

# BREAST CANCER



NUMBER OF CASES PER YEAR (2011-2015)			NUMBER OF DEATHS PER YEAR (2011-2015)		
Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
10	1,333	1,343	3	310	313
FIVE-YEAR SURVIVAL (2005-2009)			23-YEAR PREVALENCE (2015)		
Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
-	81.1%	-	-	14,727	-

## INCIDENCE

In 2011-2015 there were 1,333 female patients diagnosed with breast cancer each year. The lifetime risk of developing a breast cancer was 1 in 11 for women.

### Incidence trends

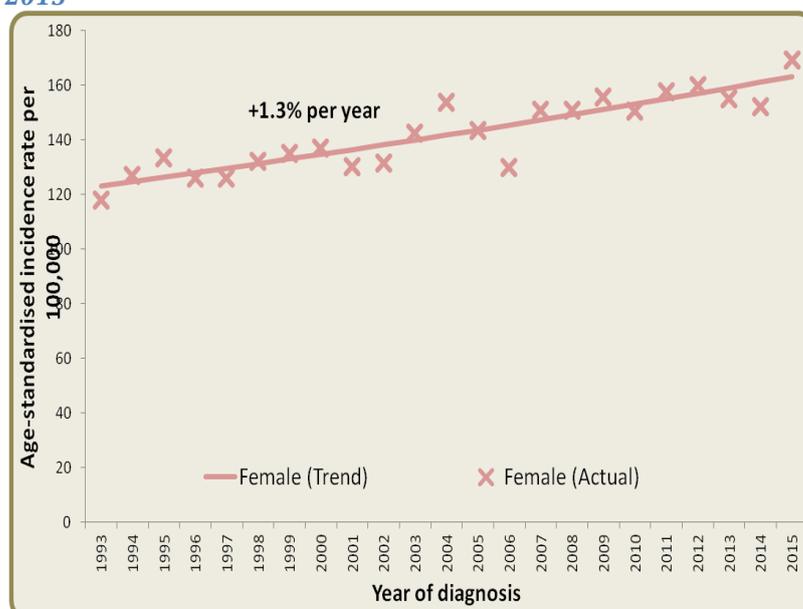
Table 1: Incidence of female breast cancer and year of diagnosis: 2006-2015

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Female	989	1,160	1,179	1,231	1,214	1,290	1,320	1,300	1,300	1,456

Over the last ten years the number of breast cancers cases in women has increased by 47% from 989 in 2006 to 1,456 in 2015.

After accounting for the increasing number of older people in the NI population, breast cancer incidence rates in women have increased during 1993-2015 by an average of +1.3% per year.

Figure 1: Trends in female breast cancer incidence rates: 1993-2015



**Incidence and age**

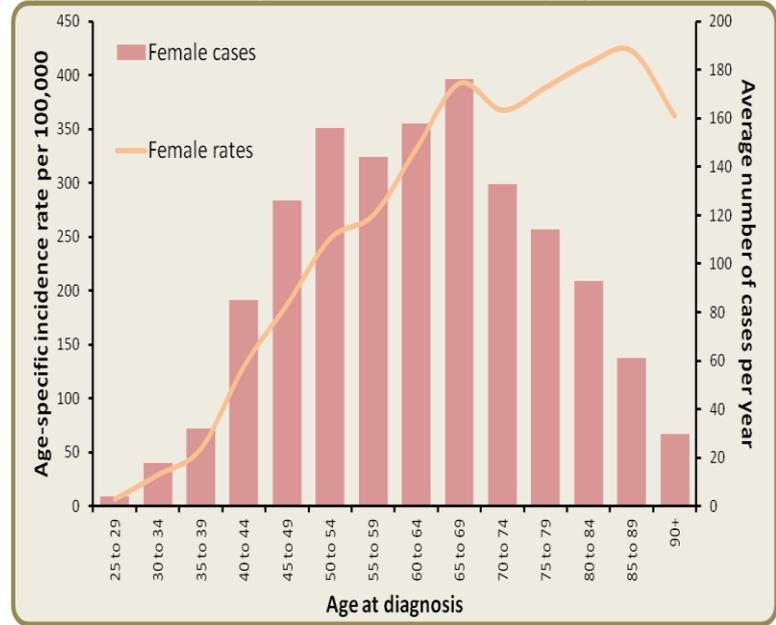
Breast cancer risk is strongly related to age with 80% of cases occurring in females over the age of 50 years and incidence rates greatest among women aged 80-89. However, the highest proportion (48%) of cases was diagnosed in women of screening age (50-70 years).

*Table 2: Average annual number of breast cancers diagnosed by age: 2011-2015*

Age	Female
0 to 49	266 (20%)
50 to 70	634(48%)
70 and over	431(32%)
All ages	1,333

Due to rounding of yearly averages, 'All ages' may not equal the sum of age categories in tables.

