

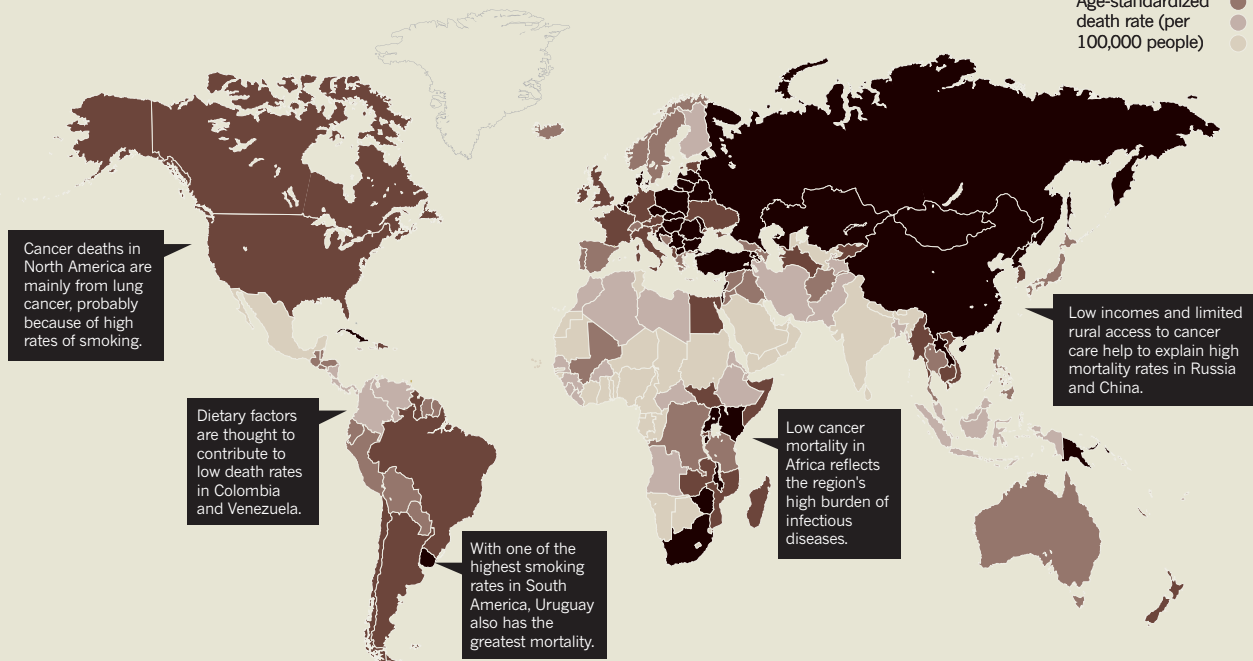
# ATTACKING AN EPIDEMIC

Despite a huge amount of funding and research, regional and individual differences in cancer trends make it a hard disease to wipe out. By Mike May.

## A GLOBAL KILLER

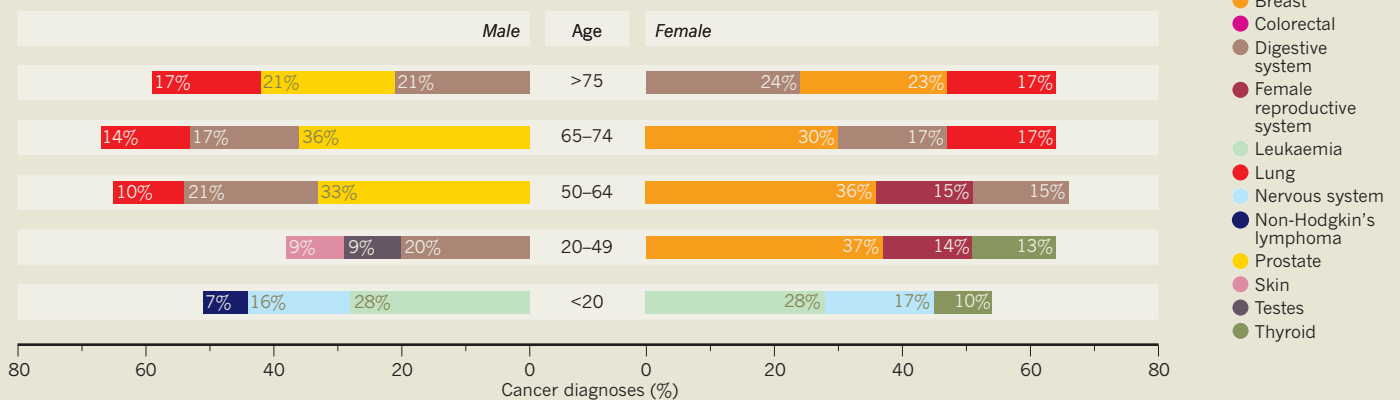
The number of people who die from cancer varies greatly around the world, often because of differences in behaviour and healthcare.

