

Cancer survivors

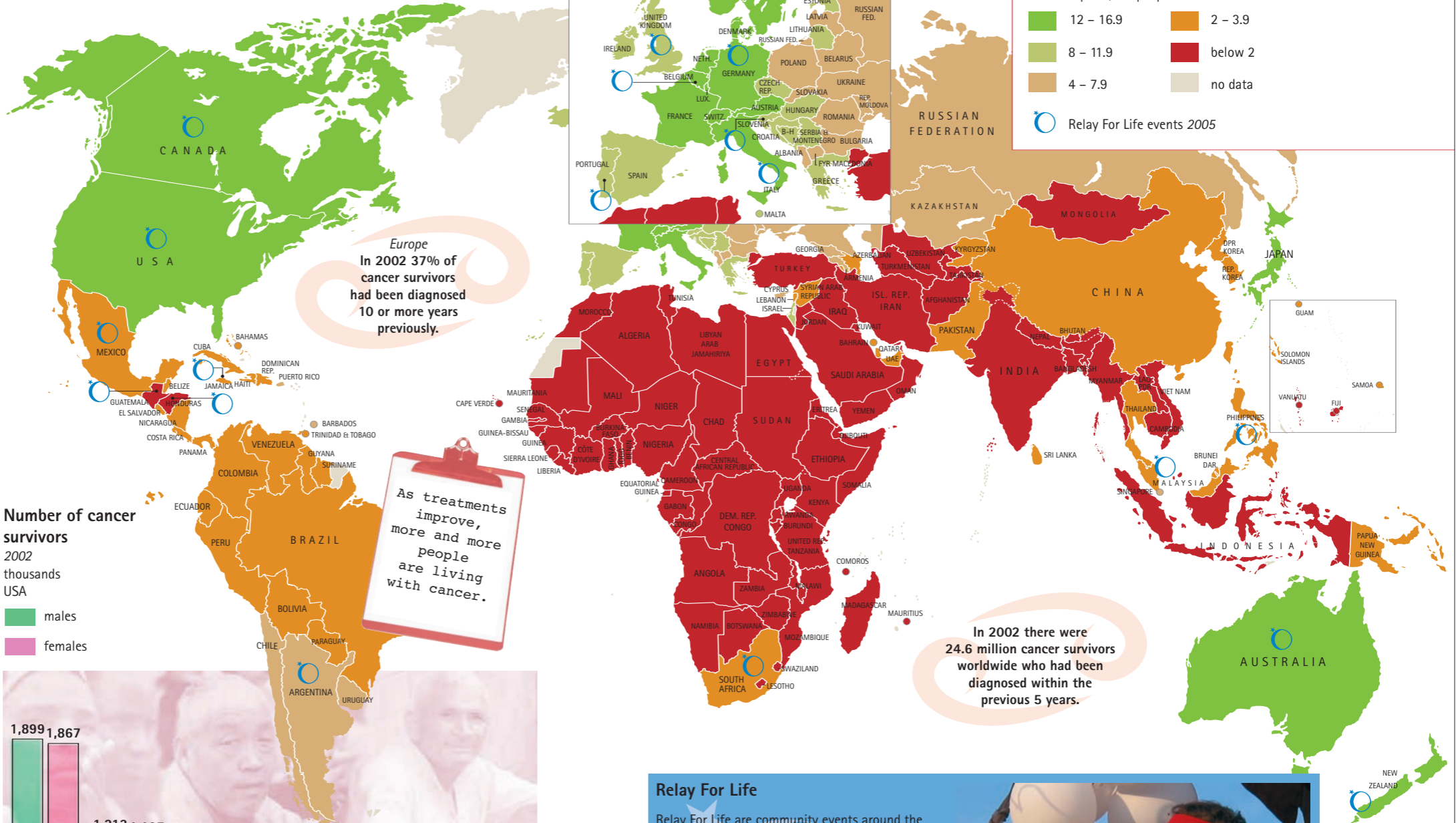
"I don't have any more bad days. I have good days and I have great days. Cancer no longer consumes my life, my thoughts, or my behaviour."
 Lance Armstrong,
 cancer survivor and champion cyclist

Cancer survivors are people who have been diagnosed with cancer at some point in their lives. Family and friends are also affected by a diagnosis of cancer, and thus are, in a way, survivors too.

Worldwide, in 2002, there were approximately 24.6 million cancer survivors who had been diagnosed within the previous 5 years. That number will increase steadily during the coming years, as the average age of the world's population increases.

Variations in the proportion of cancer survivors in a population are related to a number of factors: the age distribution of the population; the types of cancer occurring; the incidence rates of each; the amount of cancer screening and early detection; the proportion of patients who receive effective cancer treatment; and rates of death from other causes.

Survivors may face numerous physical, psychological and financial challenges throughout the remainder of their lives. Effective treatment is the most important strategy to ensure optimal life following a cancer diagnosis. However, there are many other interventions that can improve a survivor's life. Unfortunately, access to these interventions is not available equally around the world. Efforts such as Relay For Life help to raise funds and awareness in support of survivors. Additional resources are needed to help the millions of cancer survivors worldwide.



Five-year cancer survivors

As a proportion of the nation's population 2002 survivors per 1,000 people

12 - 16.9	2 - 3.9
8 - 11.9	below 2
4 - 7.9	no data

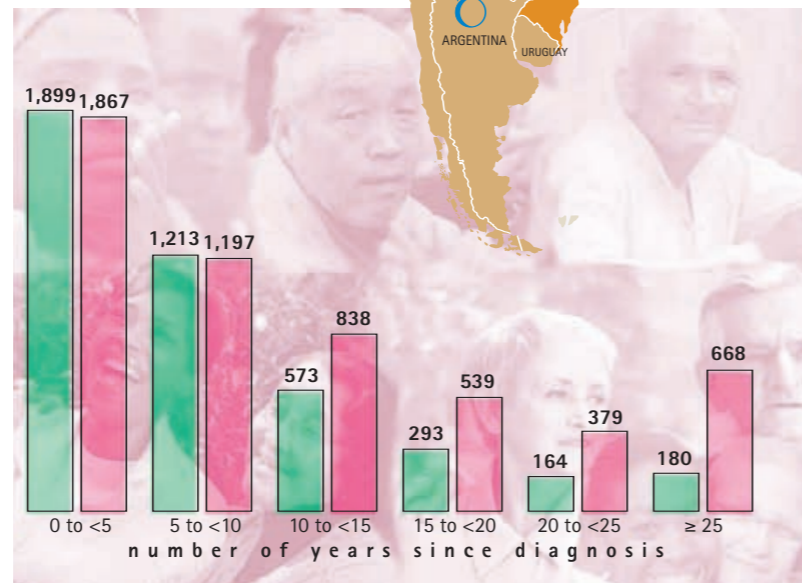
Relay For Life events 2005

Europe
 In 2002 37% of cancer survivors had been diagnosed 10 or more years previously.

As treatments improve, more and more people are living with cancer.

In 2002 there were 24.6 million cancer survivors worldwide who had been diagnosed within the previous 5 years.

Number of cancer survivors 2002
 thousands
 USA



Relay For Life

Relay For Life are community events around the world that bring together people who share the common goals of eliminating cancer and celebrating surviving cancer. Volunteers form teams that make a commitment to raise money through individual and team events. At an event, relay teams take turns walking or running around a track or path. Each team keeps at least one representative on the track at all times, during a relay that lasts up to 24 hours. During the event, local entertainers perform, and families enjoy fun activities.