

# Kidney cancer

Patients diagnosed 1993-2019  
(ICD10: C64)

## Further information

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Further data is available at: [www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/nicr](http://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/nicr)

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## Acknowledgements

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The incidence, prevalence and survival statistics in this publication are designated as official statistics signifying that they comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.



# Incidence

During 2015-2019:

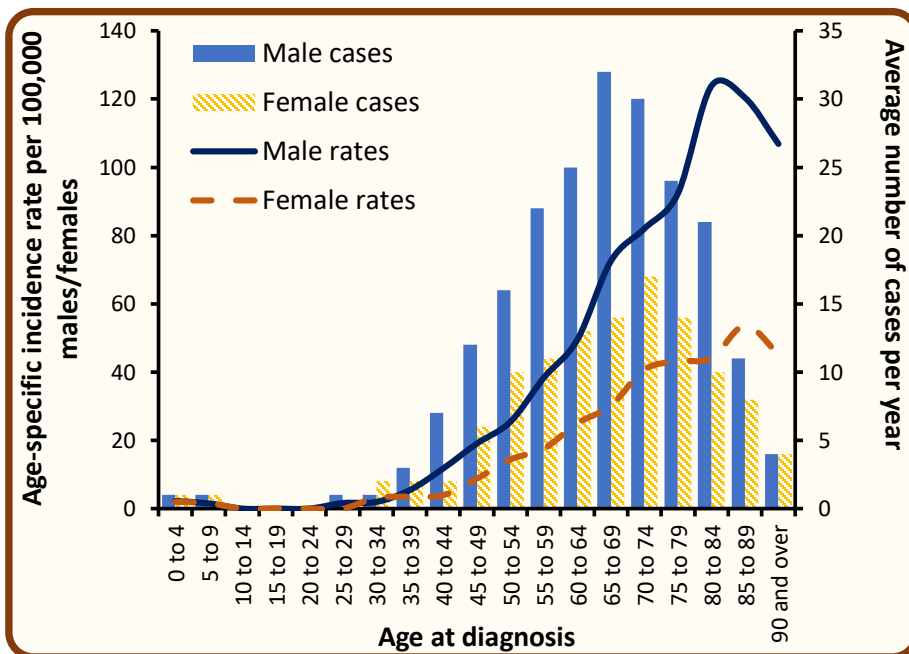
- There were 212 male and 115 female cases of kidney cancer diagnosed each year.
- Kidney cancer made up 4.3% of all male, and 2.3% of all female cancers (ex NMSC).
- The risk of developing kidney cancer before the age of 75 was 1 in 64.8 for men and 1 in 132.4 for women, while before the age of 85 the risk was 1 in 38.4 for men and 1 in 84.2 for women.

## Incidence by age at diagnosis - Kidney cancer, Cases in 2015-2019

During 2015-2019:

- The median age at diagnosis was 67 for men and 68 for women.
- Cancer risk increased with age, with 28.3% of men and 31.3% of women aged 75 years or more at diagnosis.
- 20.5% of cases were diagnosed among those aged under 55.

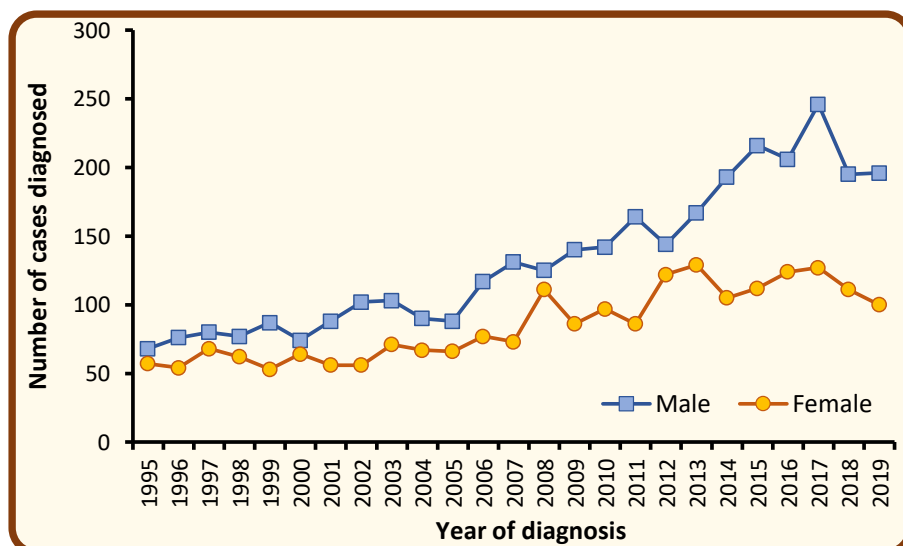
Age at diagnosis	Average cases per year		
	Male	Female	Both sexes
0 - 54	42	24	67
54 - 64	47	24	70
65 - 74	62	31	92
75 +	60	36	97
<b>All ages</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>327</b>



## Incidence by year of diagnosis - Kidney cancer, Cases in 1995-2019

- Among males the number of cases of kidney cancer increased by 30.9% from an annual average of 162 cases in 2010-2014 to 212 cases in 2015-2019.
- Among females the number of cases of kidney cancer increased by 6.5% from an annual average of 108 cases in 2010-2014 to 115 cases in 2015-2019.

