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# Impact of Covid-19 on incidence of cancer among young adults in Northern Ireland

(A comparison between April-December of 2020 and 2018-2019)

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## Further information

Further information 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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NICR uses data provided by patients and collected by the health service as part of their care and support.

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

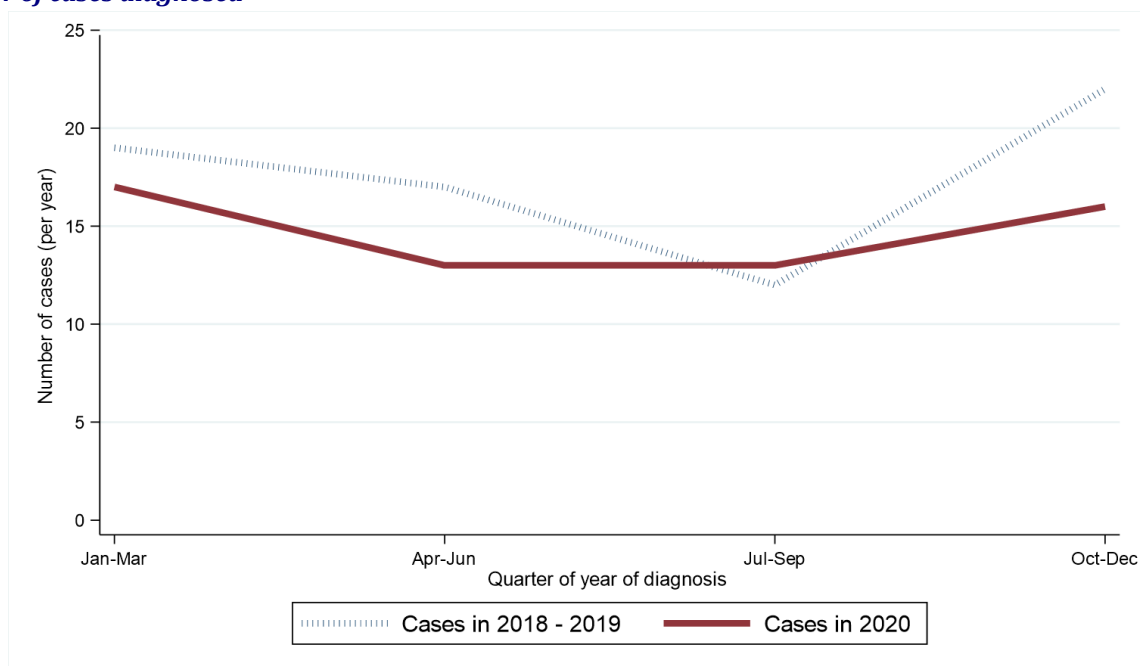
During the April-December period when Covid-19 was present the number of cases of young adult cancer diagnosed decreased by 17.6% (9 patients) from 51 per year in 2018 - 2019 to 42 in 2020.

**Table 1: Number of young adult cancer cases diagnosed in 2018-2020 by quarter and year of diagnosis**

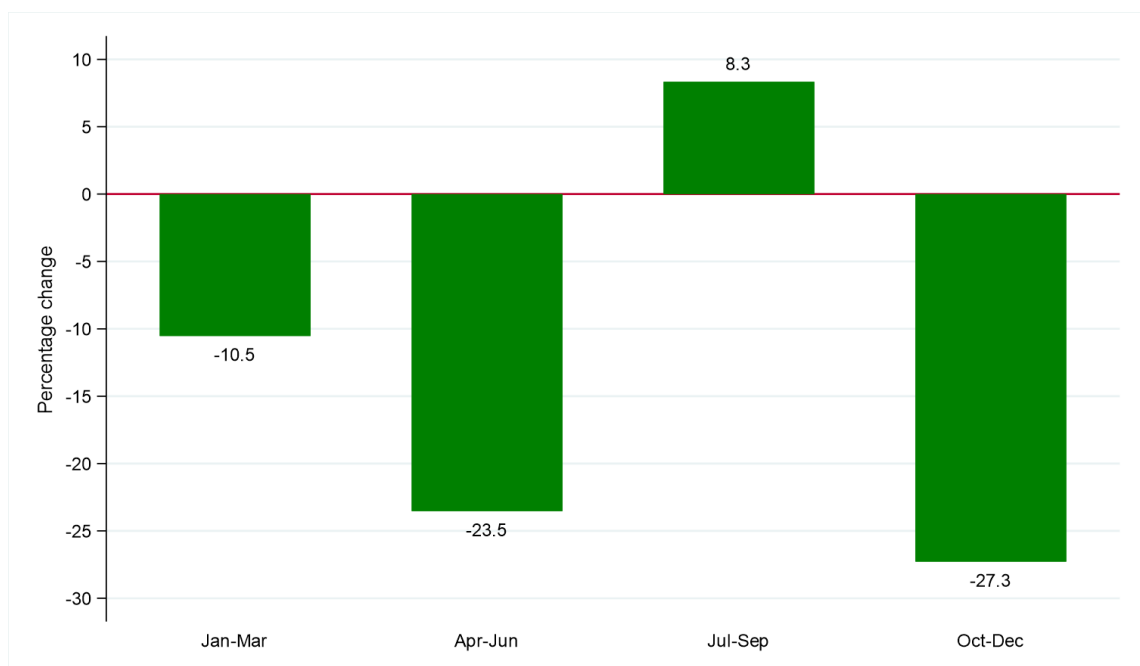
| Period of diagnosis | Annual total | Quarter of year diagnosed |         |          |         |
|---------------------|--------------|---------------------------|---------|----------|---------|
|                     |              | Jan-Mar                   | Apr-Jun | Jul-Sept | Oct-Dec |
| 2018-2019*          | 69           | 19                        | 17      | 12       | 22      |
| 2020                | 59           | 17                        | 13      | 13       | 16      |

