

Poland

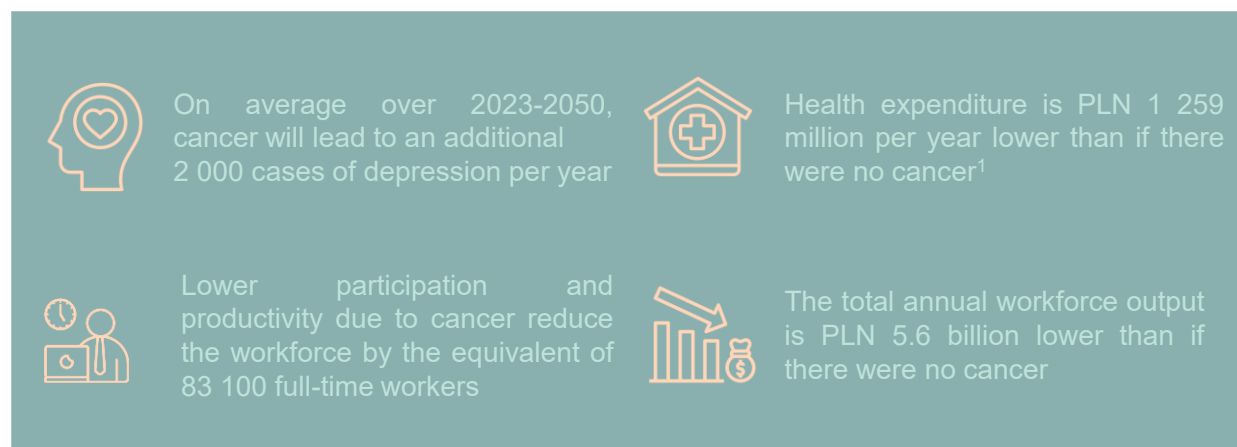
Despite advances, cancer remains a significant public health challenge in Poland

Cancer is the second leading cause of mortality in Poland, and one in four premature (before the age of 75) deaths (25%) will be due to cancer between 2023 and 2050. In total, there will be an estimated 38,400 premature deaths from cancer every year, and the average population life expectancy will be 2.2 years lower than if there were no cancer.

1 in 4

premature deaths are due to cancer

Infographic 1. Cancer will place a major burden on individuals, health systems and society in Poland



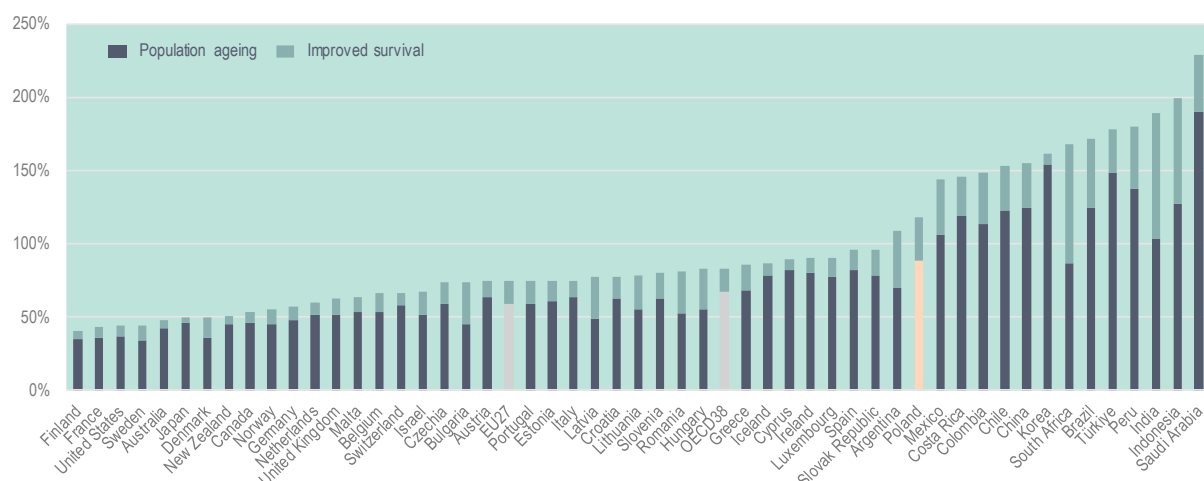
1. Estimates are calculated by comparing the baseline scenario to a hypothetical scenario in which there is no cancer, and therefore take into account the cost of other diseases. As people who do not develop cancer live longer and develop other diseases, this can lead to an overall increase in health expenditure for some countries.

Cancer costs are expected to grow in the future

At least three factors will drive up cancer health expenditure in the future. First, the risk of cancer increases with age. As the population of Poland ages, this will lead to an 89% increase in per capita health spending on cancer between 2023 and 2050, all other things being equal. Second, efforts to reduce variation in cancer outcomes across countries could mean people survive for longer, require treatment for longer, and

can develop cancer again. This would add another 30% in cancer cost over the same period. Third, higher treatment cost from new medicines and technologies could further increase the total cost.

Figure 1. Percentage increase in per capita cancer health expenditure, real growth, in 2050 vs. 2023



Source: OECD SPHeP NCDs model, 2024.

