

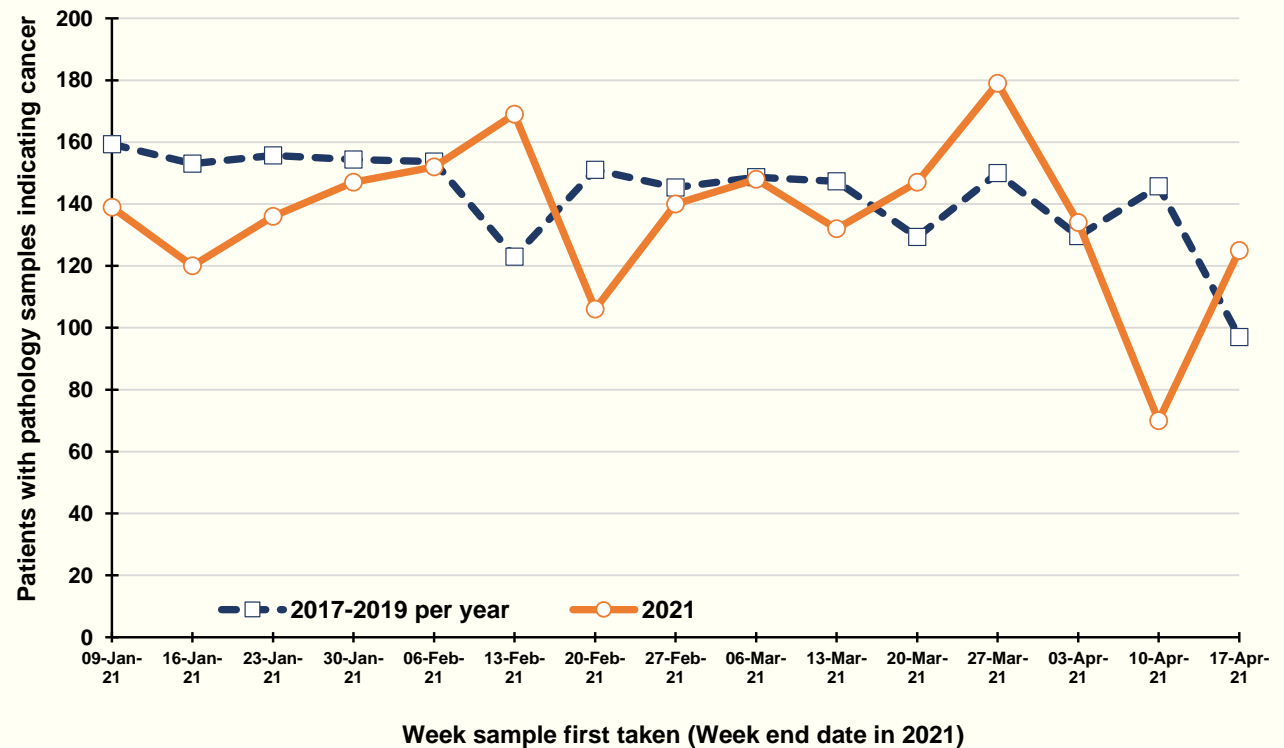
## SUMMARY

### Recent trends in the number of patients with pathology samples indicating cancer: Apr-21

- 1) This summary provides an overview of recent trends in the number of patients with pathology samples indicating cancer (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer, NMSC) whose first sample was taken from 01-Jan-20 to the week ending 17-Apr-21 in Northern Ireland.
- 2) These trends are contrasted with the annual average number of patients with pathology samples indicating cancer (ex NMSC) during 2017-2019 in order to provide an indication of the potential impact of the Covid-19 restrictions on diagnostic cancer services.
- 3) Data are sourced from the four NHS pathology laboratories in Northern Ireland (Belfast, Altnagelvin, Antrim, Craigavon), which are usually provided to the NI Cancer Registry on a monthly basis. Only cytology data from Altnagelvin is included due to incomplete recording of pathology results since the beginning of 2021.

