

# NON-MELANOMA SKIN CANCER



This document provides information about non-melanoma skin cancer (squamous cell and basal cell skin cancers) in Northern Ireland. For information about malignant melanoma, please see the separate malignant melanoma fact sheet. Information about cancer stage and survival is not presented due to high survival rates associated with non-melanoma skin cancer.

NUMBER OF CASES PER YEAR (2010-2014)			NUMBER OF DEATHS PER YEAR (2010-2014)		
Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
1,946	1,504	3,450	13	6	19
FIVE-YEAR SURVIVAL (2005-2009)			22-YEAR PREVALENCE (2014)		
Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
-	-	-	17,117	15,277	32,394

## INCIDENCE

Between 2010 and 2014 there were an average of 1,946 males and 1,504 females diagnosed with non-melanoma skin cancer each year in Northern Ireland. The probability that a male will develop skin cancer before the age of 75 is approximately 1 in 8 whilst the probability that a female will develop skin cancer before the age of 75 is 1 in 12.

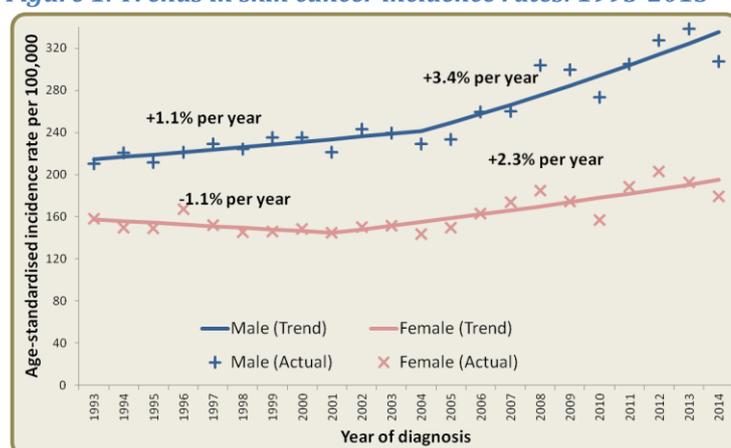
### Incidence trends

Table 1: Incidence of skin cancer by gender and year of diagnosis: 2005-2014

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Males	1261	1415	1455	1706	1742	1615	1855	2072	2149	2041
Females	1096	1211	1306	1414	1357	1239	1507	1658	1602	1514
Both	2357	2626	2761	3120	3099	2854	3362	3730	3751	3555

Over a ten-year period the number of skin cancer cases has increased in males and females from 2357 in 2005 to 3555 in 2014. After accounting for our ageing population, cancer incidence rates have remained stable in males and females between 1994 and 2004. Thereafter, yearly incidence rates begin to rise.

