Recent trends in the number of patients with pathology samples indicating cancer in Northern Ireland
(excludes samples from Altnagelvin Laboratory)

November 2021 Update

Contents

SUMMARY	**Recent trends in the number of patients with pathology samples indicating cancer: Nov-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 Jan-20 to Nov-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 three of the four NHS pathology laboratories in NI (Belfast, Antrim, Craigavon), which are usually provided to NICR on a monthly basis. **Altnagelvin laboratory is excluded throughout this report as a change in recording systems led to an undercount in the number of reported samples in Jan-Apr 2021.**

Trends in patients with pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

4) From Mar-20 to Nov-21 the number of patients with a pathological sample indicating cancer was 5.3% lower than the average number for the same time period in 2017-2019.
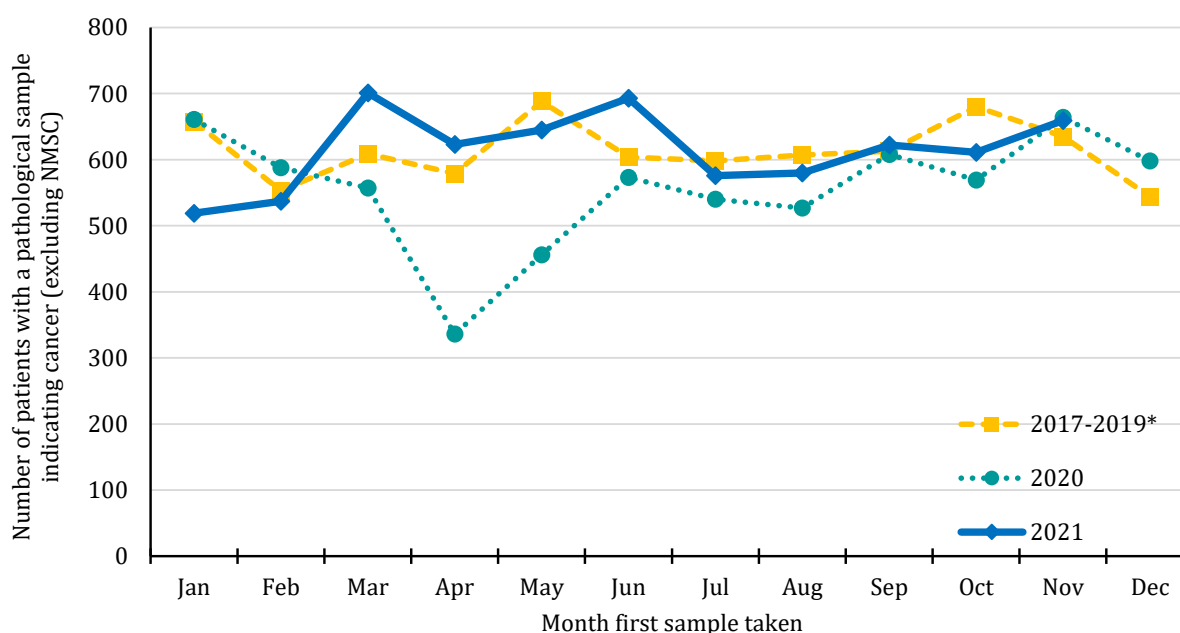
Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	658	553	609	579	688	604	598	607	613	680	635	544
2020	661	588	557	336	456	573	540	527	608	569	664	598
2021	519	537	701	623	645	693	576	580	622	611	659	

Annual average

5) From Mar-20 to Nov-21 there was a 4.6% decrease among males and a 5.9% decrease among females compared to 2017-2019. A decrease of 6.2% occurred in the number of patients aged 0-69 years, while there was a decrease of 4.1% among those aged 70 and older.

6) Compared to the average in 2017-2019 the number of patients in 2021 was higher in March, April, June, September and November. Monthly variations may be a result of random factors (e.g. staff leave) which occur naturally and are unrelated to the Covid-19 pandemic.

