

# BREAST CANCER



NUMBER OF CASES PER YEAR (2013-2017) <sup>1</sup>			NUMBER OF DEATHS PER YEAR (2013-2017) <sup>1</sup>		
Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
11	1,398	1,409	1	311	312
FIVE-YEAR SURVIVAL (2007-2011)			25-YEAR PREVALENCE (2017)		
Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
	82.1%			15,995	

<sup>1</sup> Mean yearly incidence data for period 2013-2017 has been rounded to nearest integer, and thus some numbers in tables will not add to give the exact total.

## INCIDENCE

In 2013-2017 there were 1,398 female patients diagnosed with breast cancer each year. The lifetime risk of developing a breast cancer was 1 in 10 for women.

### Incidence trends

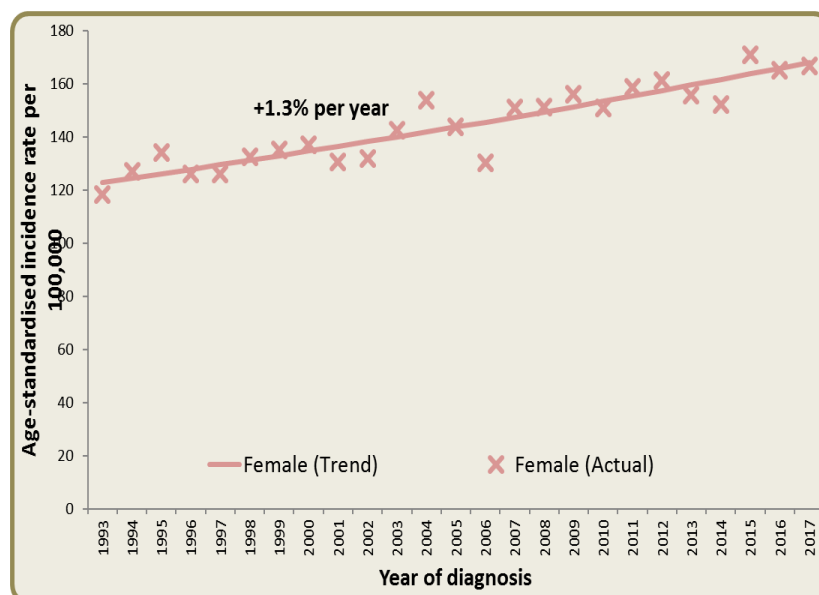
Table 1: Incidence of female breast cancer and year of diagnosis: 2008-2017

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Female	1,182	1,232	1,215	1,296	1,330	1,304	1,299	1,467	1,442	1,478

Over the last ten years the number of breast cancers cases in women has increased from 1,182 in 2008 to 1,478 in 2017.

After accounting for the increasing number of older people in the NI population, breast cancer incidence rates in women have increased during 1993-2017 by an average of 1.3% per year.

Figure 1: Trends in female breast cancer incidence rates: 1993-2017



### Incidence and age

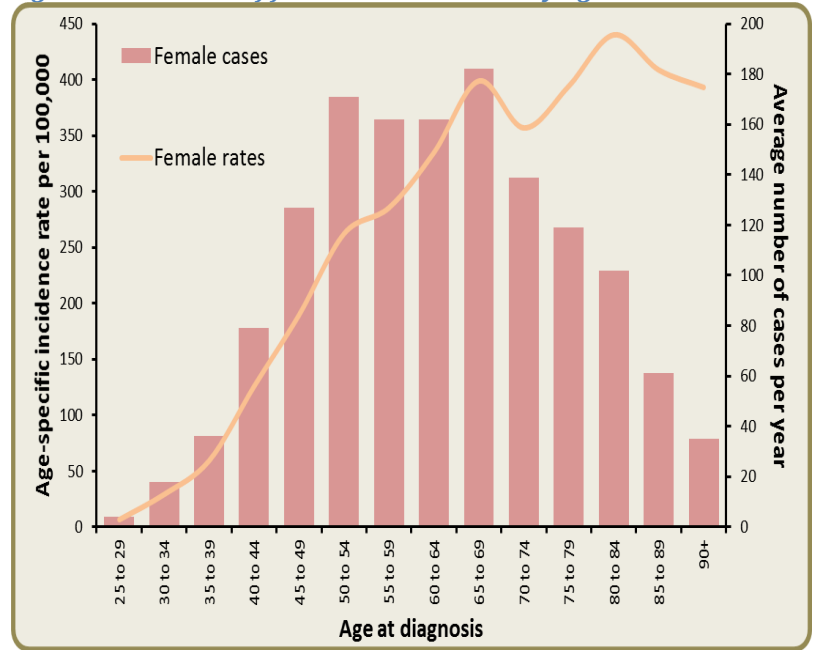
Breast cancer risk is strongly related to age with 81% of cases occurring in females over the age of 50 years and incidence rates greatest among women aged 80-89.