Figure 1: Trends in skin cancer incidence rates: 1993-2013

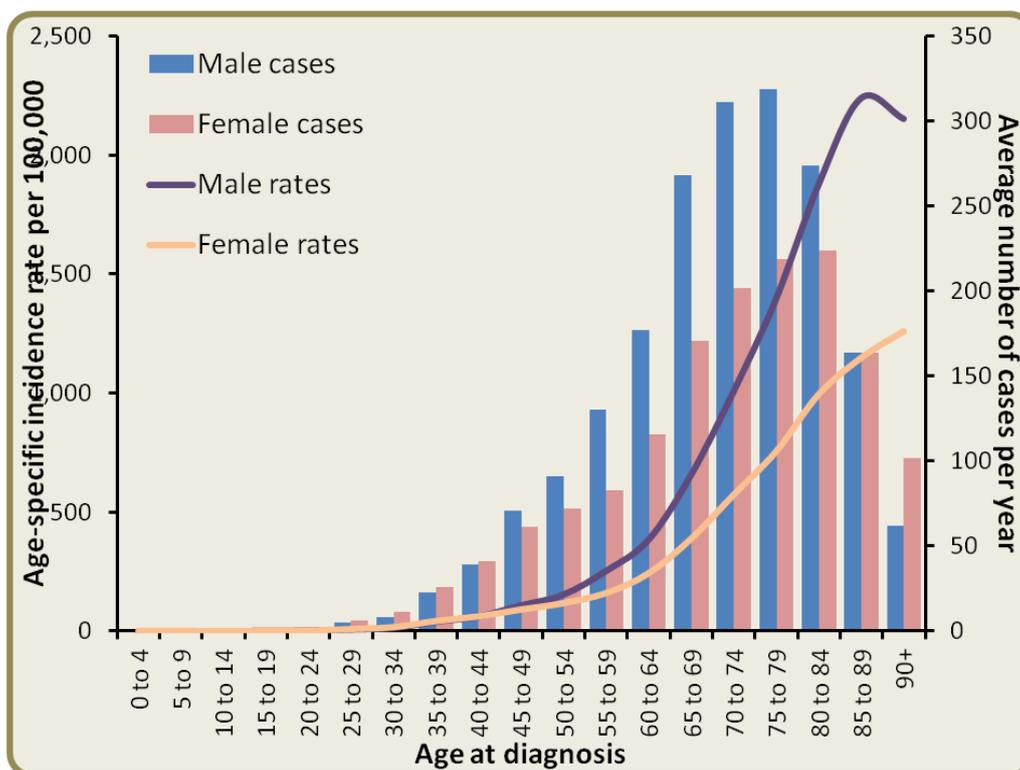


Skin cancer incidence rate in men has risen by 3.4% per year whilst incidence rate has risen by 2.3% each year in women (between 2004 and 2013). This is likely due to increased sun exposure in the population, something that is closely linked to increasing prosperity and more frequent overseas travel.

### Incidence and age

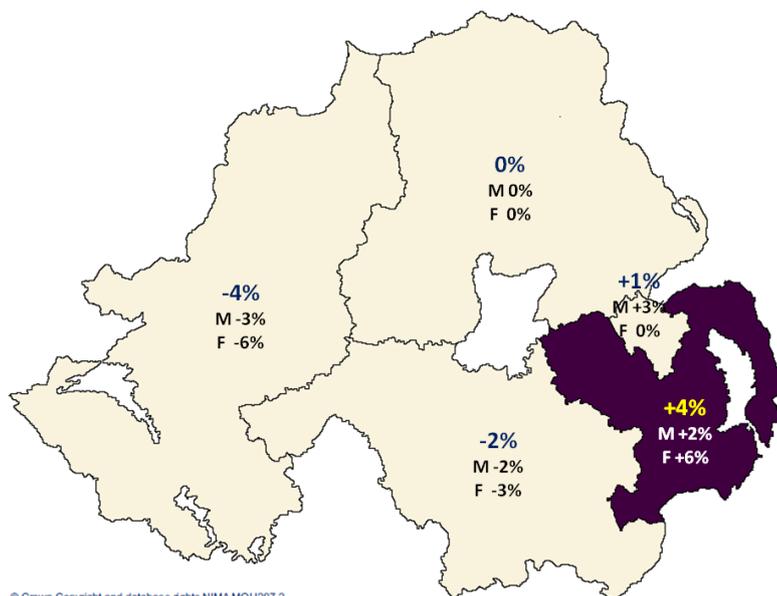
Skin cancer incidence is associated with increasing age. Almost 60% of patients diagnosed were over the age of 70. Incidence rates are highest among males and female’s aged 85 and over. There is a sharp increase in the incidence of skin cancer in men after the age of 60 whereas women experience a more steady increase in incidence of skin cancer, as they grow older. Skin cancer affects persons of all ages but there are very few cases diagnosed in those under the age of 30.

Figure 2: Incidence of skin cancer by age and gender: 2010-2014



### Incidence by Trust area

Figure 3: Skin cancer incidence rates compared to the NI average by sex and HSC trust of residence 2010-2014



Skin cancer incidence rates within the South Eastern health and social care trust seen the only statistically significant increase in incidence rates between 2010 and 2014.

Females in the Western Health and Social Care Trust had a statistically significant lower incidence in non-melanoma skin cancer compared to the NI average.

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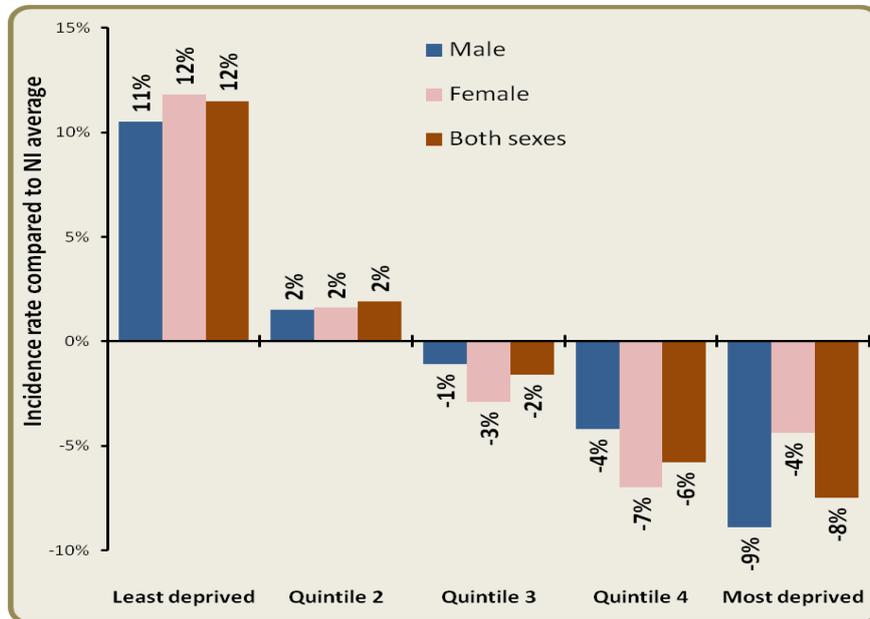
Significantly higher than average