**KEY**  
 ● >116.0  
 ● 99.7–116  
 ● 89.8–99.6  
 ● 73.3–89.7  
 ● <73.3  
 Age-standardized death rate (per 100,000 people)



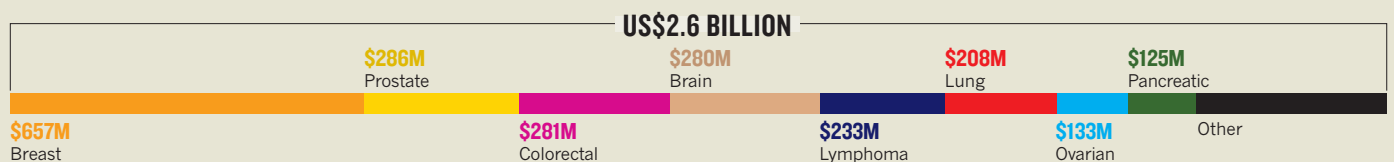
## AGE-OLD PROBLEM

A dramatic change happens around the age of 20, when the main cancers being diagnosed in the United States start to shift from mainly leukaemia to predominantly digestive, prostate, lung and breast.



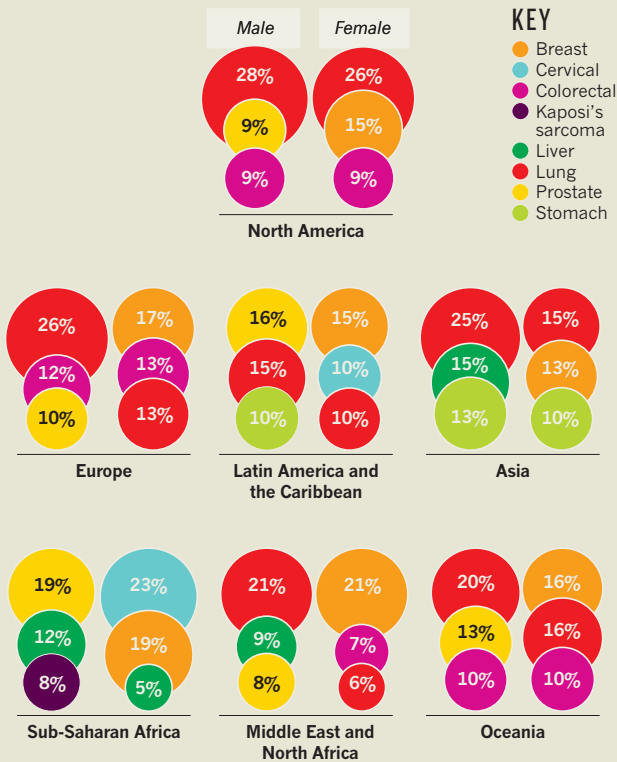
## MONEY MATTERS

In 2013, the US National Institutes of Health spent US\$2.6 billion on cancer research, and more than one-quarter of that went to breast cancer.