#### Trends in patients with pathology samples indicating cancer by week first sample taken

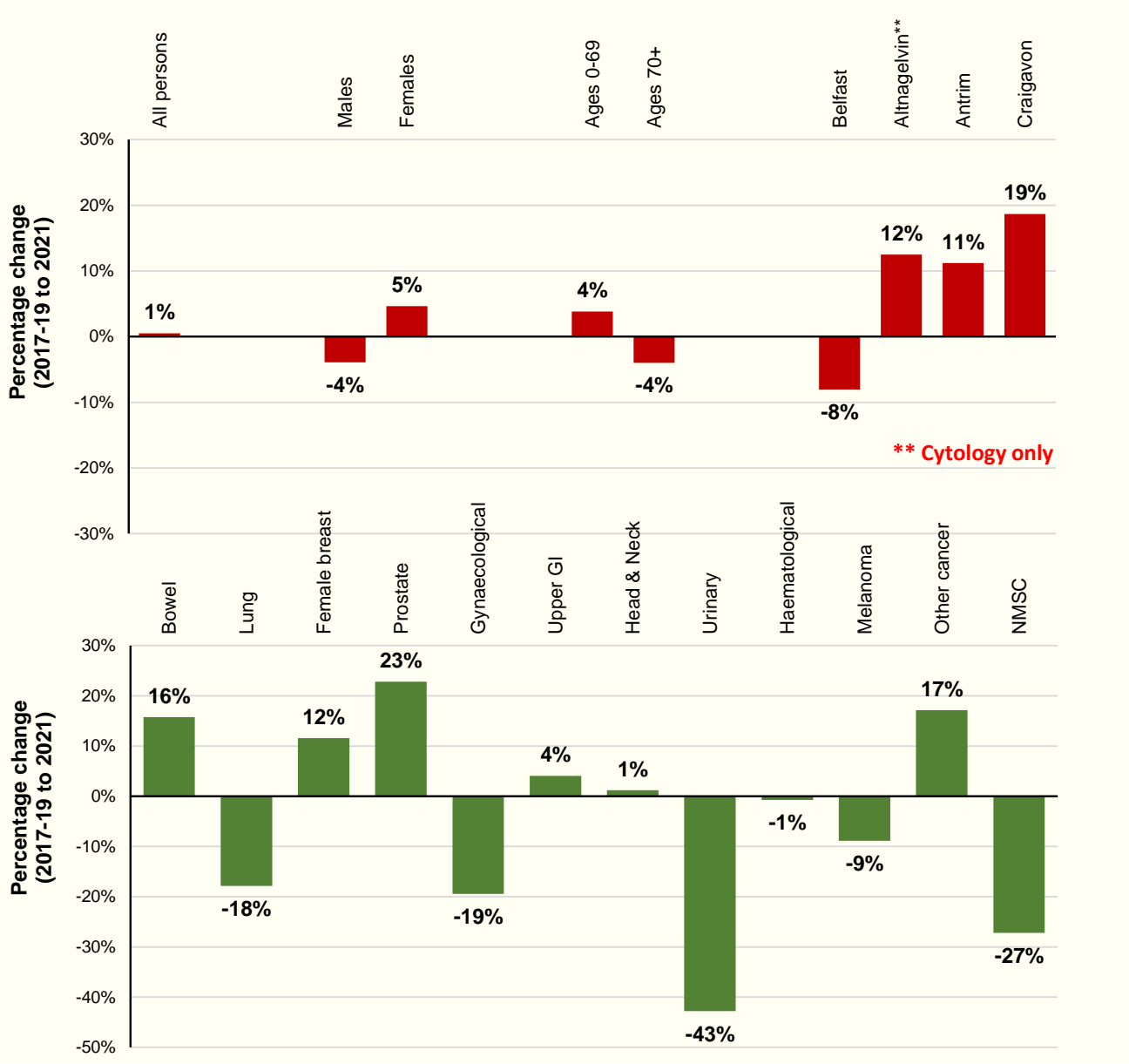
- 4) From 01-Mar-20 to 17-Apr-21 the number of patients with a pathological sample indicating cancer was 10% lower than the average number for the same time period in 2017-2019.
- 5) Based upon the monthly trend in patients with pathology samples indicating cancer, there was an estimated shortfall of 1,040 patients during Mar-20 to Mar-21 compared to the expected number. Some of these "missing" patients may have a clinical only diagnosis (e.g. as a result of an emergency hospital admission).



