
Impact of Covid-19 on incidence of non-melanoma skin cancer in Northern Ireland

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

Further information

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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

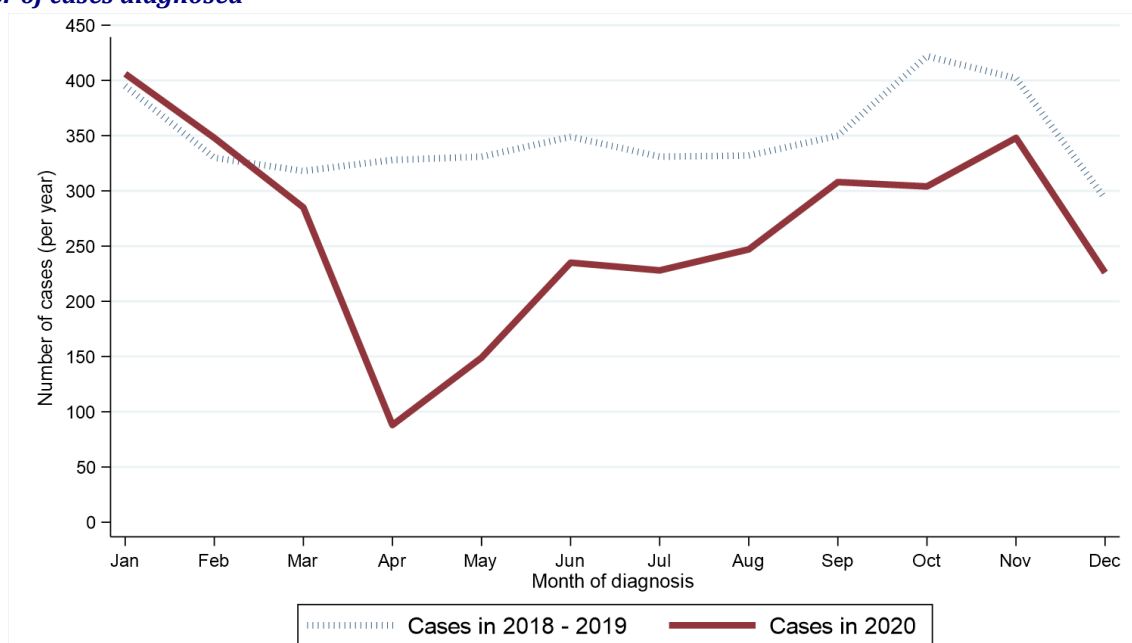
During the April-December period when Covid-19 was present the number of cases of non-melanoma skin cancer diagnosed decreased by 32.0% (1,004 patients) from 3,137 per year in 2018 - 2019 to 2,133 in 2020.

Table 1: Number of non-melanoma skin cancer cases diagnosed in 2018-2020 by month and year of diagnosis

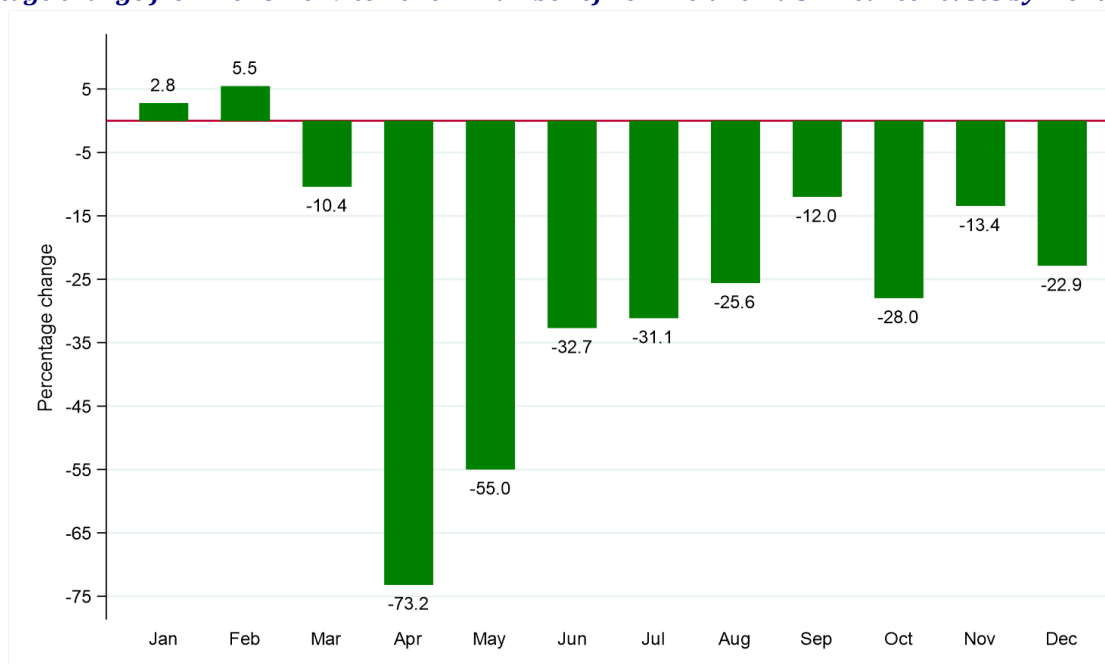
Period of diagnosis	Annual total	Month diagnosed											
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018-2019*	4,180	395	330	318	328	331	349	331	332	350	422	402	293
2020	3,172	406	348	285	88	149	235	228	247	308	304	348	226

