

COLORECTAL CANCER



NUMBER OF CASES PER YEAR (2013-2017) ¹			NUMBER OF DEATHS PER YEAR (2013-2017) ¹		
Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
652	532	1,184	228	213	441
FIVE-YEAR SURVIVAL (2007-2011)			25-YEAR PREVALENCE (2017)		
Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
58.9%	61.0%	59.8%	4,623	3,938	8,561

¹ 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 652 male and 532 female patients diagnosed with colorectal cancer each year. The lifetime risk of developing a colorectal cancer was 1 in 23 for men and 1 in 33 for women.

Incidence trends

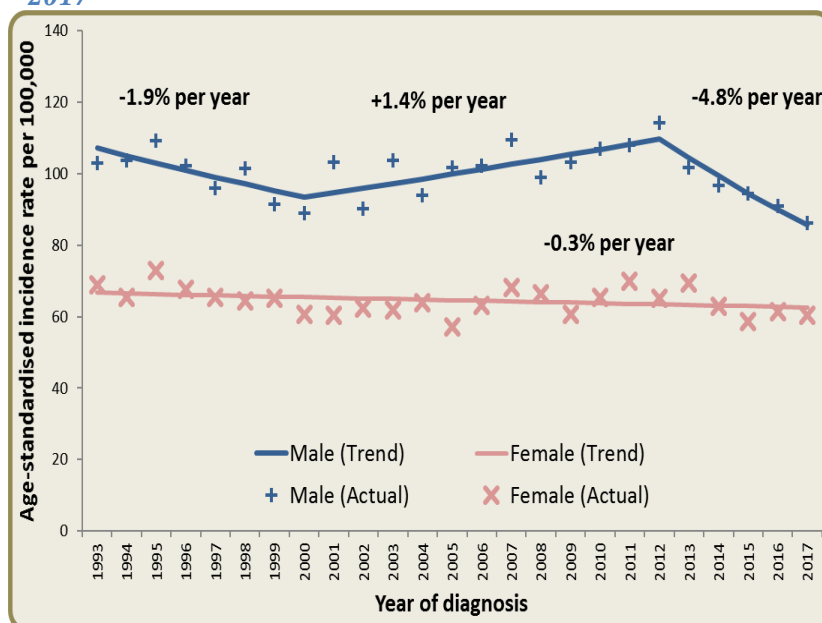
Table 1: Incidence of colorectal cancer by sex and year of diagnosis: 2008-2017

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Male	588	604	656	685	738	677	662	656	637	626
Female	505	467	510	551	528	574	528	500	530	529
Both sexes	1,093	1,071	1,166	1,236	1,266	1,251	1,190	1,156	1,167	1,155

Over a ten year period the numbers of colorectal cancer cases in men and in woman varied little. Among men the numbers increased from 588 in 2008 to 626 in 2017. Among women there was an increase from 505 in 2008 to 529 in 2017.

After accounting for the increasing number of older people in the NI population, colorectal cancer incidence rates among males decreased significantly from 1993 to 2000. Rates then increased significantly between 2000 and 2012 before declining significantly again until 2017. In females there was an annual decrease in rates of 0.3% from 1993 to 2017.

Figure 1: Trends in colorectal cancer incidence rates by sex: 1993-2017



Incidence and age

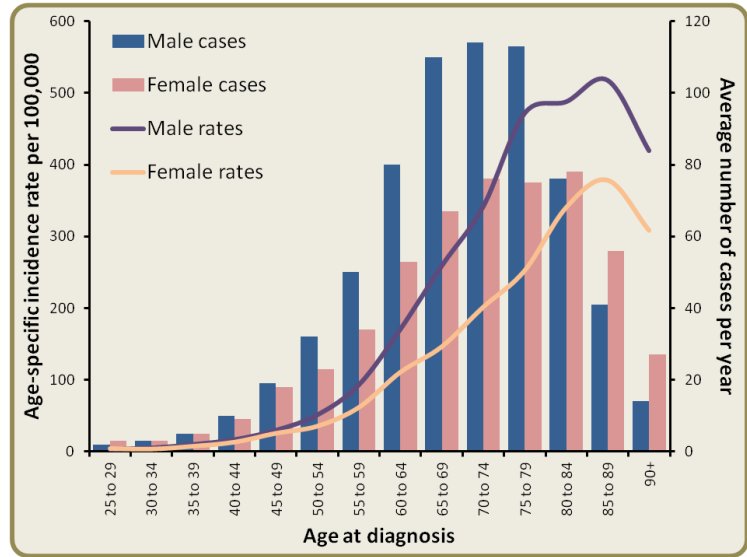
Colorectal cancer risk is strongly related to age with 71% of patients diagnosed over the age of 65 years. Incidence rates are highest among men and women aged 85-89.