7) Compared to the annual average in 2017-2019, from Mar-20 to Nov-21 the number of patients with a pathology sample indicating lung cancer decreased by 18.2%, while those indicating prostate cancer decreased by 4.4%. Increases were recorded for haematological cancer, while decreases of more than 10% occurred for gynaecological cancer, head and neck cancer, urinary cancer and non-melanoma skin cancer.
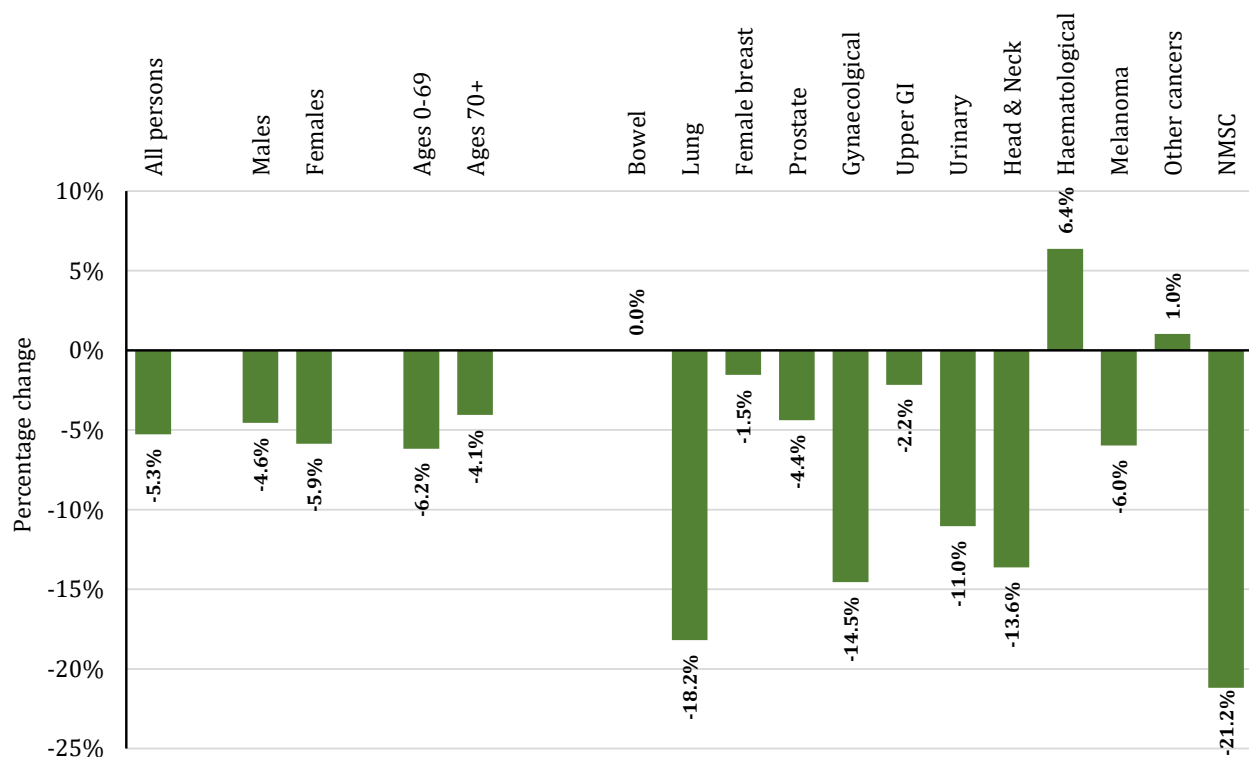
Percentage change

All persons: -5.3%
Males: -4.6%
Females: -5.9%
Ages 0-69: -6.2%
Ages 70+: -4.1%
Bowel: 0.0%
Lung: -18.2%
Female breast: -1.5%
Prostate: -4.4%
Gynaecolgical: -14.5%
Upper GI: -2.2%
Urinary: -11.0%
Head & Neck: -13.6%
Haematological: 6.4%
Melanoma: -6.0%
Other cancers: 1.0%
NMSC: -21.2%

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

8) There was an 0.8% decrease in the number of patients with a pathology sample indicating cancer in the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to the average value in the equivalent weeks in 2017-2019.