\* Average cases per year rounded to the nearest integer. Row sums may thus differ slightly from the total.

**Figure 1: Number of young adult cancer cases diagnosed in 2018-2020 by quarter and year of diagnosis**  
(a) Number of cases diagnosed



(b) Percentage change from 2018-2019 to 2020 in number of young adult cancer cases by quarter of year of diagnosis



## GENDER

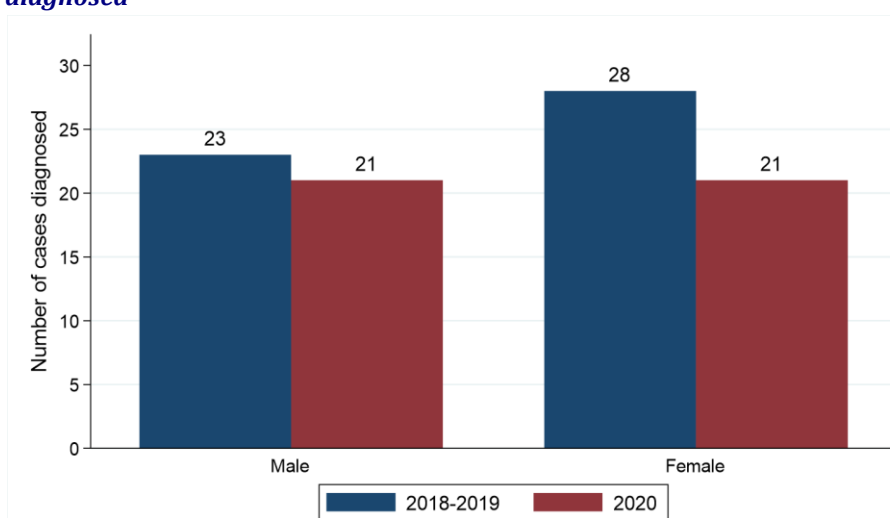
Excluding the first quarter of each year among males the number of cases of young adult cancer diagnosed decreased by 8.7% from 23 per year in 2018 - 2019 to 21 in 2020. Between the same two time periods the number of cases among females decreased by 25.0% from 28 per year to 21. The change in case distribution by gender between 2018 - 2019 and 2020 was not statistically significant.

**Table 2: Number and proportion of young adult cancer cases diagnosed in April-December of 2018-2020 by gender and period of diagnosis**

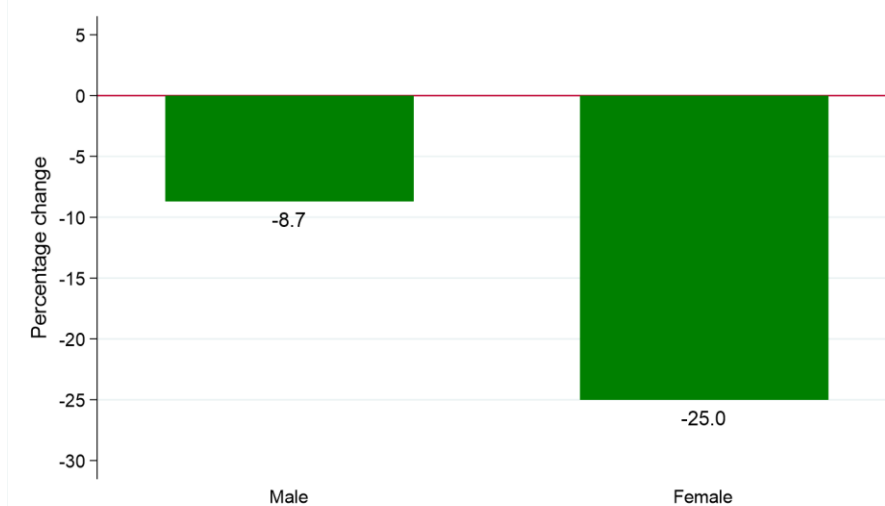
| Gender      | Period of diagnosis (Apr-Dec) |            | Percentage change   |
|-------------|-------------------------------|------------|---------------------|
|             | 2018-2019*                    | 2020       |                     |
| Male        | 23 (45.1%)                    | 21 (50.0%) | -8.7% (2 patients)  |
| Female      | 28 (54.9%)                    | 21 (50.0%) | -25.0% (7 patients) |
| All persons | 51                            | 42         | -17.6% (9 patients) |