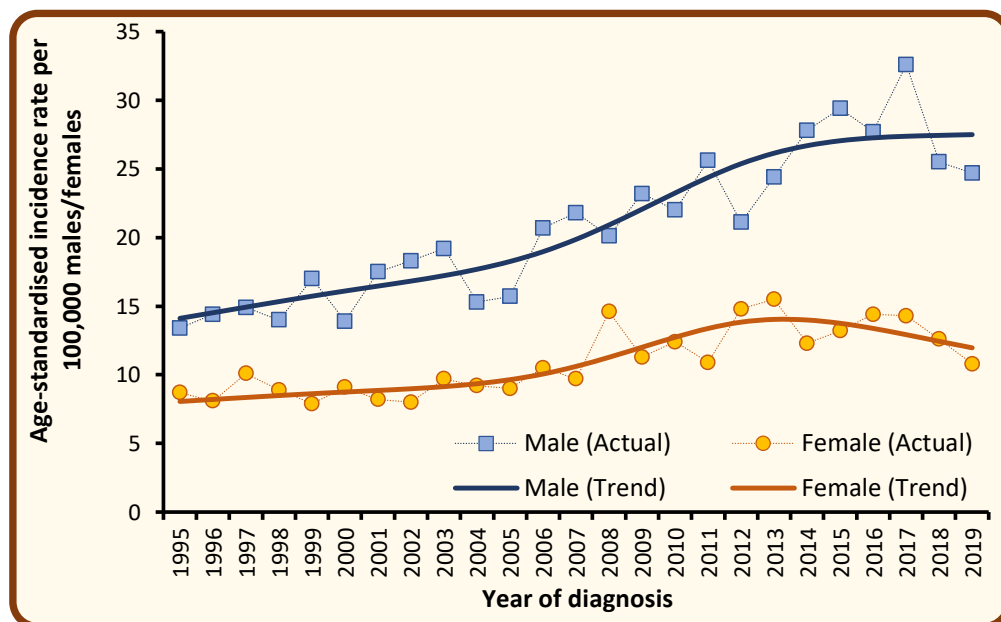
Year of diagnosis	Male	Female	Both sexes
2010	142	97	239
2011	164	86	250
2012	144	122	266
2013	167	129	296
2014	193	105	298
2015	216	112	328
2016	206	124	330
2017	246	127	373
2018	195	111	306
2019	196	100	296



Note: Annual averages have been rounded to the nearest integer. Sums of numbers in table rows or columns may thus differ slightly from the given total.  
 NMSC: Non-melanoma skin cancer

## Trends in age-standardised incidence rates - Kidney cancer, Cases in 1995-2019

- Among males age-standardised incidence rates of kidney cancer increased by 14.8% from 24.3 per 100,000 person years in 2010-2014 to 27.9 cases per 100,000 persons years in 2015-2019. This difference was statistically significant.
- Among females age-standardised incidence rates of kidney cancer decreased by 1.5% from 13.2 per 100,000 person years in 2010-2014 to 13.0 cases per 100,000 persons years in 2015-2019. This difference was not statistically significant.



Age-standardised incidence rates illustrate the change in the number of cases within a population of a fixed size and age structure (2013 European Standard).

They thus represent changes other than those caused by population growth and/or ageing.

Trends can also be influenced by changes in how cancer is classified and coded. (e.g. the move from ICD-0-2 to ICD-0-3 in 2019).

## Incidence by deprivation quintile - Kidney cancer, Cases in 2015-2019

The annual number of cases during 2015-2019 varied in each deprivation quintile due to variations in population size and age.

After accounting for these factors, incidence rates:

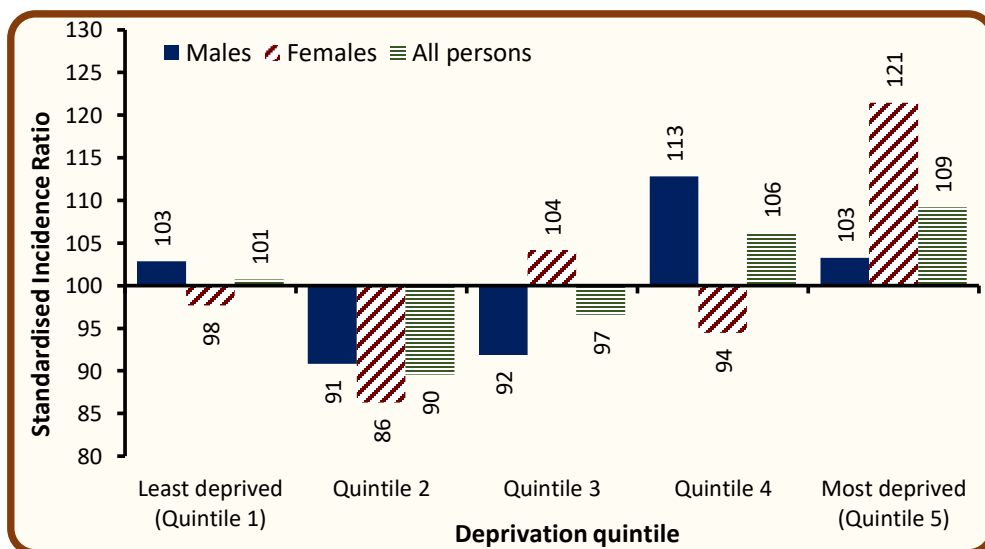
- in the most socio-economically deprived areas did not vary significantly from the NI average.
- in the least socio-economically deprived areas did not vary significantly from the NI average.

