

Alcohol causes cancer in 7 sites of the body.

In Western Australia, one person dies every third day from alcohol-caused cancer.

Female breast

There are a number of potential ways that alcohol causes breast cancer in females, including by increasing the levels of hormones in the blood.

Despite alcohol being attributed to more than 230 breast cancer hospitalisations in 2018, only 28% of Western Australians know about the alcohol and breast cancer link.

Liver

The liver is responsible for the conversion of alcohol to acetaldehyde, which is a cell poison. Alcohol also damages the liver by causing a build-up of fat, inflammation and scarring, which can lead to liver cancer.

Alcohol is responsible for 40% of all liver cancer cases in Australia.

Mouth, throat and oesophagus

Alcohol damages the cells lining the mouth, throat (pharynx and larynx) and oesophagus as it enters the mouth and is swallowed, causing cancer in these parts of the body.

Cancers of the mouth, throat and oesophagus combined accounted for almost 45% of all alcohol-caused cancer hospitalisations in 2018.

Colon and rectum

Alcohol can cause cancer in the colon and rectum by multiple pathways, including by acetaldehyde damaging DNA and stopping cells from repairing this damage.

In 2018, alcohol-caused colorectal cancer accounted for 1 in 4 cancer-related hospitalisations in WA.

Alcohol is converted to acetaldehyde in the body.

Alcohol and acetaldehyde are Group 1 carcinogens, which means they are cancer causing to humans.



154

Western Australians died from alcohol-caused cancer in 2017.



3

Western Australians were hospitalised due to alcohol-caused cancer each day in 2018.



Alcohol-caused cancer cost WA hospitals

\$14m

in 2018.

Reduce your drinking to reduce your risk.

alcohol**thinkagain**