
Recent trends in incidence of cancer among young adults in Northern Ireland

(A comparison between April-December of 2021, 2020 and 2018-2019)

Further information

Further information is available at: www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/nicr

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INCIDENCE

During the April-December period the number of cases of cancer diagnosed among young adults aged 15 to 24 decreased between 2018-2019 and 2021 by 25.5% from 51 cases per year to 38 cases.

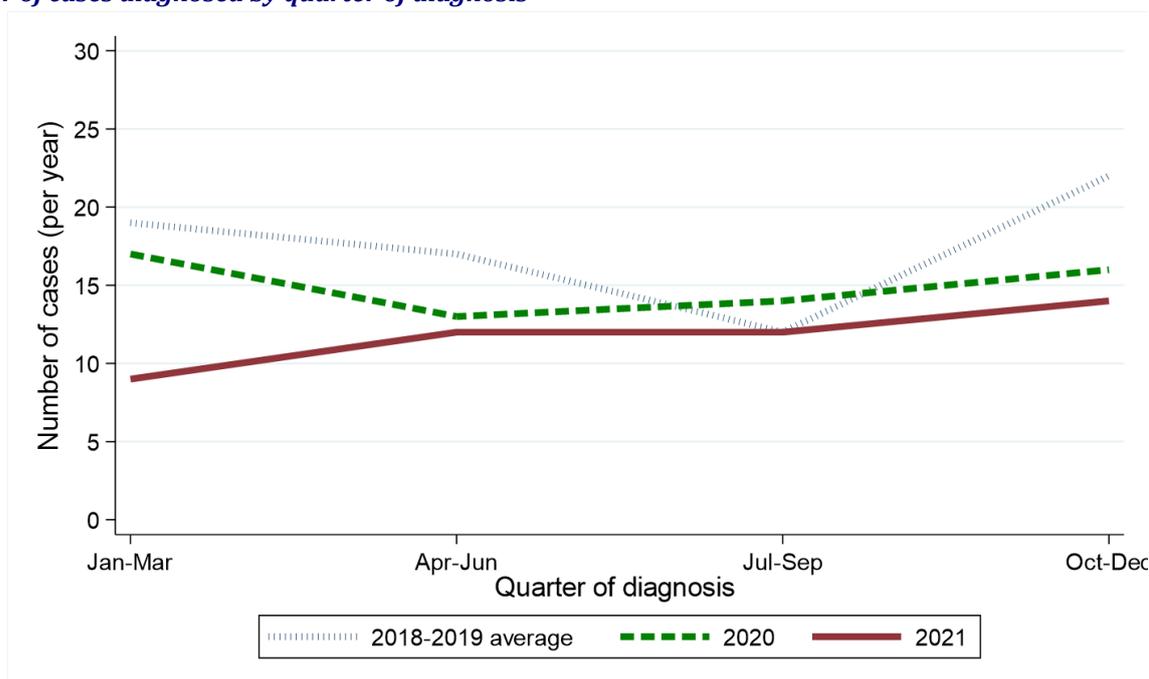
Table 1: Number of cancer cases diagnosed among young adults in 2018-2021 by quarter and year of diagnosis

Period of diagnosis	Annual total	Quarter diagnosed			
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sept	Oct-Dec
2018-2019*	69	19	17	12	22
2020	60	17	13	14	16
2021	47	9	12	12	14