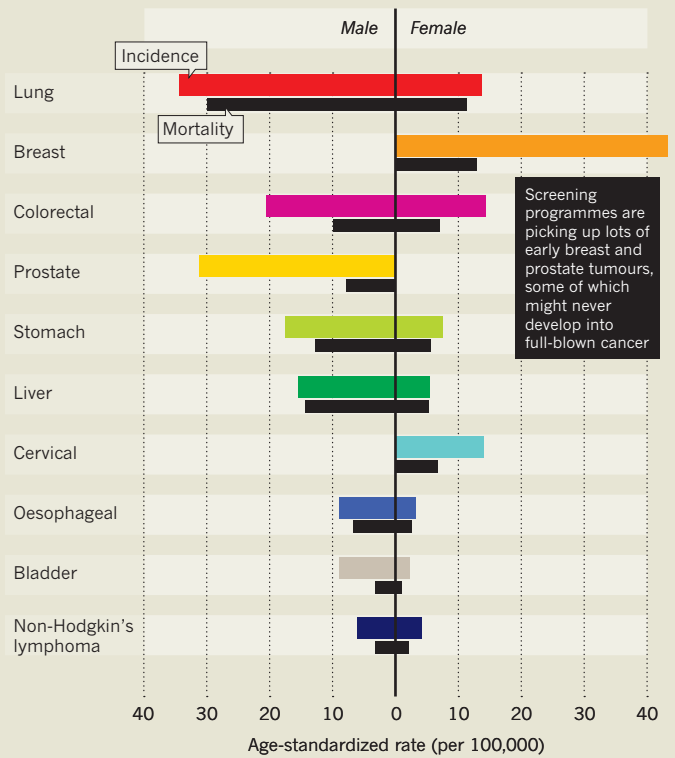
### POINTS OF ATTACK

With the exception of sub-Saharan Africa, lung cancer is one of the top three cancer killers in all regions. Breast, colorectal and prostate also feature prominently.



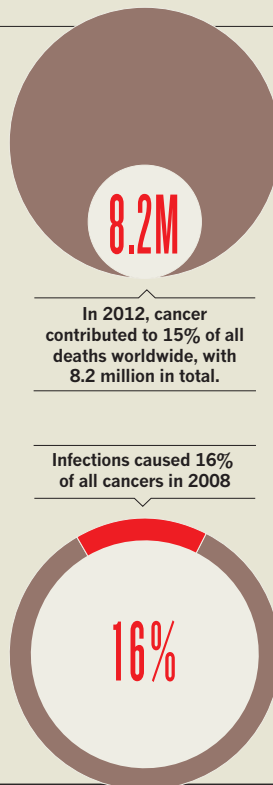
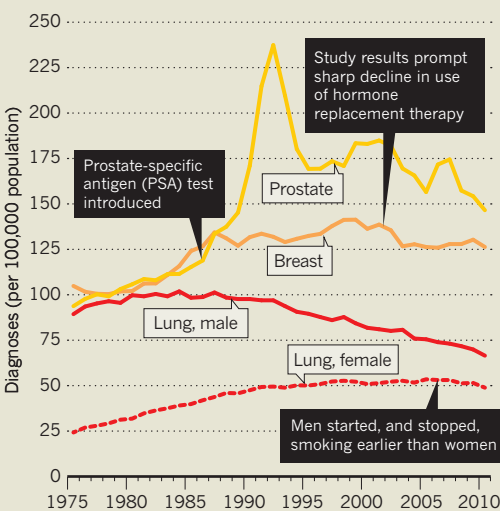
### DEADLY DISCREPANCY

Gaps between diagnoses and mortality are most prominent for breast and prostate cancer.



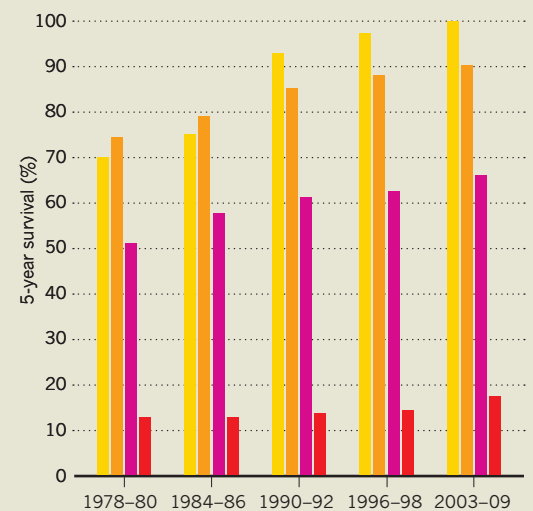
### RATE CHANGES

Among other factors, public-health measures have influenced the number of US people being diagnosed with certain cancers.



### HIGHS AND LOWS

Some cancers have much better prognoses than others. Breast and prostate cancer have benefited from improved treatments and early detection.



A global killer and Points of attack: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Age-old problem, Rate changes and Highs and lows: Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program. Money matters: National Institutes of Health. Deadly discrepancy: World Cancer Report 2014.