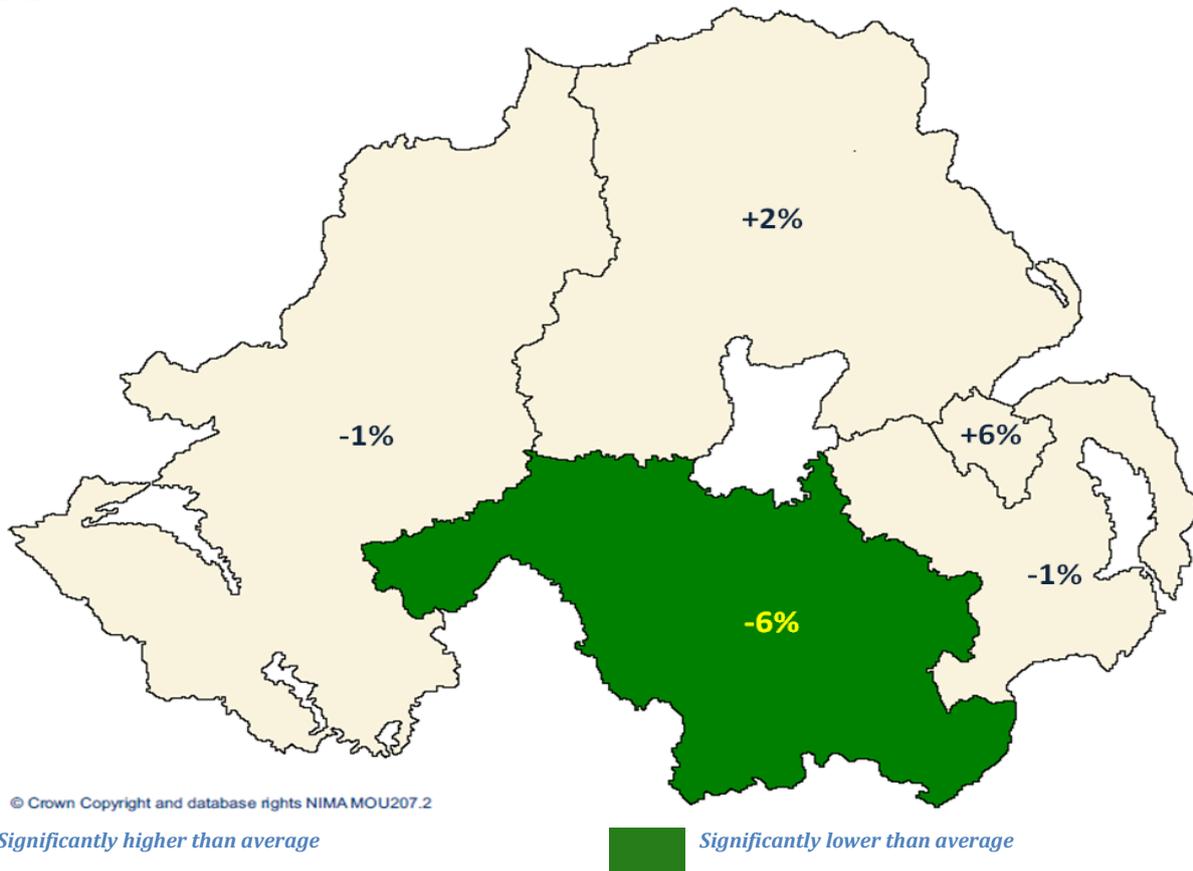
*Figure 2: Incidence of female breast cancer by age: 2011-2015*



**Incidence by Trust area**

Breast cancer incidence rates in 2011-2015 did not vary significantly across HSCT Trusts in Northern Ireland except for the Southern Trust where rates were 6% lower than the NI average.

*Figure 3: Female breast cancer incidence rates compared to the NI average by sex and HSC Trust of residence: 2011-2015*