Table 2: Average annual number of colorectal cancers diagnosed by sex and age: 2013-2017

Age	Male	Female	Total
0 to 49	38	39	78
50 to 64	155	111	265
65 to 74	210	146	357
75 and over	247	237	483
All ages	652	532	1,184

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

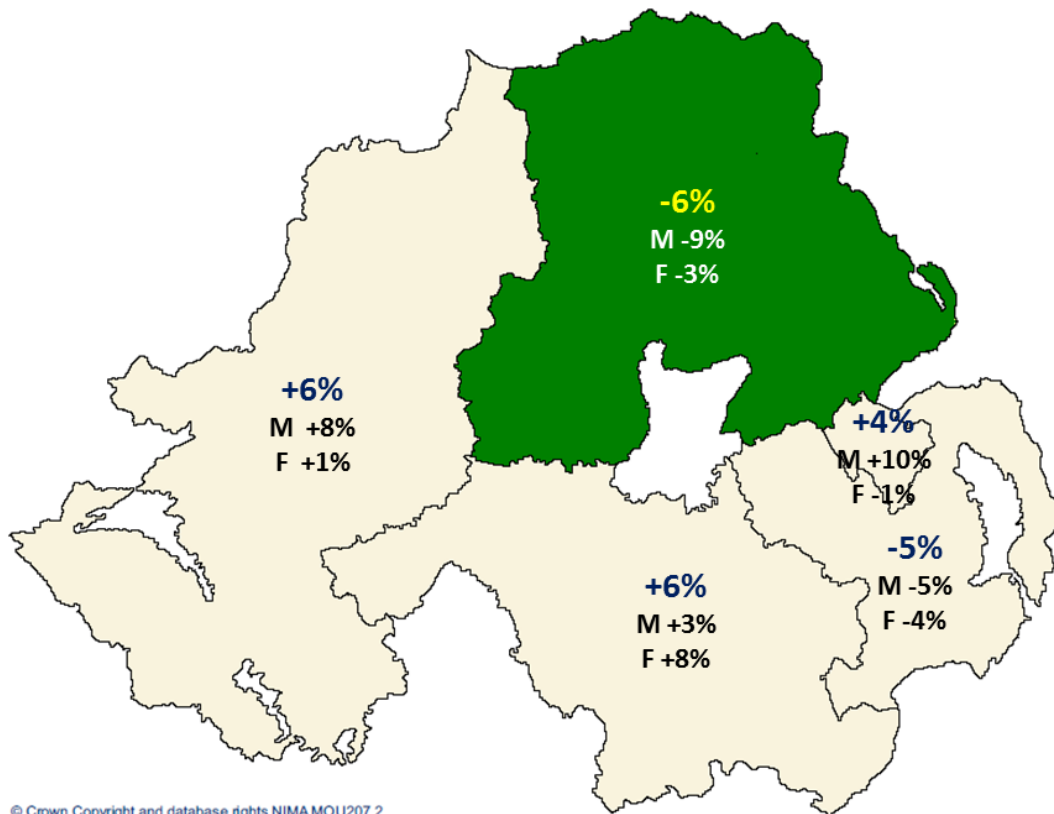
Figure 2: Incidence of colorectal cancer by age and sex: 2013-2017



Incidence by Trust area

Colorectal cancer incidence rates in 2013-2017 were lower than the NI average among people living within the Northern HSCT area. Incidence rates in males within the Belfast HSCT area were higher than the NI average but when females were included the rate was average.

Figure 3: Colorectal cancer incidence rates compared to the NI average by sex and HSC Trust of residence: 2013-2017



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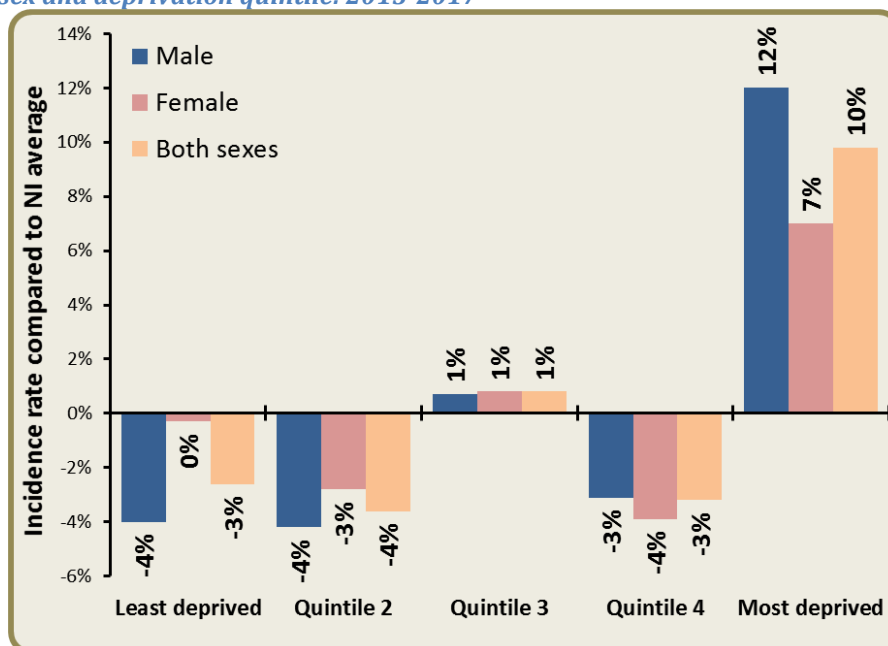
Significantly higher than average