*Table 2: Average annual number of breast cancers diagnosed by age: 2013-2017*

Age	Female
0 to 49	265
50 to 64	495
65 to 74	321
75 and over	317
All ages	1,398

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

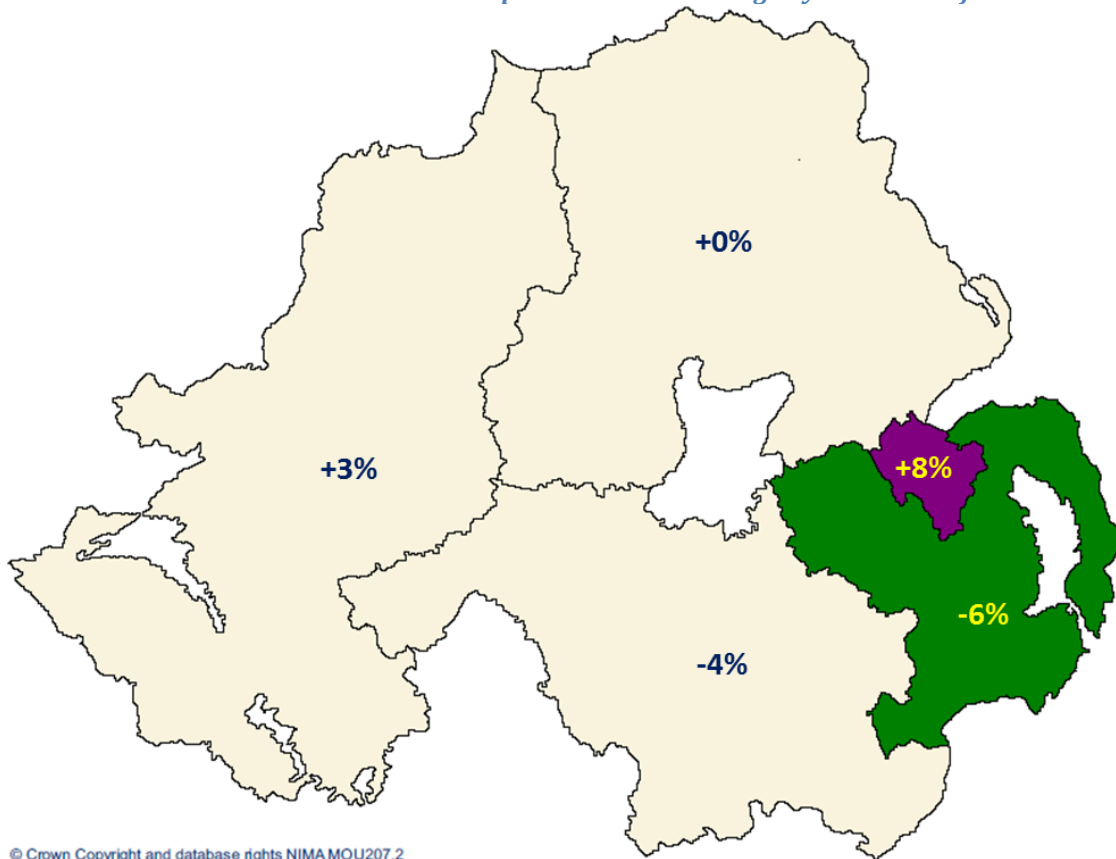
*Figure 2: Incidence of female breast cancer by age: 2013-2017*



### Incidence by Trust area

Breast cancer incidence rates in 2013-2017 varied significantly across two HSC Trusts in Northern Ireland. The South Eastern Trust saw rates lower than the NI average while Belfast saw higher rates than the NI average.

*Figure 3: Female breast cancer incidence rates compared to the NI average by HSC Trust of residence: 2013-2017*