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

Figure 1: Number of non-melanoma skin cancer cases diagnosed in 2018-2020 by month and year of diagnosis
(a) Number of cases diagnosed



(b) Percentage change from 2018-2019 to 2020 in number of non-melanoma skin cancer cases by month of diagnosis



GENDER

Excluding the first quarter of each year among males the number of cases of non-melanoma skin cancer diagnosed decreased by 30.4% from 1,805 per year in 2018 - 2019 to 1,256 in 2020. Between the same two time periods the number of cases among females decreased by 34.2% from 1,332 per year to 877. The change in case distribution by gender between 2018 - 2019 and 2020 was not statistically significant.

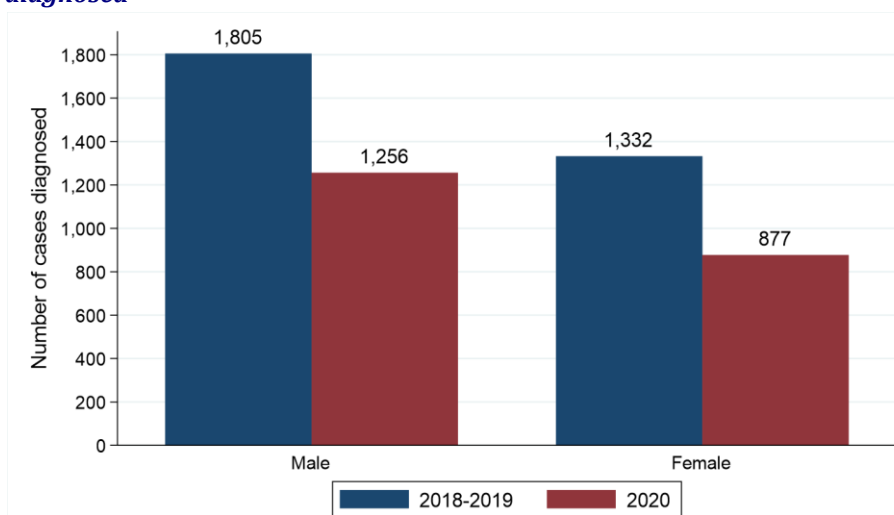
Table 2: Number and proportion of non-melanoma skin cancer cases diagnosed in April-December of 2018-2020 by gender and period of diagnosis

Gender	Period of diagnosis (Apr-Dec)		Percentage change
	2018-2019*	2020	
Male	1,805 (57.5%)	1,256 (58.9%)	-30.4% (549 patients)
Female	1,332 (42.5%)	877 (41.1%)	-34.2% (455 patients)
All persons	3,137	2,133	-32.0% (1,004 patients)

