a day for women, 2 a day for men), probably no reason to stop.
- People who drink more, should cut back.

![](_page_55_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_55_Picture_6.jpeg)

## **5** Drink alcohol only in moderation

#### Tips

- Choose non-alcoholic beverages at meals and parties.
- Avoid occasions centered around alcohol.
- Talk to a health care professional if you feel you have a problem with alcohol.
- When appropriate, discuss the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse with children.

![](_page_56_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_56_Picture_7.jpeg)

## **6** Protect yourself from the sun

- Sunburns and excess sun exposure are major causes of skin cancer, including serious melanoma.
- Melanoma is on the rise in the white populations. Australia leads the world.
- <u>http://www.sunsmart.com.au/</u>

![](_page_57_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_57_Picture_5.jpeg)

## **6** Protect yourself from the sun

#### Message

• Avoid too much sun.

![](_page_58_Picture_3.jpeg)

• Skin damage starts early in childhood, so it's especially important to protect children.

![](_page_58_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_58_Picture_6.jpeg)

## **6** Protect yourself from the sun

#### Tips

- If UV index is above 3 protection is needed. Avoid direct sunlight between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
  - Use hats, long-sleeve shirts, and sunscreens with SPF15 or higher, broad spectrum.
- Don't use sun lamps or tanning booths.

![](_page_59_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_59_Picture_6.jpeg)

## **7** Avoid sexually transmitted infections

- Among other problems, sexually transmitted infections—like human papillomavirus (HPV)—are linked to a number of different cancers.
- Infection with HPV (human papilloma virus) causes cervical cancer

![](_page_60_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_60_Picture_4.jpeg)

## **7** Avoid sexually transmitted infections

#### Take home message

- Protecting yourself from sexually transmitted infections can lower your cancer risk.
- From 2007, 12-13 year olds covered through Immunise Australia

![](_page_61_Picture_4.jpeg)

Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

![](_page_61_Picture_6.jpeg)

**İ M M U N İ S E** AUSTRALIA PROGRAM

Information Line 1800 671 811

![](_page_61_Picture_9.jpeg)

![](_page_62_Picture_0.jpeg)

A number of screening tests can help protect against cancer or detect it early

- Regular screening is recommended for:
  - Colon and rectal cancer
  - Cervical cancer
  - Breast cancer

![](_page_62_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_62_Picture_7.jpeg)

## 8 Get screening tests

#### Take home messages

- Screening tests can find cancer early, or prevent it altogether.
- For colorectal cancer alone, regular screening could save many lives:
  - now 4,165 deaths per year, half preventable
- Talk to a health care professional about which tests you should have and when.

![](_page_63_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_63_Picture_7.jpeg)

# Activity and colon cancer risk reduction

![](_page_64_Figure_1.jpeg)

### Colon cancer risk varies

![](_page_65_Figure_1.jpeg)

# Even after screening risk is elevated

![](_page_66_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### Wei et al AJE 2009

![](_page_66_Picture_3.jpeg)

## 8 VAYS to Stay Healthy & Prevent Cancer

- 1 Maintain a healthy weight
- **2** Exercise regularly
- **3 Don't smoke**
- **4** Eat a healthy diet
- **5** Drink alcohol only in moderation
- **6** Protect yourself from the sun
- **7** Avoid sexually transmitted infections
- 8 Get screening tests

![](_page_67_Picture_9.jpeg)

## **8 WAYS** to **Stay Healthy & Prevent Cancer Other important factors**

- Family history
- Among women, postmenopausal hormones increase risk of breast cancer and lower risk of fractures and colon cancer
- Aspirin (regular dose) reduces risk of colon cancer

![](_page_68_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_68_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_68_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_69_Picture_0.jpeg)

## Take charge of your health Healthy behaviors can prevent over half of

- cancers
- Start with one or two changes now, then build
- Help your family to choose healthy behaviors
- Help build a healthy community
  - Our surroundings can have a big influence on choices
  - Look for ways to help reinforce and support healthy behaviors in your community (like schools, workplace, farmers markets, etc)

![](_page_69_Picture_8.jpeg)

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Your Disease Risk	my results: No Results Yet Y
Cancer Diabetes	Welcome to <i>Your Disease Risk</i> , the source on prevention. Here, you can find out your risk of developing five of the most important diseases in the United States and get personalized tips for preventing them.
Heart disease Osteoporosis	Developed over the past ten years by world-renowned experts, <i>Your Disease Risk</i> collects the latest scientific evidence on disease risk factors into one easy-to-use tool.
Stroke	To get started, choose one of the diseases below.
8 to prevent disease	What is your risk?         Cancer: There's much more to it than just smoking and lung cancer.         What's your cancer risk?
Prevention Risk A Screening Test	Diabetes: Over 18 million in the U.S. suffer from it. Take steps now to lower your risk.         What's your diabetes risk?
How to Estimate Risk	Heart disease: The #1 killer in the U.S. is also one of the most preventable.         What's your heart disease risk?
Community Action	Osteoporosis: Calcium isn't the only way (or even the best way) to protect yourself. What's your osteoporosis risk?

#### www.yourdiseaserisk.wustl.edu

![](_page_71_Picture_0.jpeg)

## **8 WAYS** to stay Healthy and Prevent Cancer

![](_page_71_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_71_Picture_3.jpeg)
### Challenges

Table 1 Questions to frame cancer prevention		
Prevention questions	Cohort	
Which exposure?	Refined measures	
Change by how much?	Observational cohorts ideally across broad range of exposure	
Among whom? At what age must exposure be changed?	Level of exposure	
	Time course of exposure and disease development	
How long must change be sustained?	Duration of altered exposure to modify cancer incidence	
Does risk reduction persist after cessation of exposure?	Updated exposure in cohort essential to address this question	



Colditz, Cancer Causes and Control, 2010 http://bit.ly/al2jAr



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### Fill gaps in knowledge

- Identify gaps of exposure assessment in framework of understanding the time course of disease etiology, e.g., radiation and breast cancer points to childhood and adolescent exposure
  - Adolescent and early life exposures in context of adult exposures etc...





Su et al, submitted

### Adolescent diet exposures

- Soy: Hi vs low intake (Korde CEBP2009)
  - Childhood RR=0.42
  - Adolescent RR=0.77
  - Adult RR = 0.71
- Prospective data from Shanghai cohort support this protective effect, (Lee AJCN 2009)
- US based studies of recent consumption of soy based products show no protection
  - US intake ~0.8mg isoflavone per day
  - Asian intake ~20 mg/d vs <5mg/d</li>



# 8 Asian studies adult intake: >20 mg /d vs. <5mg/d isoflavone



Wu et al BJC 2007

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#### Birth Control Pill Use and Risk of Ovarian Cancer



Beral et al, 2008

# Setting priorities – seeing benefits

What works	Buren	When will we see benefit
Tobacco control	Lung & total cancer	Youth – adult
		Adult cessation – 5 years
Vaccine	Liver	20+ years
	Cervix	? 20+ years
Obesity	Breast/colon/ many others	Long term payoff
Physical activity	Breast, colon	Longer term (yrs)
Pap Smear	Cervix	Rapid decrease in incidence





Atwood, Colditz, Kawachi, AJPH 1997; 87: 1603-1606.

### **Richmond: Social strategies**

- Preventive services delivered by health providers to patients
- Structural interventions that are implemented by government and industry to protect the public from harm and reinforce behavior change
- Activities that communities can engage in to promote a healthier environment and lifestyle





#### An integrated approach







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