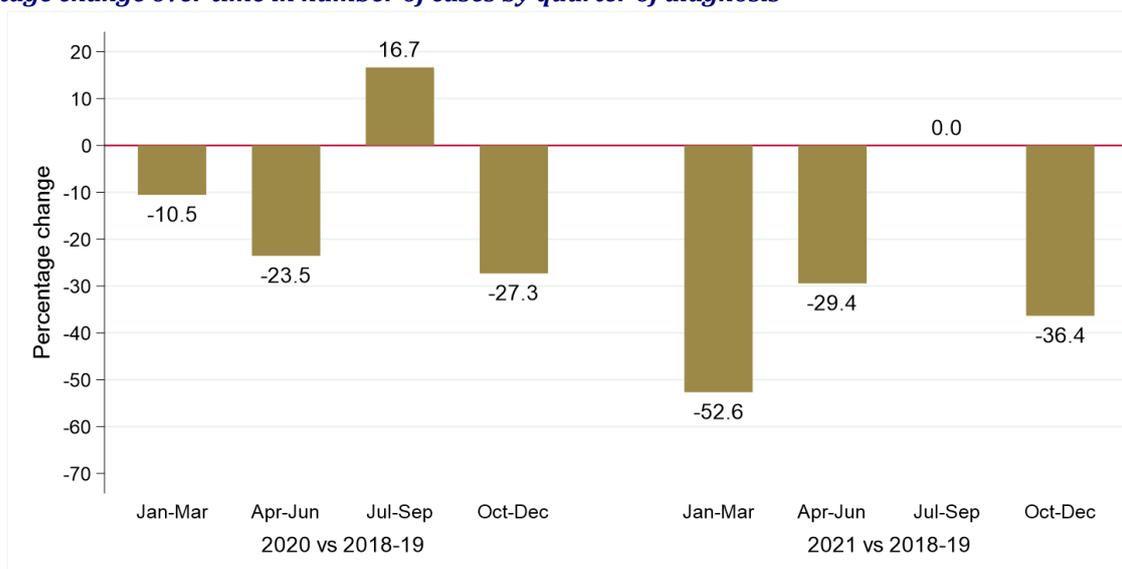
* Average cases per year rounded to the nearest integer. Row sums may thus differ slightly from the total.

Figure 1: Number of cancer cases diagnosed among young adults in 2018-2021 by quarter and year of diagnosis

(a) Number of cases diagnosed by quarter of diagnosis



(b) Percentage change over time in number of cases by quarter of diagnosis



GENDER

Excluding the first quarter of each year the number of cancer cases diagnosed among young adult males decreased by 8.7% from 23 per year in 2018-2019 to 21 in 2021. Between the same two time periods the number of cancer cases diagnosed among young adult females decreased by 39.3% from 28 per year in 2018-2019 to 17 in 2021. The change in case distribution by gender between 2018-2019 and 2021 was not statistically significant.

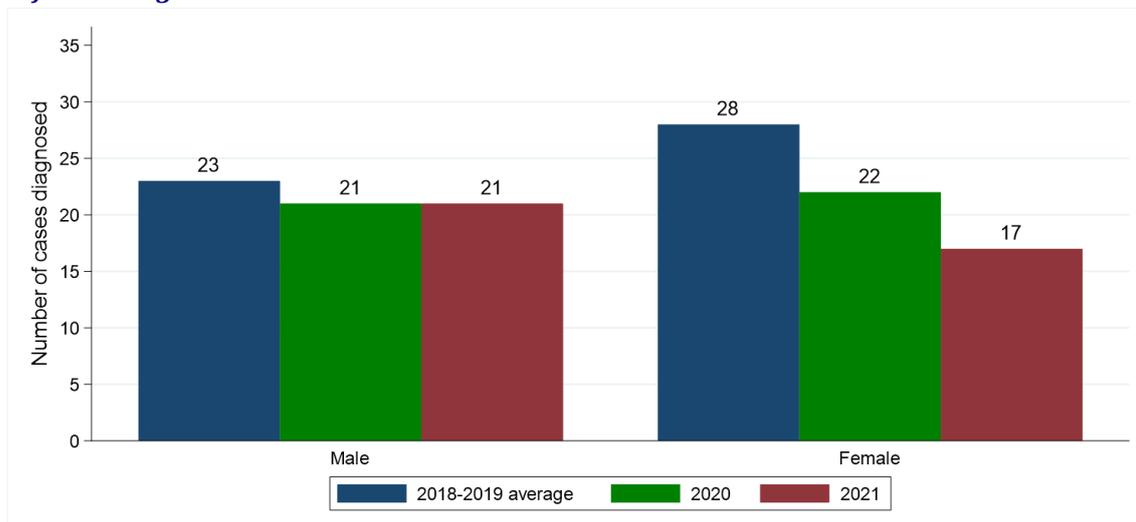
Table 2: Number and proportion of cancer cases diagnosed among young adults in April-December of 2018-2021 by gender and period of diagnosis

Gender	Period of diagnosis (Apr-Dec)			Percentage change	
	2018-2019*	2020	2021	2020 vs 2018-2019	2021 vs 2018-2019
All persons	51	43	38	-15.7%	-25.5%
Male	23 (45.1%)	21 (48.8%)	21 (55.3%)	-8.7%	-8.7%
Female	28 (54.9%)	22 (51.2%)	17 (44.7%)	-21.4%	-39.3%

