



The Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) is a national, community-based organization of volunteers. Its mission is the eradication of cancer and the enhancement of the quality of life of people living with cancer. The CCS was founded in 1938, upon the recommendation of the National Study Committee.

## Scope of Engagement

The CCS provides information and offers various services to people living with cancer. In the process of evaluating its nationwide telephone peer-support program, the CCS came across the need to forecast potential demand for the cancer related services provided by the program. The CCS approached RiskAnalytica with the request to develop a tool that it could use to forecast this demand.

## CCS's Challenges

*Absence of reliable mechanism to forecast the demand for the CCS's services.* The CCS administers several peer-support programs that offer counseling and psycho-social services to people with cancer. The demand for these programs varies by their type, scope and as a direct consequence of the number of newly diagnosed and previously surviving diagnosed cancer patients. To be able to meet this demand across the nation, and develop its business case for further resource investment, the CCS needed a reliable forecasting tool to generate long- and short-term future possibility scenarios showing economic and life impacts of cancer in Canada.

## RiskAnalytica Solutions

To assist the CCS with its forecasting capabilities, RiskAnalytica developed a Canadian Cancer Prevalence Forecasting Tool (CCPFT). This tool is fully compatible with CCS's computer platforms and can be used in conjunction with the databases maintained by the CCS. Using this tool provided the CCS with the capability to generate forecasts for the following 25-year simulation scenarios:

1. The **expected** total cancer prevalence in Canada.
2. The **best case** cancer prevalence scenario representing the lowest cancer prevalence estimates under the assumption that no unforeseen significant changes are occur in the area of cancer control.
3. The **worst case** cancer prevalence scenario representing the highest cancer prevalence estimates under the assumption that no unforeseen significant changes occur in the area of cancer control.

Generating these simulation scenarios enabled the CCS to collapse the total cancer prevalence into (1) cancer prevalence newly diagnosed for each year; and (2) cancer prevalence not newly diagnosed in each year.

The CCPFT also included a build-in capacity to perform a breakdown of each of the simulation scenarios by gender and age groups, which increased the CCS's ability to apply different demand scales to different parts of the cancer prevalent population and respond more effectively to the shift of the demand for its peer-support services.