Significantly lower than average

Incidence by deprivation

Colorectal cancer incidence rates are associated with socio-economic deprivation. This pattern is particularly marked for male colorectal cancer with incidence 12% higher in the most deprived communities than the NI average.

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

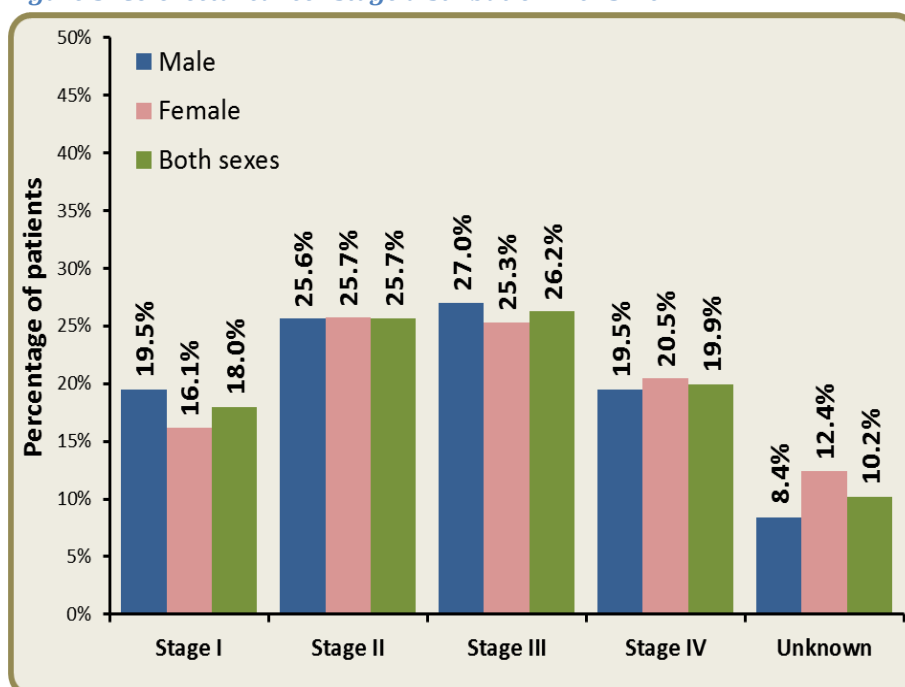


Incidence by stage

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

In 2013-2017 almost nine out of ten (89.8%) of colorectal cancer patients in Northern Ireland were assigned a stage at diagnosis.

Figure 5: Colorectal cancer stage distribution: 2013-2017



A significant proportion of colorectal cancer patients were diagnosed at a later stage with 26.2% at stage III and 19.9% at stage IV, compared to 18.0% at stage I.

SURVIVAL

The net survival was 79.7% at one year, and 59.8% at five years for colorectal cancer patients diagnosed in 2007 to 2011.

Table 3: Colorectal cancer survival by survival time and sex: patients diagnosed 2007-2011

Time since diagnosis	Diagnosed 2007-2011		
	Male	Female	Both sexes
6 months	86.7%	84.5%	85.8%
1 year	80.7%	78.3%	79.7%
5 years	58.9%	61.0%	59.8%

Survival Trends

Five-year survival for colorectal cancer has improved from the 1993-1996 diagnosis period to the 2007-2011 diagnosis period; increasing from 47.0% to 59.8%.