**Percentage change from 2017-2019 to 2021 in the number of patients with pathology samples indicating cancer, first taken in the weeks ending 20-Mar-21 to 17-Apr-21**

**6) Patient demographics**

There was a 1% increase in the number of patients with a pathology samples indicating cancer in the weeks ending 20-Mar-21 to 17-Apr-21 compared to the average value in the equivalent weeks in 2017-2019. There was a 4% decrease among males and a 5% increase among females. An increase of 4% was recorded in the number of patients aged 0-69 years, while a decrease of 4% occurred in the number aged 70 and older. Reductions were apparent in Belfast (8%), while increases were recorded in the other three laboratories (cytology only in Altnagelvin).



**7) Cancer type**

Compared to the annual average in 2017-2019, the number of patients with a pathology sample indicating lung cancer in the weeks ending 20-Mar-21 to 17-Apr-21 decreased by 18%, while those indicating gynaecological cancer decreased by 19% and those indicating urinary cancer decreased by 43%. Increases were recorded for bowel (16%), breast (12%) and prostate (23%) cancer. However, both types of skin cancer had decreases recorded.

**Percentage change from 2017-2019 to 2020/2021 in the number of patients with pathology samples indicating cancer, and estimates of the number of "missed" patients in 2020/2021: Patient demographics**

Patient demographics	Percentage change from 2017-2019 to 2020/2021 in the number of patients with pathology samples indicating cancer		Estimated number of "missed/additional" patients
	Weeks ending 20-Mar-21 to 17-Apr-21	Weeks ending 07-Mar-20 to 17-Apr-21	At the end of Mar-21
All persons	1%	-10%	1040 missed
<b>Gender</b>			
Males	-4%	-10%	430 missed
Females	5%	-11%	610 missed
<b>Age</b>			
Ages 0-69	4%	-11%	540 missed
Ages 70+	-4%	-10%	500 missed
<b>Pathology Lab</b>			
Belfast	-8%	-7%	410 missed
Altnagelvin**	12%	-3%	20 missed
Antrim	11%	-7%	90 missed
Craigavon	19%	-24%	520 missed

\*\* (Cytology only)

**Notes:**

"Missed" patients may have a clinical only diagnosis (e.g. as a result of an emergency hospital admission).

"Missed/additional" patients were calculated based upon the difference between the actual and expected number of patients recorded. The latter is determined using the trend in patients diagnosed pathologically from Jan 2017 to Feb 2020, and thus includes any expected increases (or decreases) as a result in annual changes in the number of cases diagnosed (e.g. as a result of population growth and/or ageing).

**Percentage change from 2017-2019 to 2020/2021 in the number of patients with pathology samples indicating cancer, and estimates of the number of "missed" patients in 2020/2021: Cancer type**

Cancer type	Percentage change from 2017-2019 to 2020/2021 in the number of patients with pathology samples indicating cancer		Estimated number of "missed/additional" patients
	Weeks ending 20-Mar-21 to 17-Apr-21	Weeks ending 07-Mar-20 to 17-Apr-21	At the end of Mar-21
All cancers (ex NMSC)	1%	-10%	1040 missed
NMSC	-27%	-29%	1660 missed
Bowel	16%	-8%	150 missed
Lung	-18%	-22%	200 missed
Female breast	12%	-7%	30 missed
Prostate	23%	-9%	60 missed
Gynaecological	-19%	-20%	150 missed
Upper GI	4%	-15%	70 missed
Head & Neck	1%	-12%	70 missed
Urinary	-43%	-17%	30 missed
Haematological	-1%	1%	100 missed
Melanoma	-9%	-22%	160 missed
Other cancer	17%	2%	20 missed
<u>Screening age</u>			
Bowel cancer (Ages 60-74)	29%	-5%	90 missed
Breast cancer (Ages 50-70)	62%	2%	40 additional

Notes:

NMSC: Non-melanoma skin cancer; GI: Gastrointestinal

"Missed" patients may have a clinical only diagnosis (e.g. as a result of an emergency hospital admission).

"Missed/additional" patients were calculated based upon the difference between the actual and expected number of patients recorded. The latter is determined using the trend in patients diagnosed pathologically from Jan 2017 to Feb 2020, and thus includes any expected increases (or decreases) as a result in annual changes in the number of cases diagnosed (e.g. as a result of population growth and/or ageing).

Other cancers excludes cancer of unknown primary.