\* Average cases per year rounded to the nearest integer. Column sums may thus differ slightly from the total.

**Figure 2: Young adult cancer cases diagnosed in April-December of 2018-2020 by gender and period of diagnosis**  
**(a) Number of cases diagnosed**



**(b) Percentage change from 2018-2019 to 2020 in number of young adult cancer cases by gender**



## HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST

Excluding the first quarter of each year among residents of Northern HSCT the number of cases of young adult cancer diagnosed decreased by 46.7% from 15 per year in 2018 - 2019 to 8 in 2020. Between the same two time periods the number of cases among residents of Western HSCT increased by 28.6% from 7 per year to 9. The change in case distribution by HSCT between 2018 - 2019 and 2020 was not statistically significant.

**Table 3: Number and proportion of young adult cancer cases diagnosed in April-December of 2018-2020 by Health and Social Care Trust and period of diagnosis**

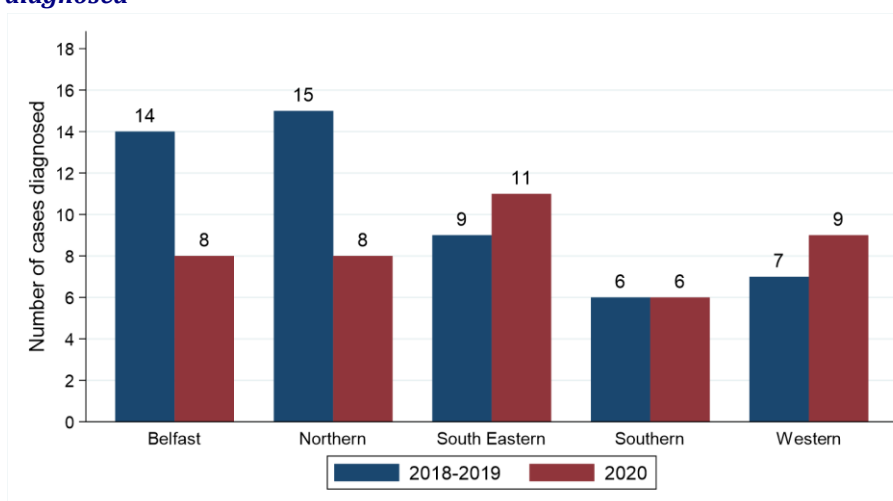
| Health and Social Care Trust | Period of diagnosis (Apr-Dec) |            | Percentage change   |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|---------------------|
|                              | 2018-2019*                    | 2020       |                     |
| Belfast HSCT                 | 14 (27.5%)                    | 8 (19.0%)  | -42.9% (6 patients) |
| Northern HSCT                | 15 (29.4%)                    | 8 (19.0%)  | -46.7% (7 patients) |
| South Eastern HSCT           | 9 (17.6%)                     | 11 (26.2%) | +22.2% (2 patients) |
| Southern HSCT                | 6 (11.8%)                     | 6 (14.3%)  | 0.0% (0 patients)   |
| Western HSCT                 | 7 (13.7%)                     | 9 (21.4%)  | +28.6% (2 patients) |
| Northern Ireland             | 51                            | 42         | -17.6% (9 patients) |

\* Average cases per year rounded to the nearest integer. Column sums may thus differ slightly from the total.