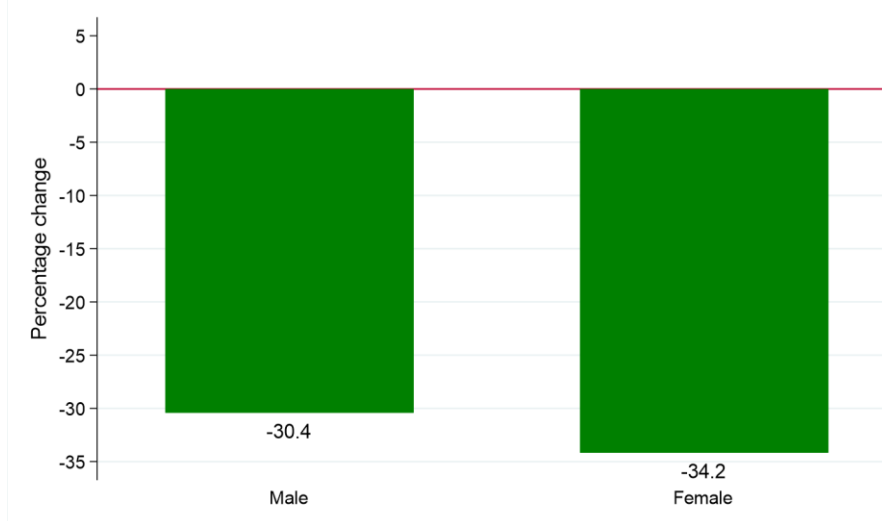
* Average cases per year rounded to the nearest integer. Column sums may thus differ slightly from the total.

Figure 2: Non-melanoma skin 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 non-melanoma skin cancer cases by gender



AGE

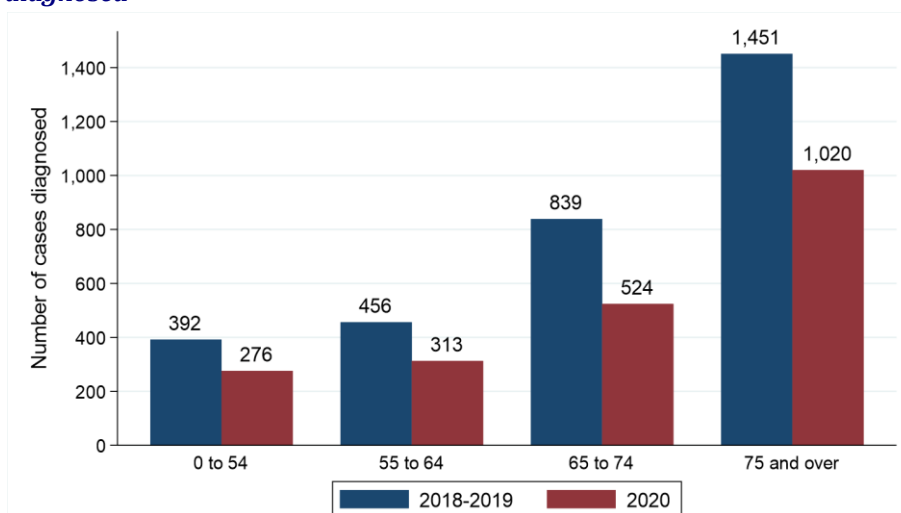
Excluding the first quarter of each year among people aged 65 to 74 the number of cases of non-melanoma skin cancer diagnosed decreased by 37.5% from 839 per year in 2018 - 2019 to 524 in 2020. Between the same two time periods, the number of cases among people aged 0 to 54 decreased by 29.6% from 392 per year to 276. The change in case distribution by age between 2018 - 2019 and 2020 was not statistically significant.

Table 3: Number and proportion of non-melanoma skin cancer cases diagnosed in April-December of 2018-2020 by age and period of diagnosis