Significantly lower than average

## Incidence by deprivation

Non-melanoma skin cancer incidence rates are 12% higher than the NI average in the least deprived communities and 8% lower than the NI average in the most deprived communities. This is likely due to differences in skin cancer risk factor exposure (radiation from sunlight), which is in turn strongly linked to number and duration of overseas holidays taken each year.

Figure 4: Skin cancer incidence rates compared to the NI average by deprivation quintile: 2010-2014



## MORTALITY

In 2010-2014 there were an average of 13 male and 6 female deaths from non-melanoma skin cancer each year (average of 19 each year in total).

### Mortality trends

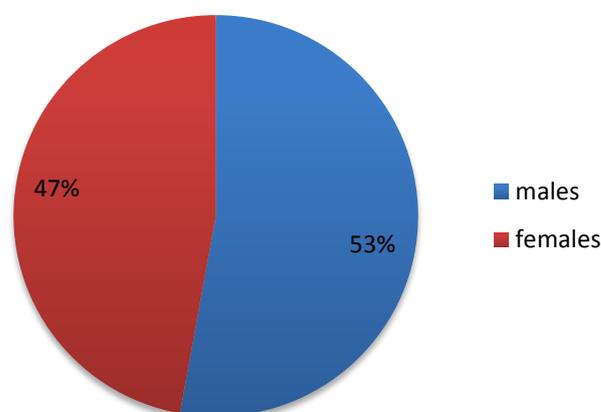
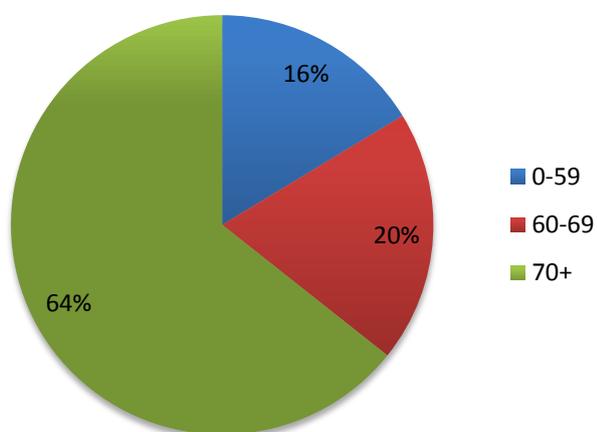
Skin cancer has the lowest mortality rate of all cancers. After adjusting for our ageing population, mortality rates from non-melanoma skin cancer have remained stable during the previous twenty year period in males and females.

## PREVALENCE

At the end of 2014 there were a total of 32,394 people living with a diagnosis of non-melanoma skin cancer making it the most prevalent form of cancer in Northern Ireland. There is a relatively even gender split (53% of non-melanoma skin cancer cases affect males whilst 47% of non-melanoma skin cancer cases affect females), 10% of people had been diagnosed in the previous year, and almost 65% were over the age of 70.

Table 4: Number of people living with skin cancer at the end of 2014 who were diagnosed from 1993-2014 by time since diagnosis and gender

Sex	Age	Time since diagnosis				22-year Prevalence
		0-1 year	1-5 years	5-10 years	10-22 years	
Male	0-69	767	2361	1719	1451	6298
	70+	976	3443	2999	3401	10819
	All ages	1743	5804	4718	4852	17117
Female	0-69	559	1845	1484	1381	5269
	70+	837	3032	2724	3415	10008
	All ages	1396	4877	4208	4796	15277
Both	0-69	1326	4206	3203	2832	11567
	70+	1813	6475	5723	6816	20827
	All ages	3139	10681	8926	9648	32394



**FURTHER INFORMATION**

Further data is available from the Northern Ireland Cancer Registry web site: [www.qub.ac.uk/nicr](http://www.qub.ac.uk/nicr)

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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

NICR is funded by the Public Health Agency and is hosted by Queen's University, Belfast.