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	18-Sep-21	25-Sep-21	02-Oct-21	09-Oct-21	16-Oct-21	23-Oct-21	30-Oct-21	06-Nov-21	13-Nov-21	20-Nov-21	27-Nov-21
2017-2019*	138	147	154	158	161	144	150	119	152	148	152	146
2020	146	122	141	142	142	122	146	114	159	138	169	159
2021	137	146	136	150	151	157	156	117	162	156	136	151

*Annual average

** The date of the end of the week in which the sample was taken in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

9) In the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 there was a 0.8% increase in male patients and a 2.2% decrease in female patients compared to the same time period in 2017-2019. An increase of 0.4% occurred in the number of patients aged 0-69 years, while there was a decrease of 2.5% among those aged 70 and older.

10) Compared to the annual average in 2017-2019, in the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 the number of patients with a pathology sample indicating lung cancer decreased by 9.8%. Increases were recorded for bowel cancer, prostate cancer, gynaecological cancer, upper GI cancer and melanoma, while decreases of more than 10% occurred for head and neck cancer, haematological cancer and non-melanoma skin cancer.
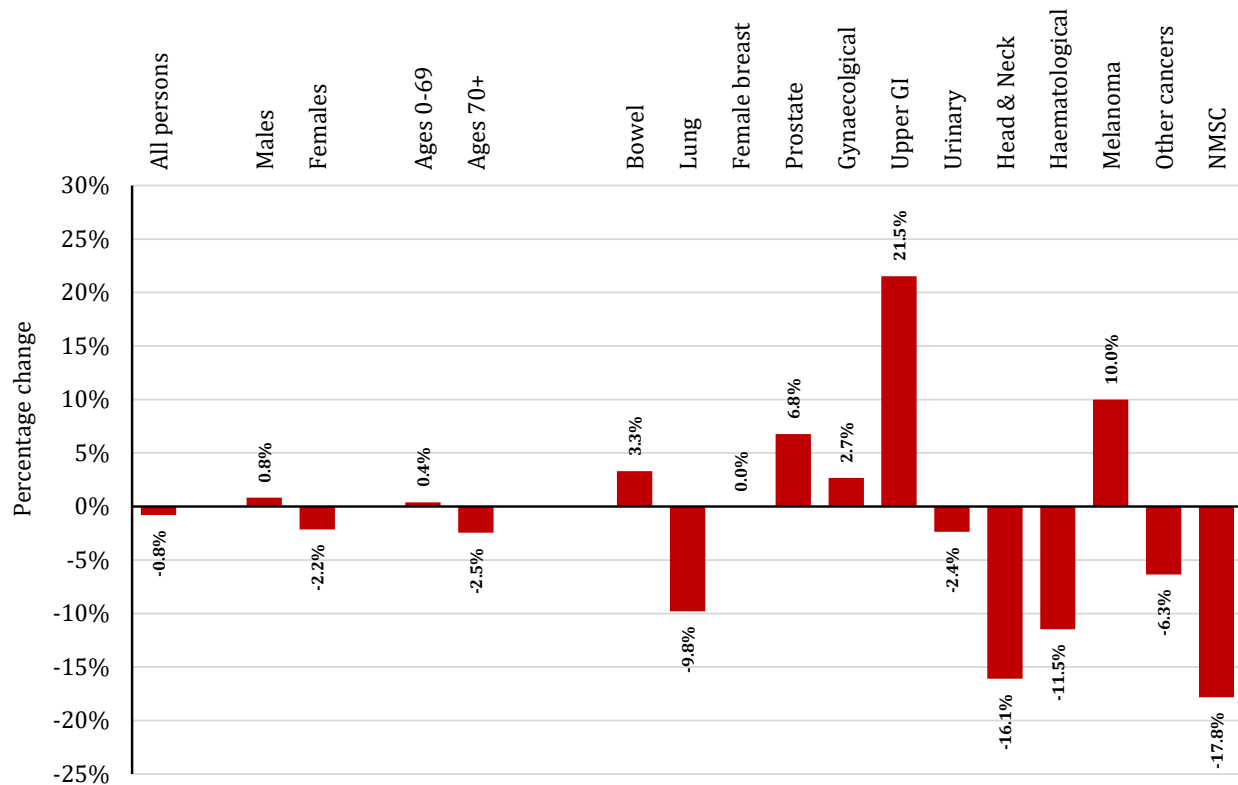
Patients with pathology samples indicating cancer (ex NMSC): All persons