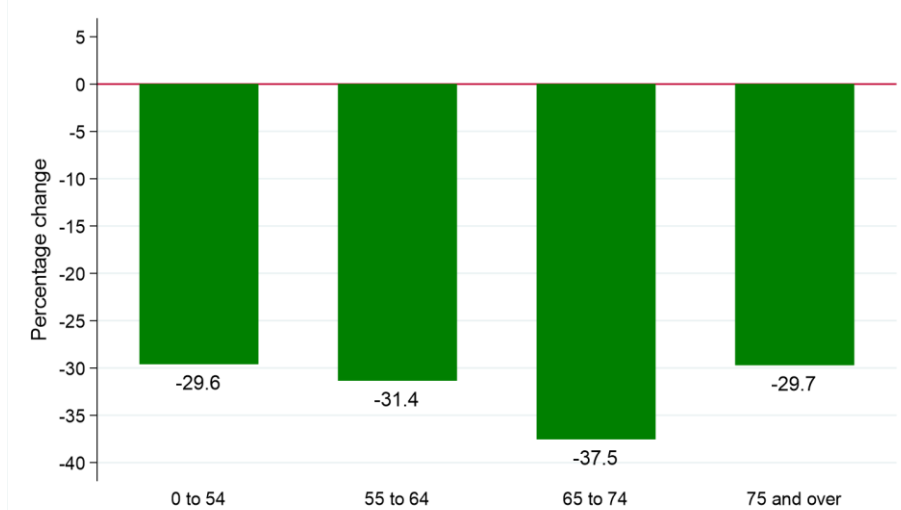
Age group	Period of diagnosis (Apr-Dec)		Percentage change
	2018-2019*	2020	
0 to 54	392 (12.5%)	276 (12.9%)	-29.6% (116 patients)
55 to 64	456 (14.5%)	313 (14.7%)	-31.4% (143 patients)
65 to 74	839 (26.7%)	524 (24.6%)	-37.5% (315 patients)
75 and over	1,451 (46.3%)	1,020 (47.8%)	-29.7% (431 patients)
All ages	3,137	2,133	-32.0% (1,004 patients)

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

Figure 3: Non-melanoma skin cancer cases diagnosed in April-December of 2018-2020 by age and period of diagnosis
(a) Number of cases diagnosed



(b) Percentage change from 2018-2019 to 2020 in number of non-melanoma skin cancer cases by age at diagnosis



HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST

Excluding the first quarter of each year among residents of Northern HSCT the number of cases of non-melanoma skin cancer diagnosed decreased by 39.2% from 869 per year in 2018 - 2019 to 528 in 2020. Between the same two time periods the number of cases among residents of South Eastern HSCT decreased by 23.0% from 712 per year to 548. The change in case distribution by HSCT between 2018 - 2019 and 2020 was statistically significant ($p = 0.008$).

Table 4: Number and proportion of non-melanoma skin cancer cases diagnosed in April-December of 2018-2020 by Health and Social Care Trust and period of diagnosis

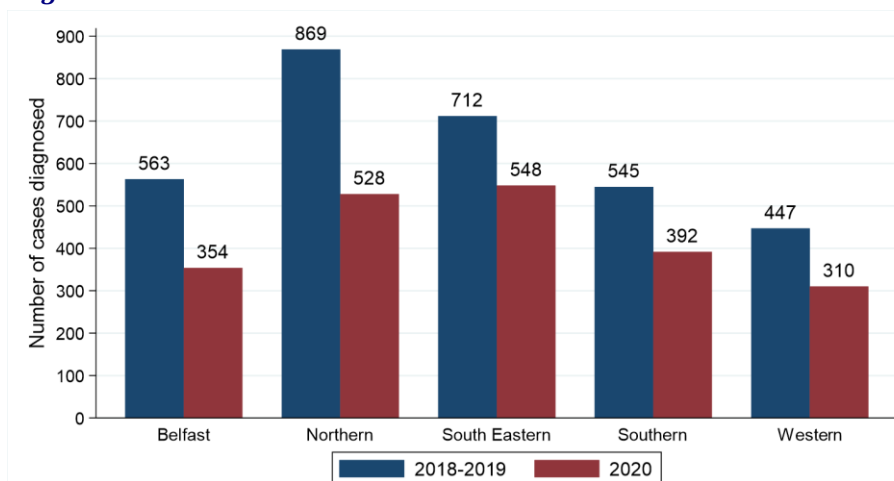
Health and Social Care Trust	Period of diagnosis (Apr-Dec)		Percentage change
	2018-2019*	2020	
Belfast HSCT	563 (17.9%)	354 (16.6%)	-37.1% (209 patients)
Northern HSCT	869 (27.7%)	528 (24.8%)	-39.2% (341 patients)
South Eastern HSCT	712 (22.7%)	548 (25.7%)	-23.0% (164 patients)
Southern HSCT	545 (17.4%)	392 (18.4%)	-28.1% (153 patients)
Western HSCT	447 (14.2%)	310 (14.5%)	-30.6% (137 patients)
Northern Ireland	3,137	2,133	-32.0% (1,004 patients)