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

Figure 2: Number of cancer cases diagnosed among young adults in April-December of 2018-2021 by gender and period of diagnosis

(a) Number of cases diagnosed



(b) Percentage change over time in number of cases



HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST

Excluding the first quarter of each year the number of cases of cancer diagnosed among young adults resident in Western HSCT decreased by 57.1% from 7 per year in 2018-2019 to 3 in 2021. Between the same two time periods the number of cases of cancer diagnosed among young adults resident in Belfast HSCT decreased by 57.1% from 14 per year in 2018-2019 to 6 in 2021. The change in case distribution by Health and Social Care Trust between 2018-2019 and 2021 was statistically significant ($p = 0.015$).

Table 3: Number and proportion of cancer cases diagnosed among young adults in April-December of 2018-2021 by Health and Social Care Trust and period of diagnosis

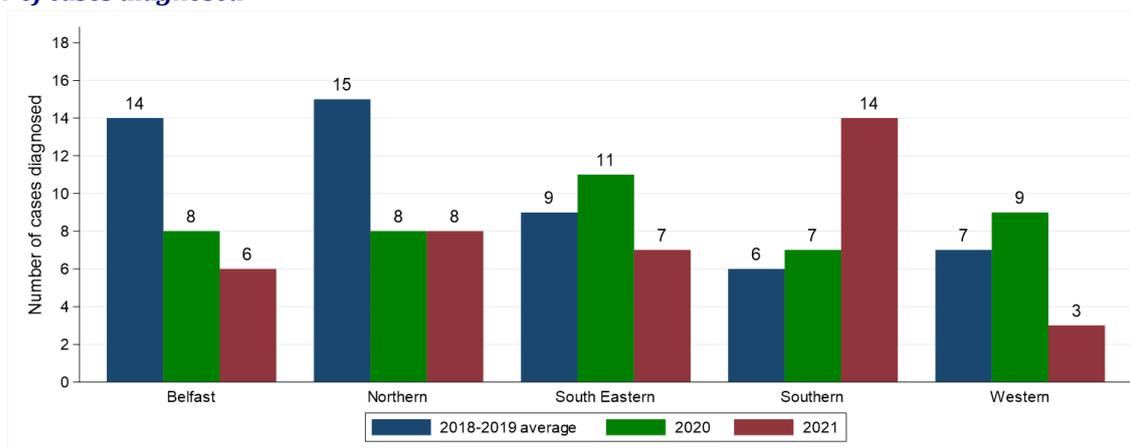
Health and Social Care Trust	Period of diagnosis (Apr-Dec)			Percentage change	
	2018-2019*	2020	2021	2020 vs 2018-2019	2021 vs 2018-2019
Northern Ireland	51	43	38	-15.7%	-25.5%
Belfast	14 (27.5%)	8 (18.6%)	6 (15.8%)	-42.9%	-57.1%
Northern	15 (29.4%)	8 (18.6%)	8 (21.1%)	-46.7%	-46.7%
South Eastern	9 (17.6%)	11 (25.6%)	7 (18.4%)	+22.2%	-22.2%
Southern	6 (11.8%)	7 (16.3%)	14 (36.8%)	+16.7%	+133.3%
Western	7 (13.7%)	9 (20.9%)	3 (7.9%)	+28.6%	-57.1%

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

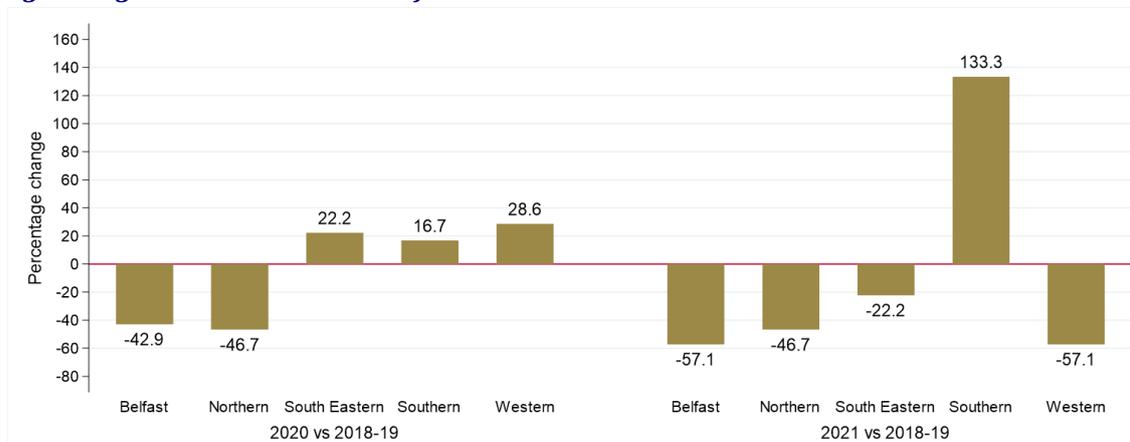
Note: Cases with unknown Health and Social Care Trust are included in totals.