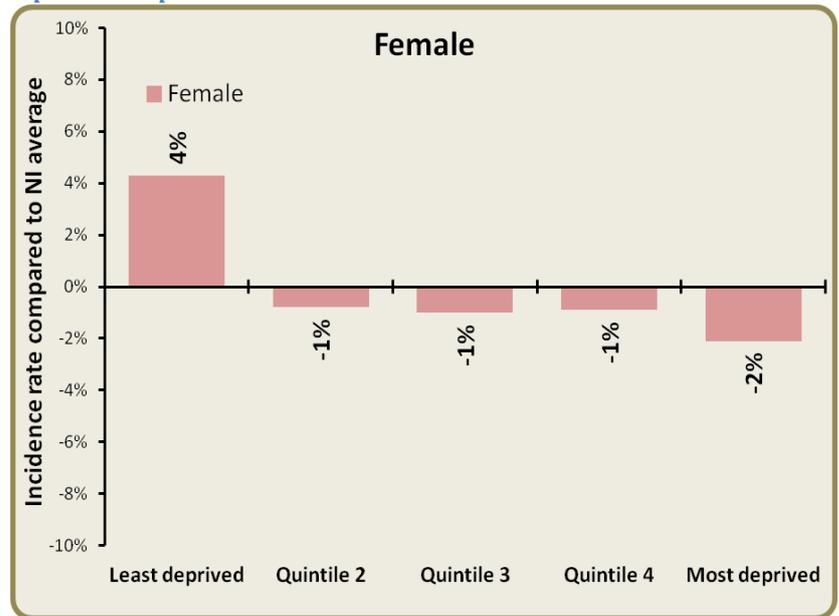


## Incidence by deprivation /affluence

The findings of recent studies have shown associations between affluence and breast cancer incidence which may be due to differences in patterns of reproduction and use of Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) between deprivation quintiles.

However, while the incidence rate for female breast cancer diagnosed between 2011 and 2015 in NI is 4% higher than the NI average, it did not reach statistical significance. .

Figure 4: Breast cancer incidence rates compared to the NI average by deprivation quintile: 2011-2015

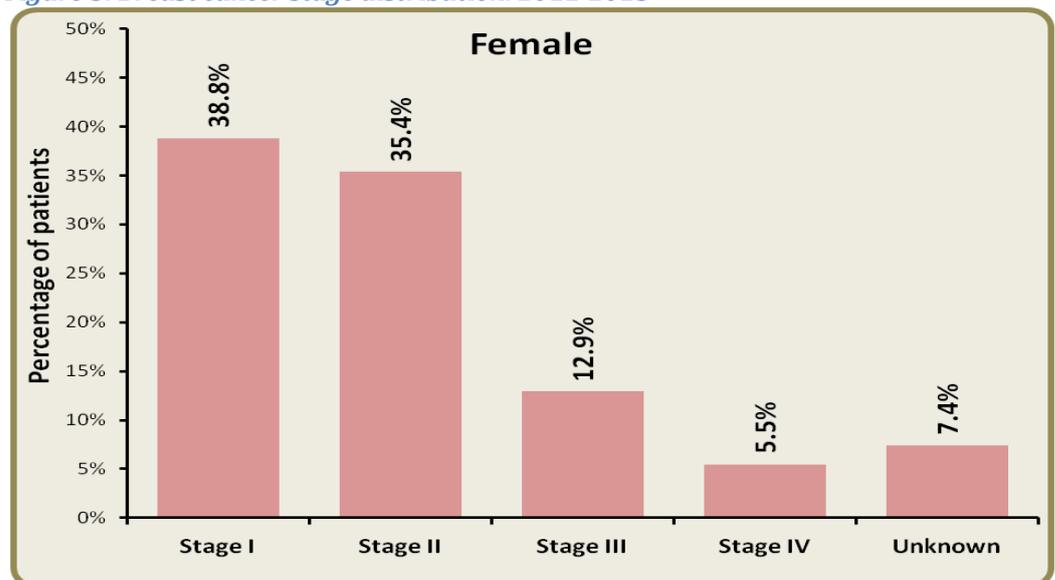


## Incidence by stage

Cancer stage is a way of describing the size of a cancer and how far it has grown and spread. This information is important in helping decide what treatments

are needed and stage of disease at diagnosis is strongly associated with survival.

Figure 5: Breast cancer stage distribution: 2011-2015



In 2011-2015, more than 9 in 10 (92.6%) of female breast cancer patients in Northern Ireland were assigned a stage at diagnosis.

The majority of breast cancer patients were diagnosed at Stage I (38.8%) and Stage II (35.4%) with 5.5% diagnosed at stage IV.

## SURVIVAL

The net survival for women with breast cancer was 94.7% at one year, and 81.1% at five years for patients diagnosed in 2005 to 2009.

*Table 3: Five-year female breast cancer net survival by survival time: patients diagnosed 2005-2009*

Time since diagnosis	Diagnosed 2005-2009
	Female
6 months	96.2%
1 year	94.7%
5 years	81.1%

### Survival Trends

Five-year net survival for breast cancer in women has improved over time with survival increasing from 74.8% in the 1993-1999 diagnosis period to 81.1% in the 2005-2009 diagnosis period.

