

Digestive diseases and cancers:

Uncovering the burden and economic impact

Country report: Germany

Digestive diseases and cancers exert a substantial public health and economic burden across Germany. Unfortunately, despite their impact, they remain poorly understood, attracting relatively little attention in terms of policy, funding and research.

Digestive disease burden

In 2021, there were approximately:

2.1 mio inpatient treatments¹
43,717 deaths²



Economic impact of digestive diseases

Germany's expenditure increased from €49 billion in 2015 to

€ 55 billion

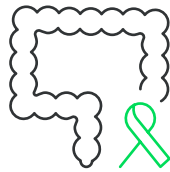
in 2020.³



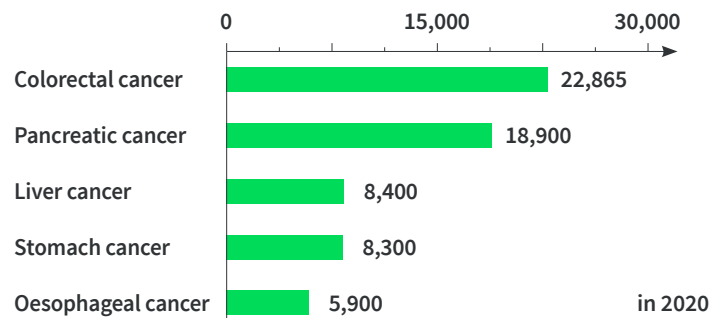
Digestive cancer burden

In 2021, there were approximately:

309,000 inpatient treatments¹
100,500 deaths²



Highest number of cancer mortality by type²



Working days lost due to digestive diseases in 2020⁴

3,177,000
Gastritis & peptic ulcer disease


1,559,000
Crohn's disease & ulcerative colitis


1,288,000
Diverticular disease


593,000
Reflux disease


Risk factors⁵

A high proportion of digestive diseases and cancers are caused by modifiable risk factors...

59% 
of the proportion of pancreatitis age-standardised DALY rates** are associated with alcohol use

11% 
of the proportion of colorectal cancer age-standardised DALY rates are associated with a high BMI*

27% 
of the proportion of pancreatic cancer age-standardised DALY rates are associated with smoking

17% 
of the proportion of liver cancer age-standardised DALY rates are associated with drug use

Urgent action must be taken to improve digestive health. Learn more about our research and funding priorities, as well as our recommendations for action in the UEG White Book and in the DGVS Weißbuch 2023 / 2024 ...

* Body Mass Index

**Disability-adjusted life years (DALY): A measure which combines years of life lost to premature mortality and years of healthy life lost due to disability.