Trends in patients with pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-5.3%

Legend: 2017-2019*, 2020, 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	658	553	609	579	688	604	598	607	613	680	635	544
2020	661	588	557	336	456	573	540	527	608	569	664	598
2021	519	537	701	623	645	693	576	580	622	611	659	

Annual average

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

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-0.8%

Legend: 2017-2019*, 2020, 2021

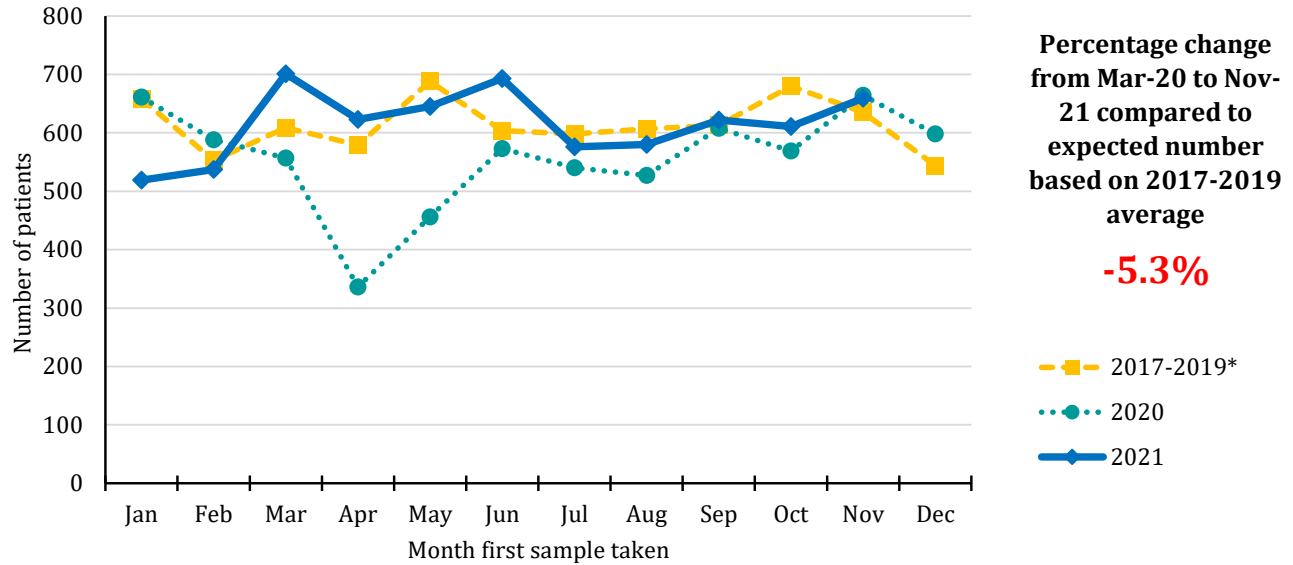| Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	138	147	154	158	161	144	150	119	152	148	152	146
2020	146	122	141	142	142	122	146	114	159	138	169	159
2021	137	146	136	150	151	157	156	117	162	156	136	151

Annual average

*** The date of the end of the week in which the sample was taken in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.*

Patients with pathology samples indicating cancer (ex NMSC): Males

Trends in patients with pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-4.6%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	320	257	297	280	328	291	280	281	291	320	301	249
2020	308	284	262	158	244	282	248	230	275	245	357	297
2021	232	257	360	282	322	332	277	275	302	283	322	

Annual average

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

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

0.8%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	66	70	73	74	77	69	71	57	74	65	74	69
2020	62	54	72	61	59	50	65	49	82	67	93	90
2021	72	71	73	64	80	73	64	56	81	73	66	73

Annual average

*** The date of the end of the week in which the sample was taken in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.*

Patients with pathology samples indicating cancer (ex NMSC): Females

Trends in patients with pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-5.9%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	338	295	312	299	360	313	317	326	322	360	333	295
2020	353	304	295	178	212	291	292	297	333	324	307	301
2021	287	280	341	341	323	361	299	305	320	328	337	