Deprivation quintile	Average cases per year		
	Male	Female	Both sexes
Least deprived (Quintile 1)	45	24	69
Quintile 2	41	21	62
Quintile 3	41	25	66
Quintile 4	48	22	70
Most deprived (Quintile 5)	36	24	60
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>327</b>

Standardised incidence ratios compare incidence rates in each deprivation quintile with the Northern Ireland incidence rate.

A value above 100 means that incidence rates in that deprivation quintile are greater than the Northern Ireland average.

This measure takes account of population size and age structure. Differences are thus not a result of these factors.



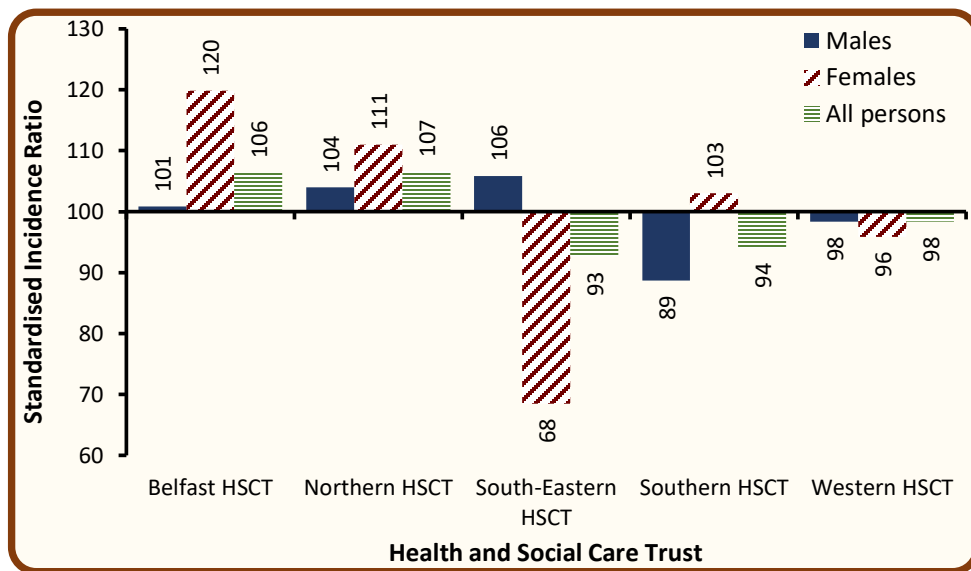
## Incidence by Health and Social Care Trust (HSCT) - Kidney cancer, Cases in 2015-2019

The annual number of cases during 2015-2019 varied in each HSCT due to variations in population size and age.

After accounting for these factors, incidence rates:

- in Belfast HSCT did not vary significantly from the NI average.
- in Northern HSCT did not vary significantly from the NI average.
- in South-Eastern HSCT did not vary significantly from the NI average.
- in Southern HSCT did not vary significantly from the NI average.
- in Western HSCT did not vary significantly from the NI average.

Health and Social Care Trust	Average cases per year		
	Male	Female	Both sexes
Belfast HSCT	37	26	63
Northern HSCT	59	34	92
South-Eastern HSCT	47	16	63
Southern HSCT	36	22	58
Western HSCT	33	17	50
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>327</b>



Standardised incidence ratios compare incidence rates in each HSC Trust with the Northern Ireland incidence rate. A value above 100 means that incidence rates in that HSC Trust are greater than the NI average.

This measure takes account of population size and age structure. Differences are thus not a result of these factors.

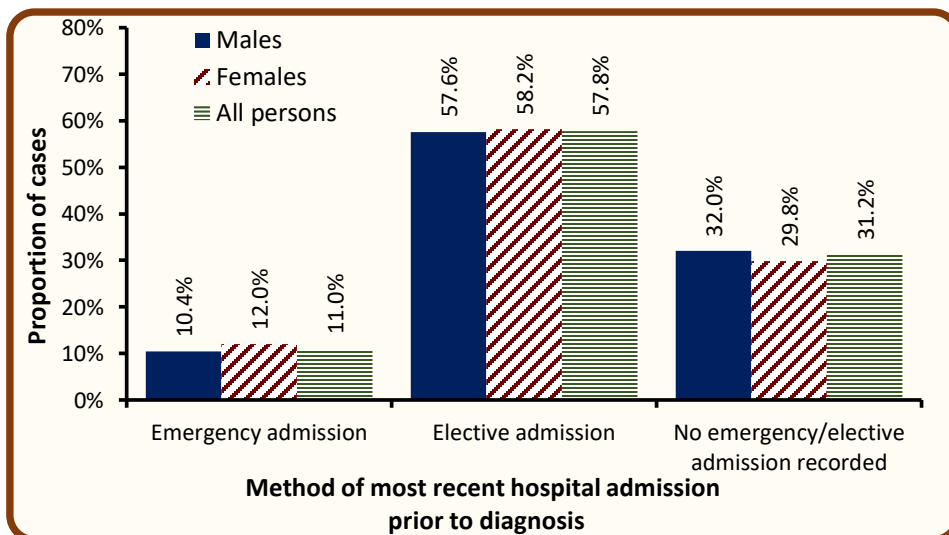
Data for Local Government Districts and Parliamentary Constituencies are available at [www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/nicr](http://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/nicr)

