



Disabled people and cancer

Latest data from The State of Cancer in NZ 2025

1 in 7 people diagnosed with cancer were disabled*

Disabled people experienced higher rates of cancer diagnosis*
The reasons are complex, but include...



Socioeconomic determinants of health



Risk associated with some disabling conditions



Exposure to modifiable risk factors



Intersectionality – cumulative disadvantage may amplify risk

Some groups of disabled people were more impacted than others

Lung cancer spotlight

Disabled people had much higher rates of lung cancer diagnosis, and tāngata whaikaha Māori (disabled Māori) even higher.

Increasing lung cancer diagnosis rates



Insights on ways cancer services could better support disabled people



Co-design



Workforce capability



Planning & support



Data collection



Accessible information

It is important that cancer services are fit for purpose

Everyone's lived experience of disability and cancer is unique

*compared to the total population and based on cancer registrations from 2018–22

Disclaimer: These results are not official statistics. They have been created for research purposes from the [Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) and/or Longitudinal Business Database (LBD)] which [is/are] carefully managed by Stats NZ. For more information about the [IDI and/or LBD] please visit stats.govt.nz/integrated-data/

Exclusions: Individuals whose disability was confirmed after their cancer diagnosis, individuals under 15 years of age, and individuals who became usual residents of Aotearoa New Zealand after their cancer diagnosis.

For the full disclaimer, exclusions, and the methodology used for this report: visit teaho.govt.nz/index.php/our-work/disability-and-cancer-project/disability-and-cancer-reports