*Annual average

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

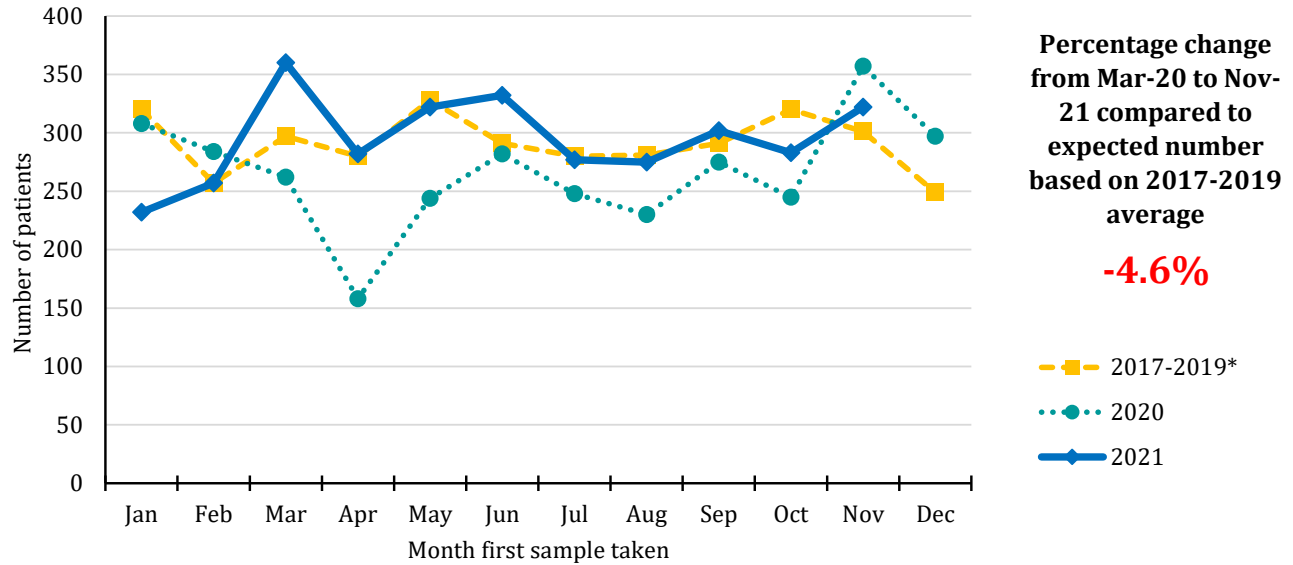**Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average**

-2.2%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	72	76	80	84	84	76	79	62	78	83	78	77
2020	84	68	69	81	83	72	81	65	77	71	76	69
2021	65	75	63	86	71	84	92	61	81	83	70	78

*Annual average

** The date of the end of the week in which the sample was taken in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

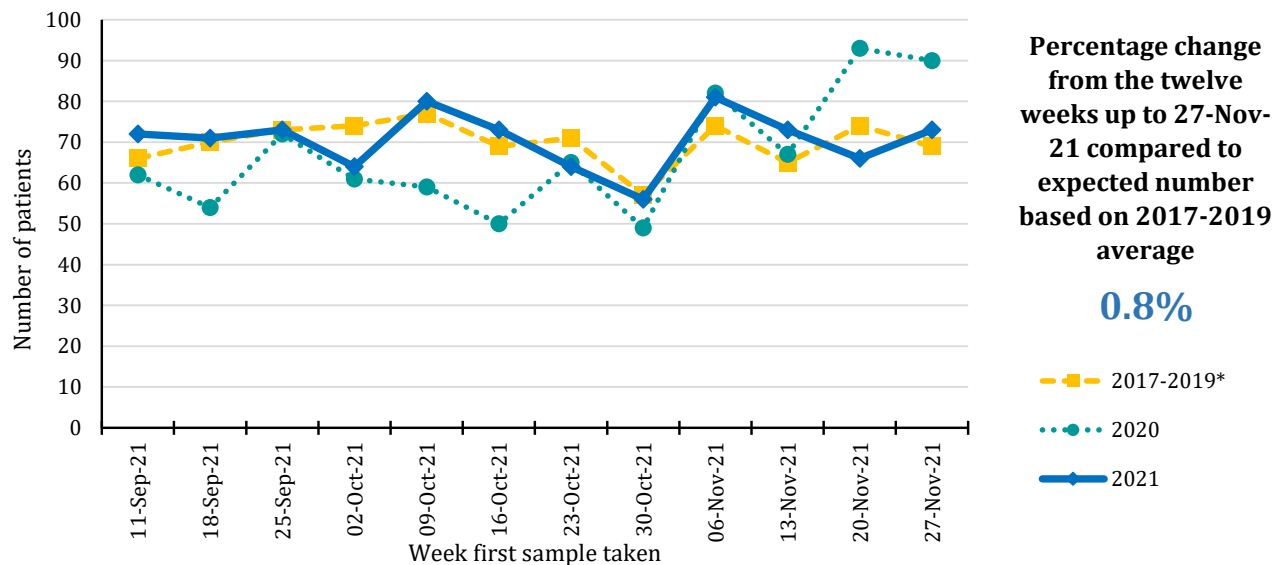**Patients with pathology samples indicating cancer (ex NMSC): Ages 0 to 69**