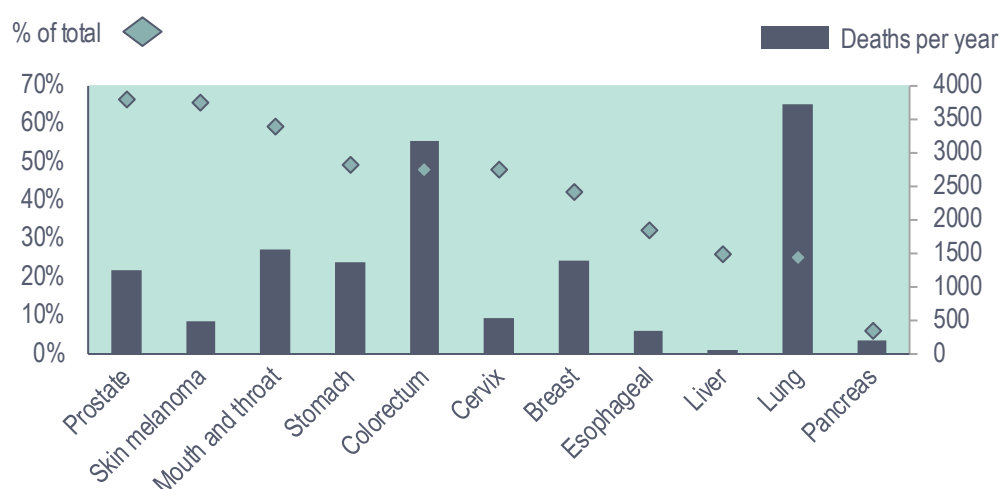
Action on cancer prevention and care is needed to reduce cancer's health, economic and societal burden

Better cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment would improve the lives of people with cancer

If Poland were to improve cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment to achieve the best survival rates observed in the OECD and EU, this would...

- prevent **one in three** premature cancer deaths,
- increase the population average life expectancy by **9 months**,
- add the equivalent of **9,300 full-time workers**,
- increase overall health expenditure by **1.5%**.

Figure 2. The impact of improved cancer survival rates on premature mortality, average over 2023-50 in Poland



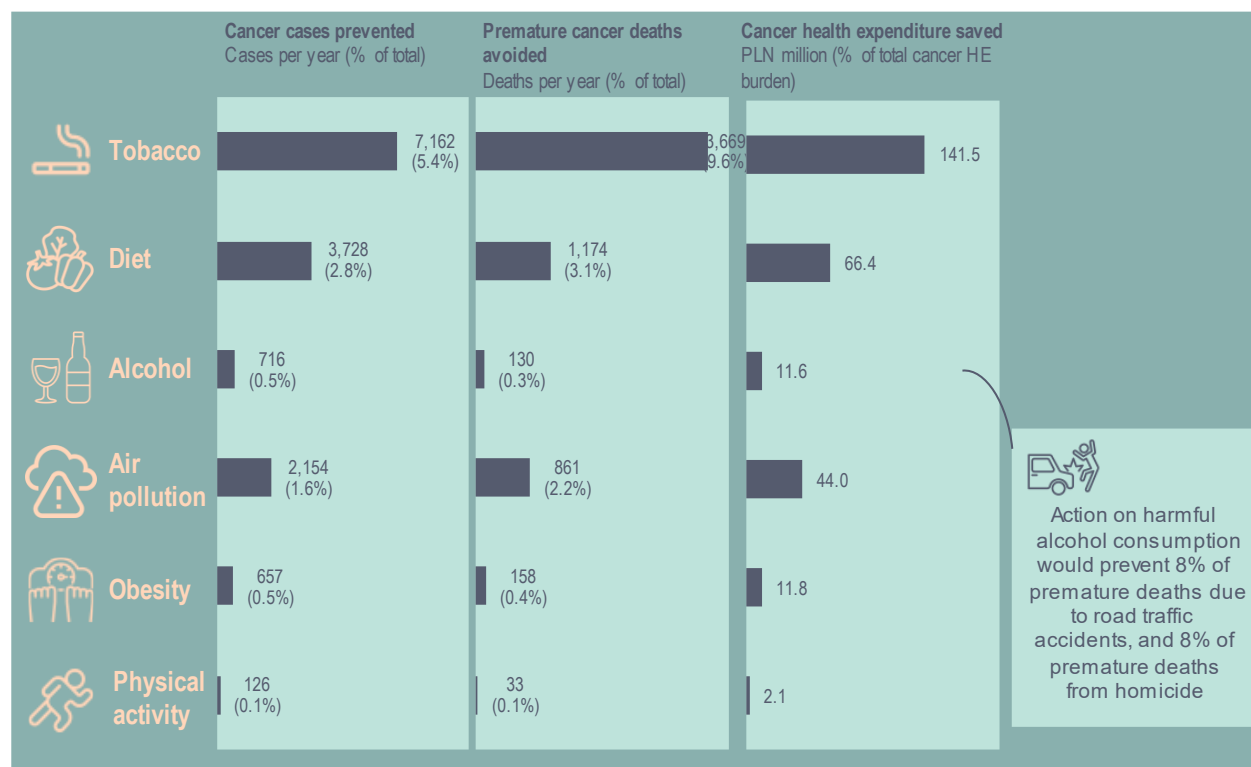
Note: % of total refers to the proportion of total premature mortality for a given cancer that can be prevented by improving survival rates for the same cancer

Source: OECD SPHeP NCDs model, 2024.

Action on key cancer risk factors would reap a wide range of benefits

Meeting international policy targets on major cancer risk factors would prevent around **11% of all cancer cases** and **avert 16% of premature deaths** due to cancer in Poland.

Infographic 2. Action on key cancer risk factors would reap a wide range of benefits



HPV vaccination can protect future generations from cervical cancer

Optimal vaccination for human papillomavirus (HPV) in Poland, in which a high coverage rate provides enough herd immunity to eliminate all infections by the targeted HPV types, could prevent **89% of premature deaths** from cervical cancer, and reduce health expenditure on cancer by **PLN 102 million** per year.

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