## Incidence by method of most recent admission to hospital - Kidney cancer, Cases in 2015-2019

During 2015-2019:

- 11.0% of cases had an emergency admission to hospital recorded up to 30 days prior to their cancer diagnosis.
- 10.4% of male cases had an emergency admission up to 30 days prior to diagnosis, compared to 12.0% of female cases.
- In 31.2% of diagnosed cases there was no record of a hospital inpatient admission up to 30 days prior to diagnosis.

Method of admission	Average cases per year		
	Male	Female	Both sexes
Emergency admission	22	14	36
Elective admission	122	67	189
No emergency/elective admission recorded	68	34	102
<b>Total</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>327</b>



Admission method refers to the most recent hospital inpatient admission that a patient had prior to cancer diagnosis, regardless of reason for the admission.

Admissions are considered up to a maximum of 30 days prior to diagnosis. Admissions up to two days post diagnosis are also considered to allow for a reasonable margin or error in data recording.

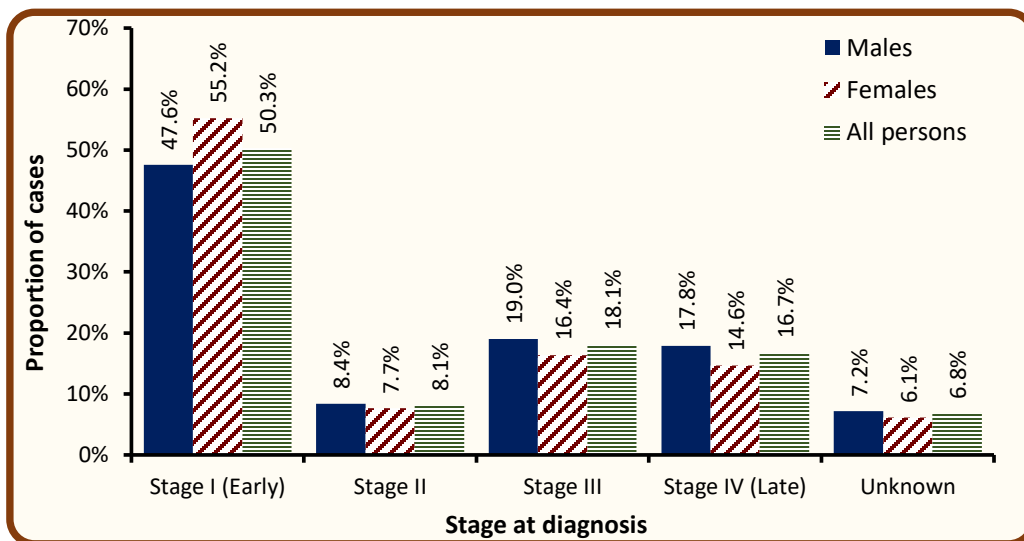
The majority of patients with no inpatient admission recorded prior to diagnosis are likely to have been diagnosed via an outpatient route.

## Incidence by stage at diagnosis - Kidney cancer, Cases in 2015-2019

During 2015-2019:

- 93.2% of cases diagnosed had a stage assigned.
- 50.3% of cases were diagnosed at stage I. (53.9% of staged cases)
- 16.7% of cases were diagnosed at stage IV. (17.9% of staged cases)
- Among cases which were staged, 19.2% of male cases were diagnosed at stage IV, compared to 15.6% of female cases.

Stage at diagnosis	Average cases per year		
	Male	Female	Both sexes
Stage I (Early)	101	63	164
Stage II	18	9	27
Stage III	40	19	59
Stage IV (Late)	38	17	55
Unknown	15	7	22
<b>All stages</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>327</b>



Cancer stage describes the size of a cancer and how far it has grown and spread.

This information is used to help decide what treatments are needed.

The classification used here to stage cancer is the TNM classification (Version 7 prior to 2018, Version 8 from 2018 onwards).