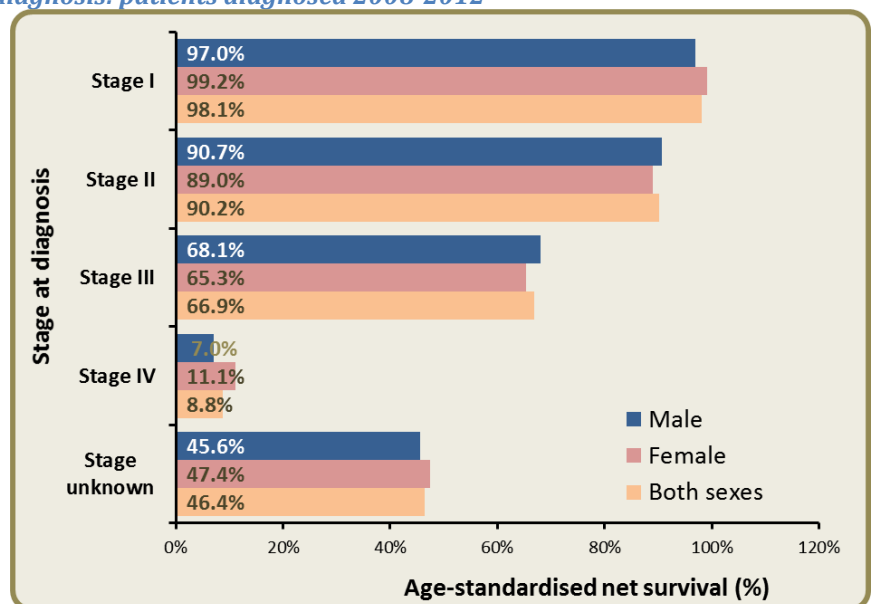
Table 4: Five-year colorectal cancer survival by period of diagnosis and sex

Period of diagnosis	Male	Female	Both sexes
1993-1996	47.4%	47.2%	47.0%
1997-2001	50.9%	55.2%	53.1%
2002-2006	50.6%	52.3%	51.3%
2007-2011	58.9%	61.0%	59.8%

Survival and stage

Stage at diagnosis is one of the most important factors in colorectal cancer survival with five year survival decreasing as stage increases. Five-year survival ranged from 98.1% for early (stage I) disease to 8.8% for late (stage IV) disease highlighting the importance of early diagnosis.

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



MORTALITY

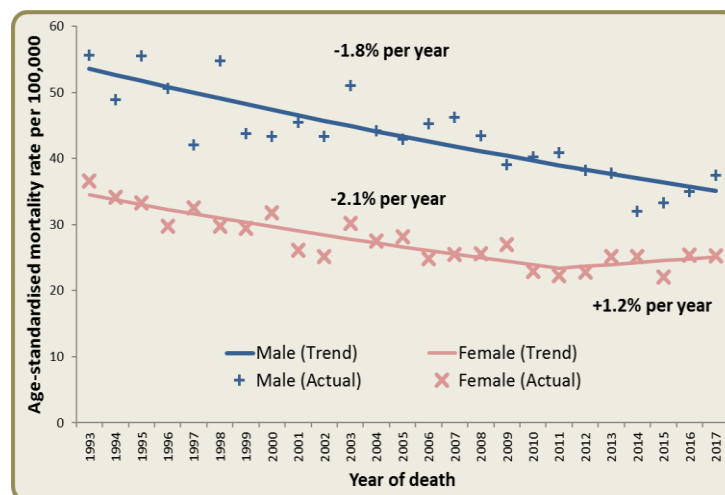
Mortality statistics are provided by the Northern Ireland General Registrar's Office. In 2013-2017 there were 228 male and 213 female deaths from colorectal cancer each year.

Mortality trends

Over the last ten years the number of colorectal cancer deaths has increased among men from 237 in 2008 to 256 in 2017 and have increased among women from 197 in 2008 to 225 in 2018.

When adjusted for age and population change, colorectal cancer mortality rates decreased for males by 1.8% per year during 1993-2017, and decreased by 2.1% per year until 2011 for females, before an insignificant rise of 1.2% until 2017.

Figure 7: Trends in colorectal cancer mortality rates by sex: 1993-2017



PREVALENCE

At the end of 2017 there were 8,561 people living in NI who had been diagnosed with colorectal cancer from 1993-2017 (Table 5). Of these, 54.0% were male, 65.0% were aged 70 and over and 11.0% had been diagnosed in the previous year.

Table 5: Number of people living with colorectal 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	
Male	0-69	235	656	463	297	1,651
	70+	275	904	822	971	2,972
	All ages	510	1,560	1,285	1,268	4,623
Female	0-69	191	484	377	296	1,348
	70+	232	692	676	990	2,590
	All ages	423	1,176	1,053	1,286	3,938
Both sexes	0-69	426	1,140	840	593	2,999
	70+	507	1,596	1,498	1,961	5,562
	All ages	933	2,736	2,338	2,554	8,561

FURTHER INFORMATION

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

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