Figure 3: Number of cancer cases diagnosed among young adults in April-December of 2018-2021 by Health and Social Care Trust and period of diagnosis

(a) Number of cases diagnosed



(b) Percentage change over time in number of cases



SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEPRIVATION

Excluding the first quarter of each year the number of cases of cancer diagnosed among young adults resident in the most deprived quintile decreased by 63.6% from 11 per year in 2018-2019 to 4 in 2021. Between the same two time periods the number of cases of cancer diagnosed among young adults resident in the least deprived quintile decreased by 60.0% from 15 per year in 2018-2019 to 6 in 2021. The change in case distribution by deprivation quintile between 2018-2019 and 2021 was statistically significant ($p = 0.036$).

Table 4: Number and proportion of cancer cases diagnosed among young adults in April-December of 2018-2021 by deprivation quintile and period of diagnosis

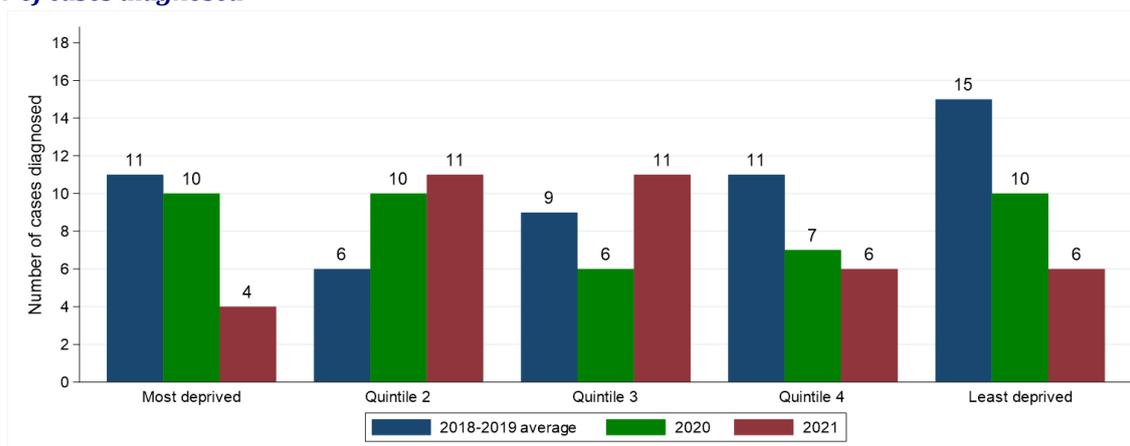
Deprivation quintile	Period of diagnosis (Apr-Dec)			Percentage change	
	2018-2019*	2020	2021	2020 vs 2018-2019	2021 vs 2018-2019
Northern Ireland	51	43	38	-15.7%	-25.5%
Most deprived	11 (21.6%)	10 (23.3%)	4 (10.5%)	-9.1%	-63.6%
Quintile 2	6 (11.8%)	10 (23.3%)	11 (28.9%)	+66.7%	+83.3%
Quintile 3	9 (17.6%)	6 (14.0%)	11 (28.9%)	-33.3%	+22.2%
Quintile 4	11 (21.6%)	7 (16.3%)	6 (15.8%)	-36.4%	-45.5%
Least deprived	15 (29.4%)	10 (23.3%)	6 (15.8%)	-33.3%	-60.0%

* 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: Number of cancer cases diagnosed among young adults in April-December of 2018-2021 by deprivation quintile and period of diagnosis

(a) Number of cases diagnosed



(b) Percentage change over time in number of cases