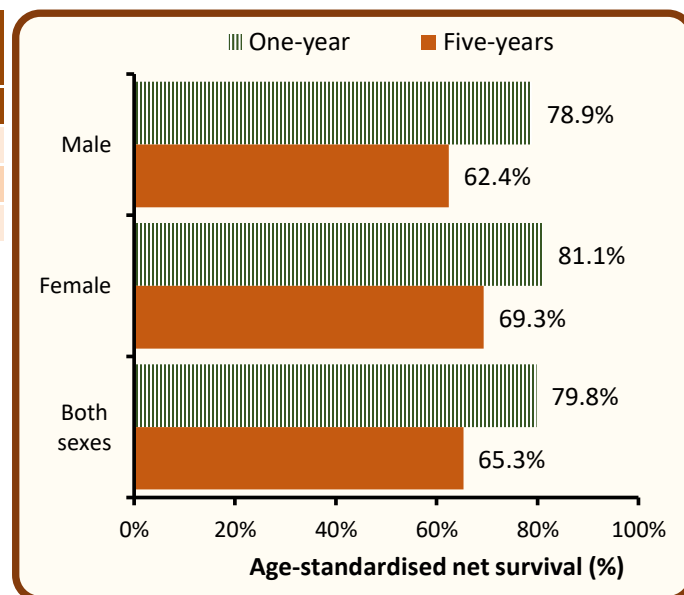
## Survival

- 77.0% of patients were alive one year and 56.2% were alive five years from a kidney cancer diagnosis in 2010-2014. (observed survival)
- Age-standardised net survival (ASNS), which removes the effect of deaths from causes unrelated to cancer, was 79.8% one year and 65.3% five years from a kidney cancer diagnosis in 2010-2014.
- Five-year survival (ASNS) for kidney cancer patients diagnosed in 2010-2014 was 62.4% among men and 69.3% among women.

Gender	Observed survival		Age-standardised net survival	
	One-year	Five-years	One-year	Five-years
Male	76.3%	53.9%	78.9%	62.4%
Female	78.1%	59.7%	81.1%	69.3%
Both sexes	77.0%	56.2%	79.8%	65.3%

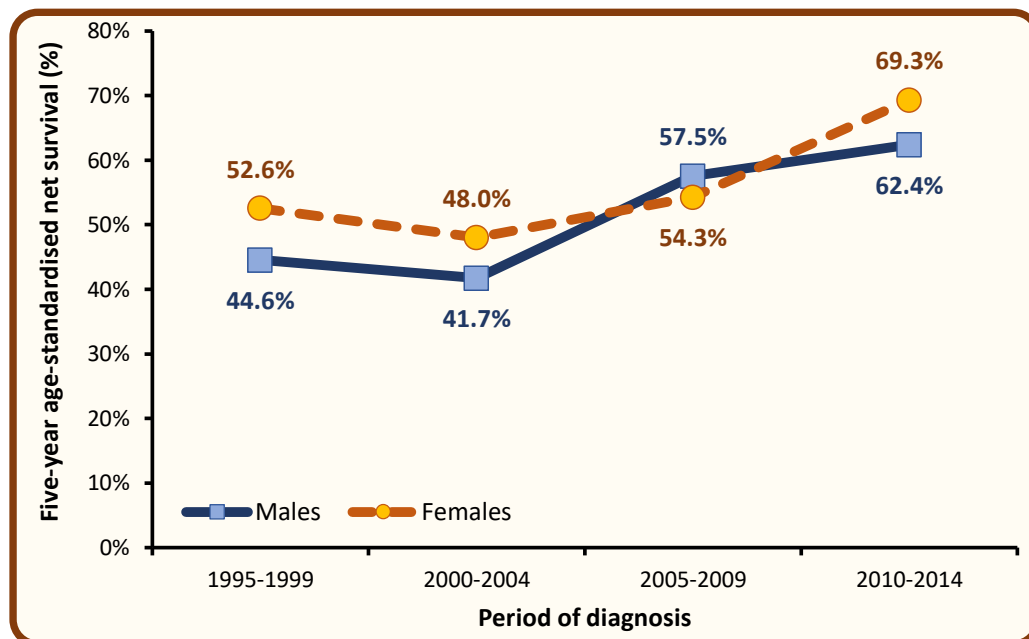
Observed survival is the proportion of patients still alive one/five years after diagnosis. However, in this measure patients may have died from causes unrelated to their cancer.

Age-standardised net survival is the proportion of patients who would survive if the patient could not die from causes unrelated to their cancer. This measure is more typically used in studies of cancer survival.



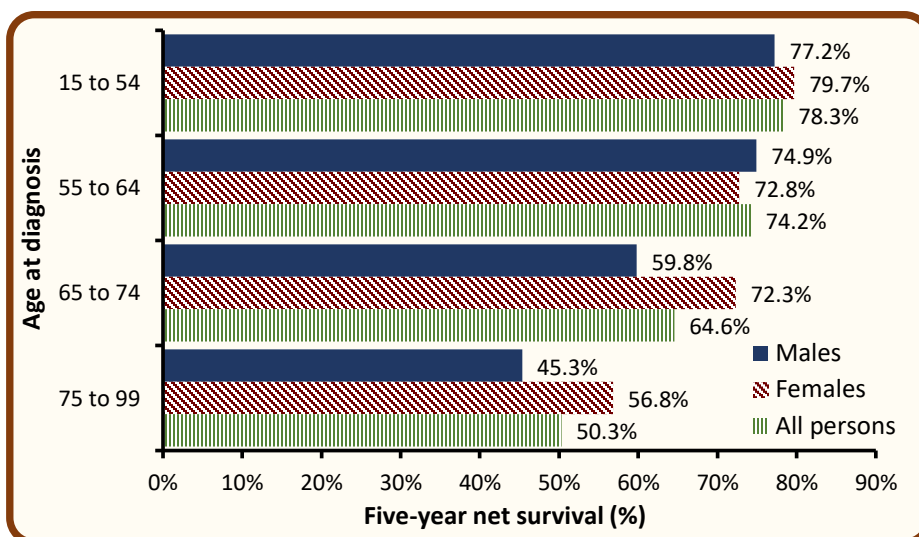
## Trends in survival - Kidney cancer, Patients diagnosed in 1995-2014