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

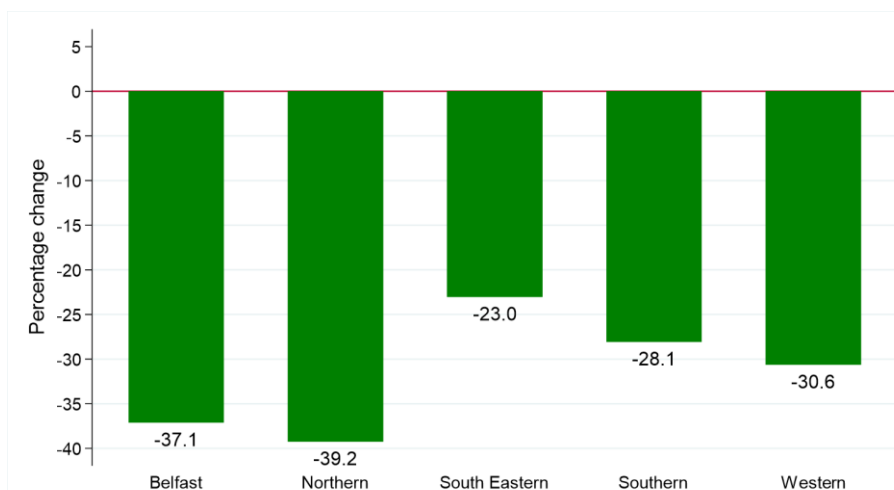
Note: Cases with unknown Health and Social Care Trust are included in totals

Figure 4: Non-melanoma skin 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 non-melanoma skin 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 non-melanoma skin cancer diagnosed decreased by 30.5% from 426 per year in 2018 - 2019 to 296 in 2020. Between the same two time periods the number of cases among residents of the least deprived areas decreased by 33.0% from 794 per year to 532. The change in case distribution by deprivation quintile between 2018 - 2019 and 2020 was not statistically significant.

Table 5: Number and proportion of non-melanoma skin cancer cases diagnosed in April-December of 2018-2020 by deprivation quintile and period of diagnosis

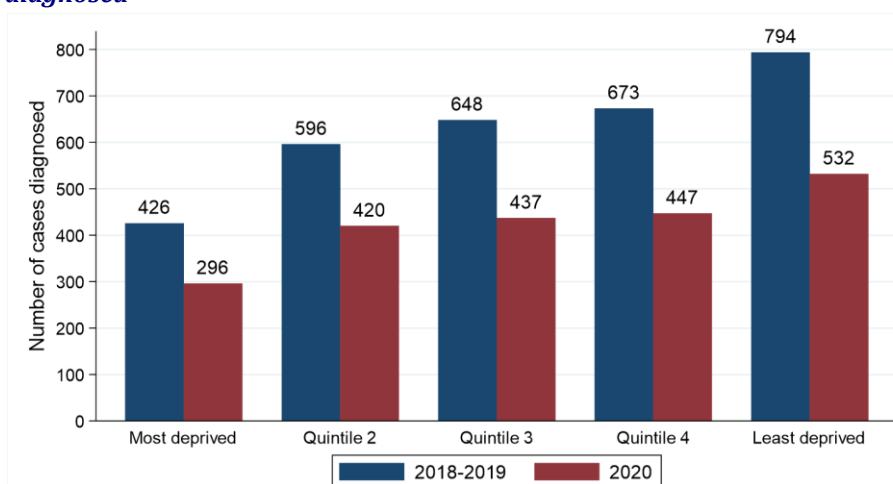
Deprivation quintile	Period of diagnosis (Apr-Dec)		Percentage change
	2018-2019*	2020	
Most deprived	426 (13.6%)	296 (13.9%)	-30.5% (130 patients)
Quintile 2	596 (19.0%)	420 (19.7%)	-29.5% (176 patients)
Quintile 3	648 (20.7%)	437 (20.5%)	-32.6% (211 patients)
Quintile 4	673 (21.5%)	447 (21.0%)	-33.6% (226 patients)
Least deprived	794 (25.3%)	532 (24.9%)	-33.0% (262 patients)
Northern Ireland	3,137	2,133	-32.0% (1,004 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 5: Non-melanoma skin 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 non-melanoma skin cancer cases by deprivation quintile

