

Digestive diseases and cancers:

Uncovering the burden and economic impact

Country report: Italy

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



Digestive disease burden

In 2019, there were approximately:

5,000,000

Incident cases

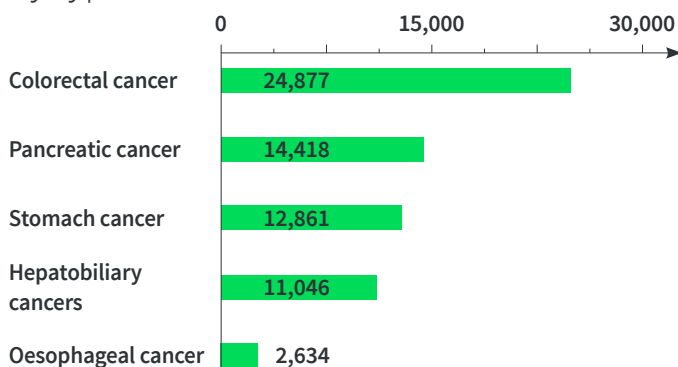
30,000

Deaths



with a notable increase in prevalent cases seen for major diseases including inflammatory bowel disease, chronic pancreatitis and NASH between 2000 and 2019

Highest number of cancer mortality by type in 2019



Economic impact of digestive diseases

0.38% of GDP* in indirect costs for digestive diseases in 2019

0.13% of GDP in direct costs for digestive diseases in 2019

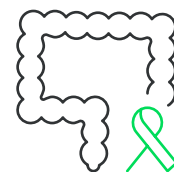


Digestive cancer burden

In 2019, there were approximately:


110,000 Incident cases


65,000 Deaths




Risk factors

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

44%  of the proportion of pancreatitis age-standardised DALY rates** are associated with alcohol use

20%  of the proportion of liver & oesophageal cancer age-standardised DALY rates are associated with a high BMI***

40%  of the proportion of oesophageal cancer age-standardised DALY rates are associated with smoking

40%  of the proportion of liver cancer age-standardised DALY rates are associated with drug use

High BMI / Obesity

>6,000,000 Italians are obese (12% of the population)¹

Italian children aged 6–10 years²:

20.4% overweight

9.4% obese

2.4% severely obese

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 our latest White Book...



*Gross domestic product (GDP).

**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.

***Body mass index (BMI).