- Among men five-year survival (ASNS) from kidney cancer increased from 57.5% in 2005-2009 to 62.4% in 2010-2014. This difference was not statistically significant.
- Among women five-year survival (ASNS) from kidney cancer increased from 54.3% in 2005-2009 to 69.3% in 2010-2014. This difference was statistically significant.



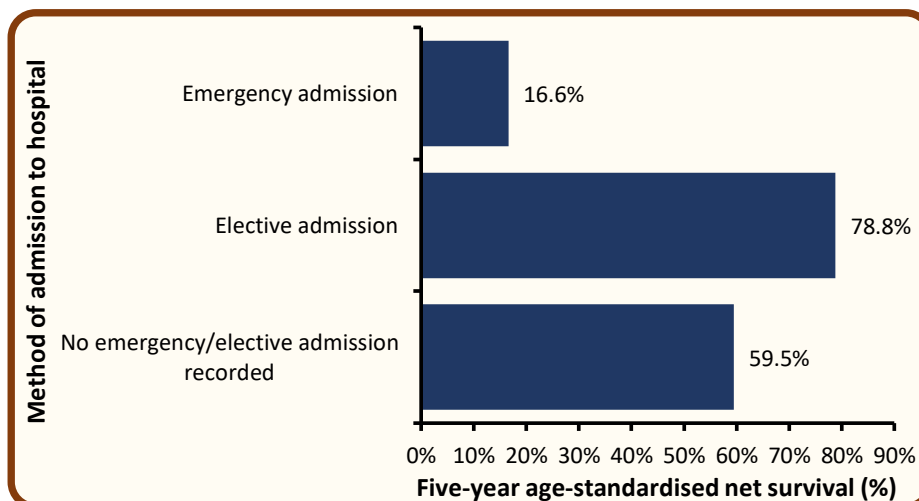
## Survival by age at diagnosis - Kidney cancer, Patients diagnosed in 2010-2014

- Survival from kidney cancer among patients diagnosed in 2010-2014 was strongly related to age with five-year survival decreasing as age increases.
- Five-year net survival ranged from 78.3% among patients aged 15 to 54 at diagnosis to 50.3% among those aged 75 and over.
- Five-year net survival among patients aged 75 and over was 45.3% for men and 56.8% for women.



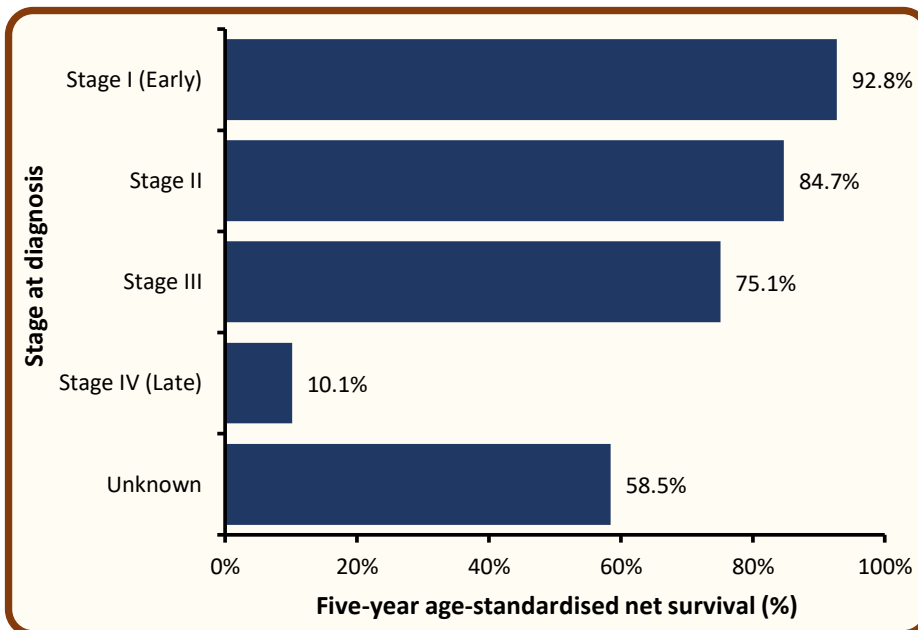
## Survival by method of most recent admission to hospital - Kidney cancer, Patients diagnosed in 2010-2014

- Five-year survival (ASNS) among kidney cancer patients who had an emergency admission to hospital up to 30 days prior to their cancer diagnosis was 16.6% compared to 78.8% among those with elective admissions and 59.5% among those who had no hospital admissions recorded up to 30 days prior to diagnosis.