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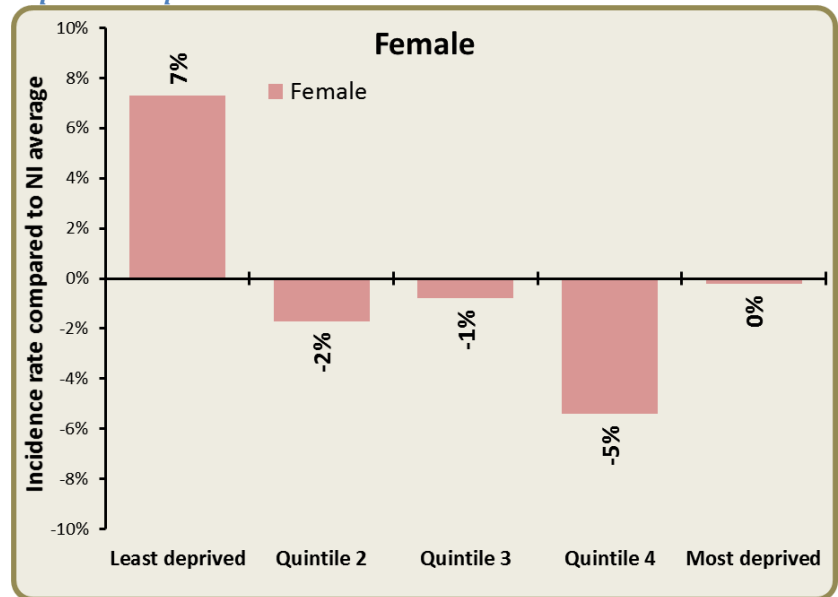
Significantly higher than average

Significantly lower than average

### Incidence by deprivation

Breast cancer incidence rates were 7% higher in the least deprived areas of Northern Ireland during 2013-2017.

Figure 4: Breast cancer incidence rates compared to the NI average by deprivation quintile: 2013-2017

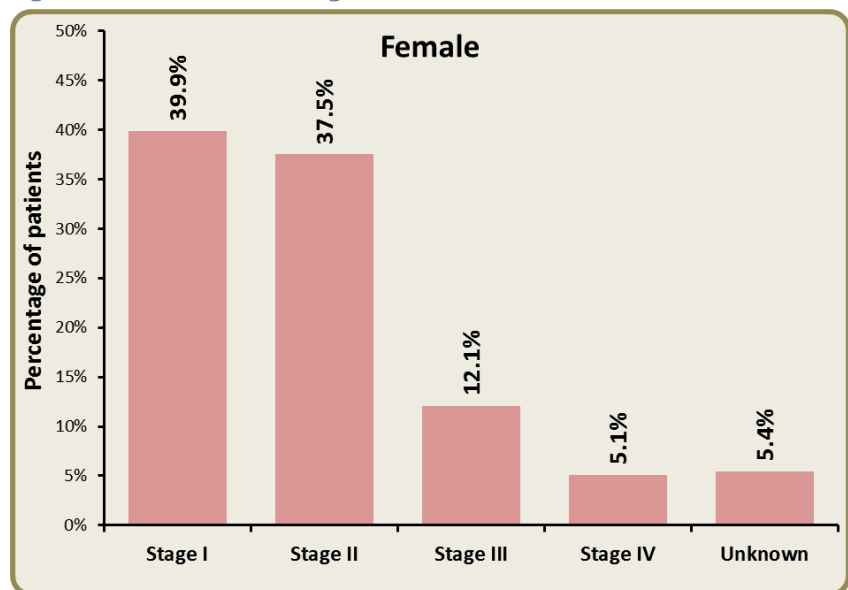


### Incidence by stage

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. Stage of disease at diagnosis is strongly associated with survival.

In 2013-2017 almost 95% of female breast cancer patients in Northern Ireland were assigned a stage at diagnosis.

Figure 5: Breast cancer stage distribution: 2013-2017



The majority of breast cancer patients were diagnosed at Stage I (39.9%) and Stage II (37.5%) with 5.1% diagnosed at stage IV.

## SURVIVAL

The net survival for women with breast cancer was 94.9% at one year, and 82.1% at five years for patients diagnosed in 2007 to 2011.

*Table 3: Female breast cancer survival by survival time: patients diagnosed 2007-2011*

Time since diagnosis	Diagnosed 2007-2011
	Female
6 months	96.5%
1 year	94.9%
5 years	82.1%

### Survival Trends

Five-year survival for breast cancer in women has improved over time with survival increasing from 73.5% in the 1993-1996 diagnosis period to 82.1% in the 2007-2011 diagnosis period.