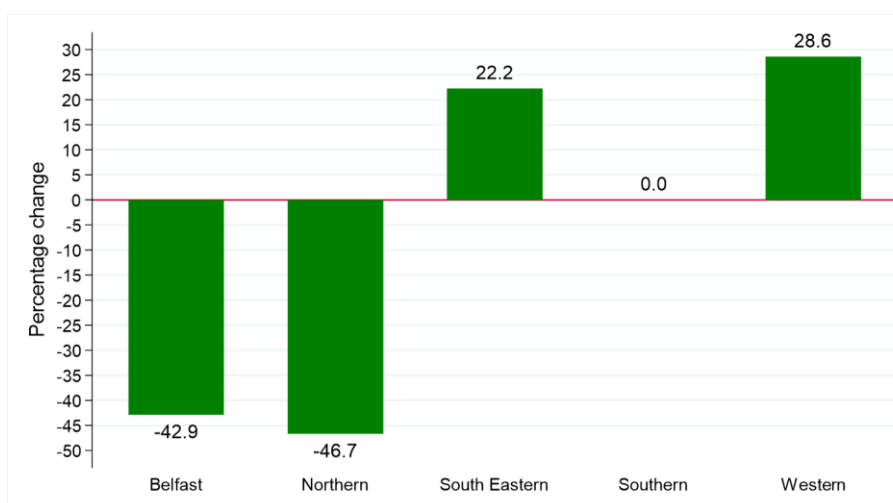
Note: Cases with unknown Health and Social Care Trust are included in totals

**Figure 3: Young adult cancer cases diagnosed in April-December of 2018-2020 by Health and Social Care Trust and period of diagnosis**

(a) Number of cases diagnosed



(b) Percentage change from 2018-2019 to 2020 in number of young adult cancer cases by Health and Social Care Trust



## DEPRIVATION

Excluding the first quarter of each year among residents of the most deprived areas the number of cases of young adult cancer diagnosed decreased by 20.0% from 10 per year in 2018 - 2019 to 8 in 2020. Between the same two time periods the number of cases among residents of the least deprived areas decreased by 33.3% from 15 per year to 10. The change in case distribution by deprivation quintile between 2018 - 2019 and 2020 was not statistically significant.

**Table 4: Number and proportion of young adult cancer cases diagnosed in April-December of 2018-2020 by deprivation quintile and period of diagnosis**

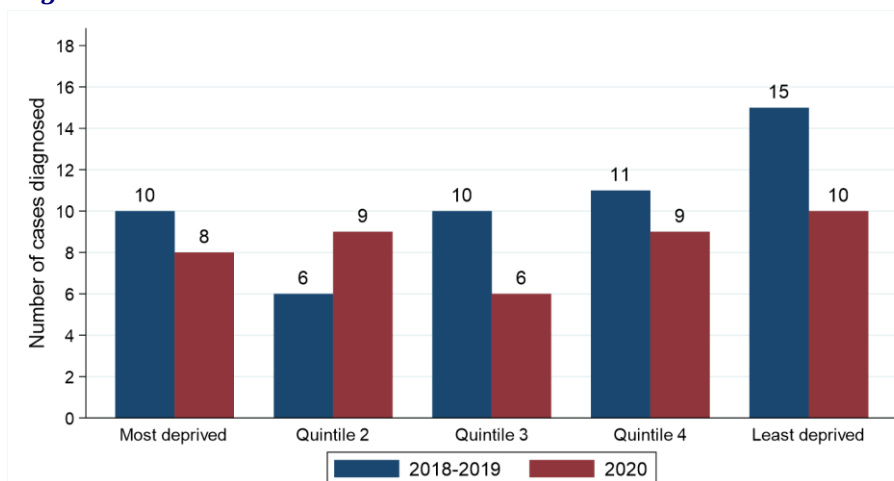
| Deprivation quintile | Period of diagnosis (Apr-Dec) |            | Percentage change   |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|------------|---------------------|
|                      | 2018-2019*                    | 2020       |                     |
| Most deprived        | 10 (19.6%)                    | 8 (19.0%)  | -20.0% (2 patients) |
| Quintile 2           | 6 (11.8%)                     | 9 (21.4%)  | +50.0% (3 patients) |
| Quintile 3           | 10 (19.6%)                    | 6 (14.3%)  | -40.0% (4 patients) |
| Quintile 4           | 11 (21.6%)                    | 9 (21.4%)  | -18.2% (2 patients) |
| Least deprived       | 15 (29.4%)                    | 10 (23.8%) | -33.3% (5 patients) |
| Northern Ireland     | 51                            | 42         | -17.6% (9 patients) |

\* Average cases per year rounded to the nearest integer. Column sums may thus differ slightly from the total.

Note: Cases with unknown deprivation quintile are included in totals

**Figure 4: Young adult cancer cases diagnosed in April-December of 2018-2020 by deprivation quintile and period of diagnosis**

**(a) Number of cases diagnosed**



**(b) Percentage change from 2018-2019 to 2020 in number of young adult cancer cases by deprivation quintile**