## Survival by stage at diagnosis - Kidney cancer, Patients diagnosed in 2010-2014

- Stage at diagnosis is one of the most important factors in kidney cancer survival with five-year survival decreasing as stage increases.
- Five-year survival (ASNS) ranged from 92.8% for early stage (stage I) disease to 10.1% for late stage (stage IV) disease.
- Five-year survival (ASNS) for unstaged cancer was 58.5%.



## Prevalence

- At the end of 2019, there were 2,392 people (Males: 1,429; Females: 963) living with kidney cancer who had been diagnosed with the disease during 1995-2019.
- Of these, 59.7% were male, 34.4% were aged 75 and over, and 10.9% had been diagnosed in the previous year.

25-year prevalence refers to the number of cancer survivors who were alive at the end of 2019, and had been diagnosed with their cancer in the previous 25 years (i.e. 1995-2019).

Time since diagnosis	25-year prevalence								
	Aged 0-74			Aged 75+			All ages		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
0-1 year	129	58	187	44	29	73	173	87	260
1-5 years	421	237	658	156	107	263	577	344	921
5-10 years	250	171	421	118	109	227	368	280	648
10-25 years	175	127	302	136	125	261	311	252	563
0-25 years	975	593	1,568	454	370	824	1,429	963	2,392

## Trends in 10-year prevalence - Kidney cancer, Patients alive at end of each year from 2010-2019

- Among males the number of survivors from kidney cancer who had been diagnosed within the previous ten years increased by 38.9% from 805 survivors in 2014 to 1,118 survivors in 2019.
- Among females the number of survivors from kidney cancer who had been diagnosed within the previous ten years increased by 30.5% from 545 survivors in 2014 to 711 survivors in 2019.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Male	570	628	678	736	805	876	961	1,024	1,084	1,118
Female	385	406	461	512	545	590	629	685	705	711
Both sexes	955	1,034	1,139	1,248	1,350	1,466	1,590	1,709	1,789	1,829



# Mortality

- During 2015-2019 there were 70 male and 36 female deaths from kidney cancer each year.
- Kidney cancer made up 3.0% of all male, and 1.7% of all female cancer deaths (ex NMSC).

## Deaths by age at death - Kidney cancer, Deaths in 2015-2019

- The median age at death during 2015-2019 was 74 for men and 76 for women.
- Risk of death from kidney cancer was strongly related to patient age, with 48.6% of men and 58.3% of women aged 75 years or more at time of death.
- 8.4% of kidney cancer deaths occurred among those aged under 55.

Age at death	Average deaths per year		
	Male	Female	Both sexes
0 - 54	6	3	9
55 - 64	10	5	15
65 - 74	20	8	28
75 +	34	21	53
<b>All ages</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>107</b>

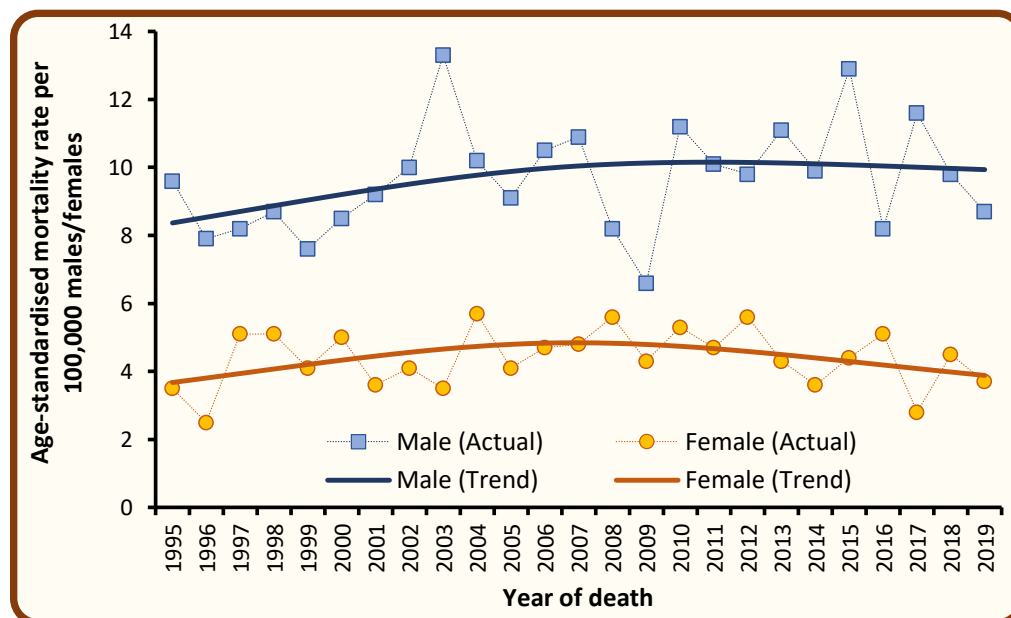
## Deaths by year of death - Kidney cancer, Deaths in 2010-2019