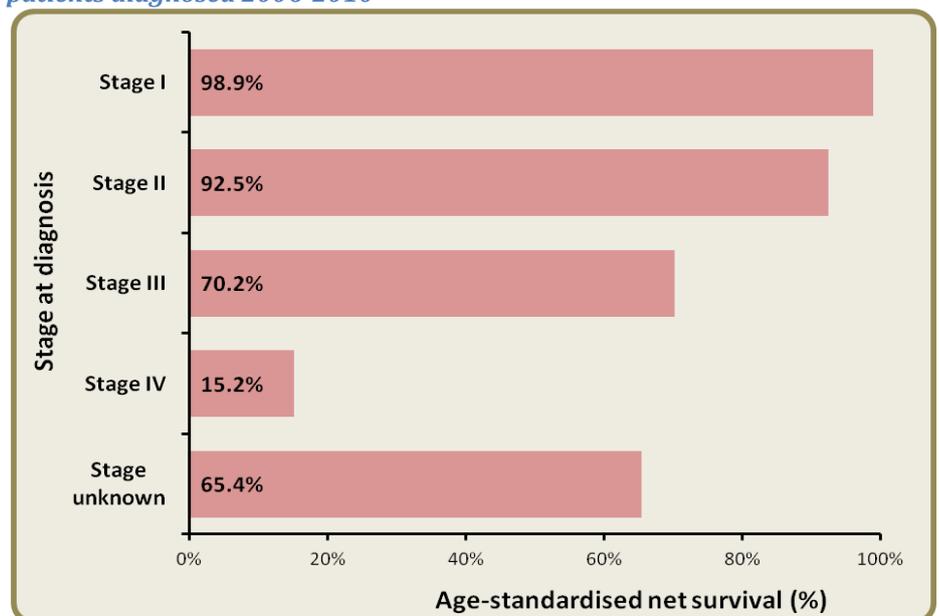
*Table 4: Five-year breast cancer net survival by period of diagnosis*

Period of diagnosis	Female
1993-1999	74.8%
2000-2004	78.2%
2005-2009	81.1%

### Survival and stage

Stage at diagnosis is one of the most important factors in breast cancer survival with five year net survival decreasing as stage at diagnosis increases. Five-year net survival ranged from 98.9% for early (stage I) disease to 15.2% for late (stage IV) disease highlighting the importance of early diagnosis.

*Figure 6: Five year net survival from breast cancer by stage of diagnosis: patients diagnosed 2006-2010*



## MORTALITY

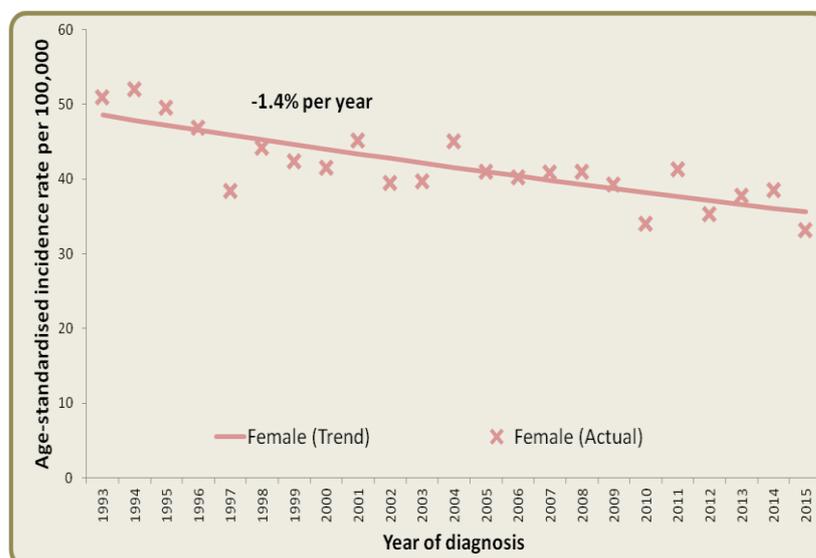
Mortality statistics are provided by the Northern Ireland General Registrar's Office. In 2011-2015 there were 310 female deaths from breast cancer each year.

### Mortality trends

Over the last ten years, the number of breast cancer deaths have changed from 300 among women in 2006 to 285 among women in 2015.

When adjusted for age and population change, female breast cancer mortality rates decreased by -1.4% per year during 1993-2015.

Figure 7: Trends in female breast cancer mortality rates: 1993-2015



## PREVALENCE

At the end of 2015 there were 14,727 females living in NI who had been diagnosed with breast cancer from 1993-2015 (Table 5). Of these, 41.1% were aged 70 and over and 9.1% had been diagnosed in the previous year.

Table 5: Number of people living with breast cancer at the end of 2015 who were diagnosed from 1993-2015 by time since diagnosis

Sex	Age	Time since diagnosis				23-year Prevalence
		0-1 year	1-5 years	5-10 years	10-23 years	
Female	0-69	915	2,758	2,431	2,573	8,677
	70+	426	1,455	1,396	2,773	6,050
	All ages	1,341	4,213	3,827	5,346	14,727

## 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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