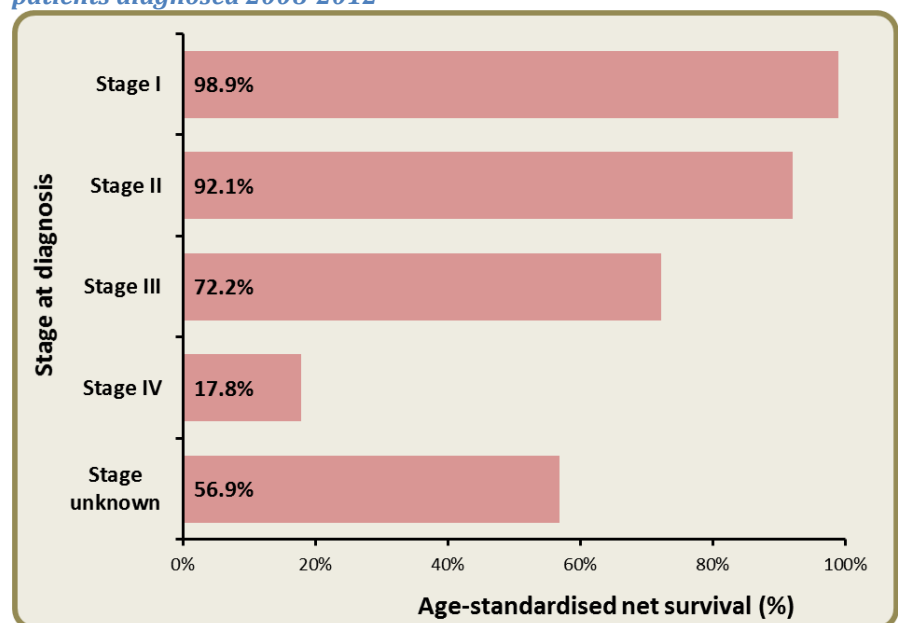
*Table 4: Five-year breast cancer survival by period of diagnosis*

Period of diagnosis	Female
1993-1996	73.5%
1997-2001	76.7%
2002-2006	79.7%
2007-2011	82.1%

### Survival and stage

Stage at diagnosis is one of the most important factors in breast cancer survival with five year survival decreasing as stage at diagnosis increases. Five-year survival ranged from 98.9% for early (stage I) disease to 17.8% for late (stage IV) disease highlighting the importance of early diagnosis.

*Figure 6: Five year survival from breast cancer by stage of diagnosis: patients diagnosed 2008-2012*



## MORTALITY

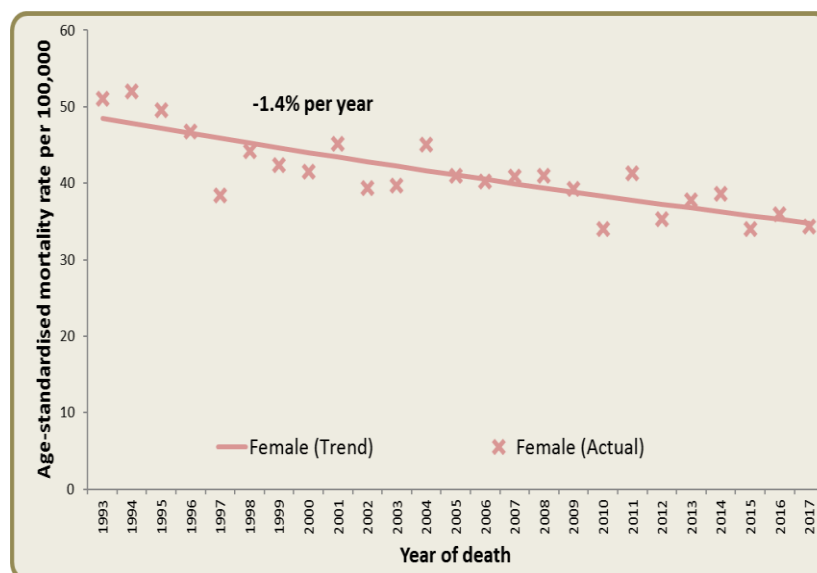
Mortality statistics are provided by the Northern Ireland General Registrar's Office. In 2013-2017 there were 311 female deaths from breast cancer each year.

### Mortality trends

Over the last ten years, the number of breast cancer deaths have changed from 315 among women in 2008 to 306 among women in 2017.

When adjusted for age and population change, female breast cancer mortality rates decreased by 1.4% per year during 1993-2017.

Figure 7: Trends in female breast cancer mortality rates: 1993-2017



## PREVALENCE

At the end of 2017 there were 15,995 females living in NI who had been diagnosed with breast cancer from 1993-2017 (Table 5). Of these, 43.0% were aged 70 and over and 8.3% had been diagnosed in the previous year.

Table 5: Number of people living with breast cancer at the end of 2017 who were diagnosed from 1993-2017 by time since diagnosis

Sex	Age	Time since diagnosis				25-year Prevalence
		0-1 year	1-5 years	5-10 years	10-25 years	
Female	0-69	889	2,908	2,522	2,791	9,110
	70+	432	1,491	1,663	3,299	6,885
	All ages	1,321	4,399	4,185	6,090	15,995

## 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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