- Among males the number of deaths from kidney cancer increased by 9.4% from an annual average of 64 deaths in 2010-2014 to 70 deaths in 2015-2019.
- Among females the number of deaths from kidney cancer decreased by 5.3% from an annual average of 38 deaths in 2010-2014 to 36 deaths in 2015-2019.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Male</b>	62	61	61	73	64	81	52	83	73	63
<b>Female</b>	41	38	45	36	30	38	44	25	40	34
<b>Both sexes</b>	103	99	106	109	94	119	96	108	113	97

## Trends in age-standardised mortality rates - Kidney cancer, Deaths in 1995-2019

- Among males age-standardised mortality rates from kidney cancer decreased by 1.9% between 2010-2014 and 2015-2019 from 10.4 to 10.2 deaths per 100,000 persons years. This difference was not statistically significant.
- Among females age-standardised mortality rates from kidney cancer decreased by 12.8% between 2010-2014 and 2015-2019 from 4.7 to 4.1 deaths per 100,000 persons years. This difference was not statistically significant.



Mortality data are provided by the Northern Ireland General Registrar Office via the Department of Health.

Counts of the number of deaths are based upon the year that death occurred, and upon the primary cause of death only.

Age-standardised mortality rates remove changes over time caused by population growth and/or ageing.



## Background notes

**Cancer classification:** Classification of tumour sites is carried out using ICD10 codes. For a listing and explanation of ICD10 codes see: World Health Organisation at <http://apps.who.int/classifications/icd10/browse/2010/en#/II>

**Population data** for Northern Ireland, and smaller geographic areas, are extracted from the NI mid-year population estimates available from the NI Statistics and Research Agency (available at [www.nisra.gov.uk](http://www.nisra.gov.uk)).

**Geographic areas** are assigned based on a patient's postcode of usual residence at diagnosis using the Jan 2021 Central Postcode Directory (CPD) produced by the NI Statistics and Research Agency (available at [www.nisra.gov.uk](http://www.nisra.gov.uk)).

**Deprivation quintiles:** Super output areas (SOA) are assigned to each patient based on their postcode of usual residence at diagnosis. Using the SOA each patient is assigned a socio-economic deprivation quintile based on the 2017 Multiple Deprivation Measure. The 2017 Multiple Deprivation Measure is available from the NI Statistics and Research Agency (available at [www.nisra.gov.uk](http://www.nisra.gov.uk)).

A **crude incidence/mortality rate** is the number of cases/deaths per 100,000 person years in the population. Person years are the sum of the population over the number of years included.

An **age-standardised incidence/mortality rate** per 100,000 person years is an estimate of the incidence/mortality rate if that population had a standard age structure. Throughout this report the 2013 European Standard Population has been used. Standardising to a common Standard Population allows comparisons of incidence/mortality rates to be made between different time periods and geographic areas while removing the effects of population change and ageing.

A **Standardised Incidence/Mortality Ratio (SIR/SMR)** is the ratio of the number of cases/deaths observed in a population to the expected number of cases/deaths, based upon the age-specific rates in a reference population. This statistic is often used to compare incidence/mortality rates for geographic areas (e.g. Trusts) to the national incidence/mortality rates (i.e. Northern Ireland). An SIR/SMR of 100 indicates there is no difference between the geographic area and the national average.

**Confidence intervals** are a measure of the precision of a statistic (e.g. colorectal cancer incidence rate). Typically, when numbers are low, precision is poorer and confidence intervals will be wider. As a general rule, when comparing statistics (e.g. cervical cancer incidence rate in year 2012 vs year 2013), if the confidence interval around one statistic overlaps with the interval around another, it is unlikely that there is any real difference between the two. If there is no overlap, the difference is considered to be **statistically significant**.

**Lifetime risk** is estimated as the cumulative risk of getting cancer up to age 75/85, calculated directly from the age-specific incidence rates. The odds of developing the disease before age 75/85 is the inverse of the cumulative risk.

**Prevalence** is the number of cancer patients who are alive in the population on a specific date (31st December 2019 in this report). Since data from the NI Cancer Registry are only available since 1993, prevalence only refers to a fixed term (10 and 25 years in this report). There may be members of the population living with a diagnosis of cancer for more than 25 years.

**Observed survival** refers to the proportion of patients who survive a specified amount of time from their date of diagnosis. Observed survival considers death from any cause and is not adjusted for the age of the patient. Cause of death may be unrelated to the cancer the patient has been diagnosed with.

**Net Survival** is an estimate of survival where the effect on survival of background population mortality rates has been removed. It represents the [theoretical] survival of cancer patients if they could only die from cancer-related causes. Age-standardised net survival estimates are the estimates that would occur if that population of cancer patients had a standard population age structure. The age groups and weights used here are those used by international studies such as EUROCARE, an international study group that compares cancer survival among European countries. However, due to the small number of patients in NI, the first two age categories in the standard population are combined.

**Mortality:** Information relating to cancer mortality is sourced from the General Registrar Office (GRONI) via the Department of Health (NI). Results are based upon the date on which death occurs, and may thus differ slightly than those produced by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), which produces deaths data based upon the date on which the death is registered with GRONI.