Trends in patients with pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-6.2%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	387	327	354	332	384	333	338	341	351	383	349	309
2020	358	332	325	202	265	311	282	292	325	326	378	339
2021	301	311	400	376	354	371	318	323	354	359	367	

*Annual average

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

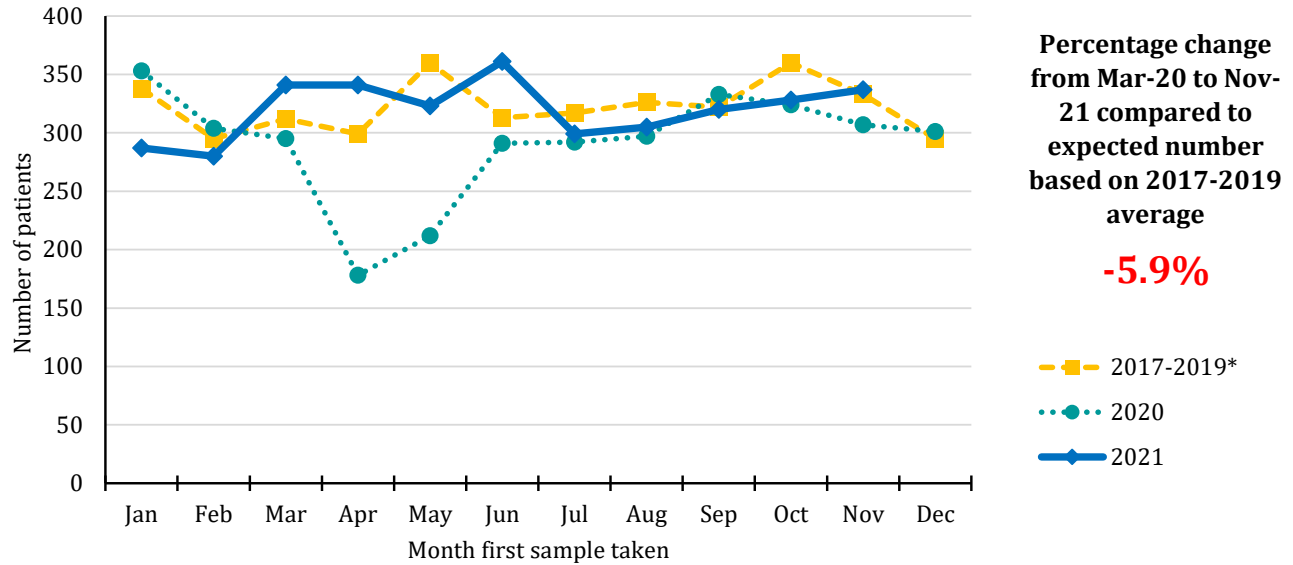**Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average**

0.4%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	84	80	90	87	90	78	94	63	83	90	80	78
2020	80	67	72	76	84	66	80	70	88	79	96	96
2021	80	78	73	96	91	87	94	69	93	95	64	81

*Annual average

** The date of the end of the week in which the sample was taken in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

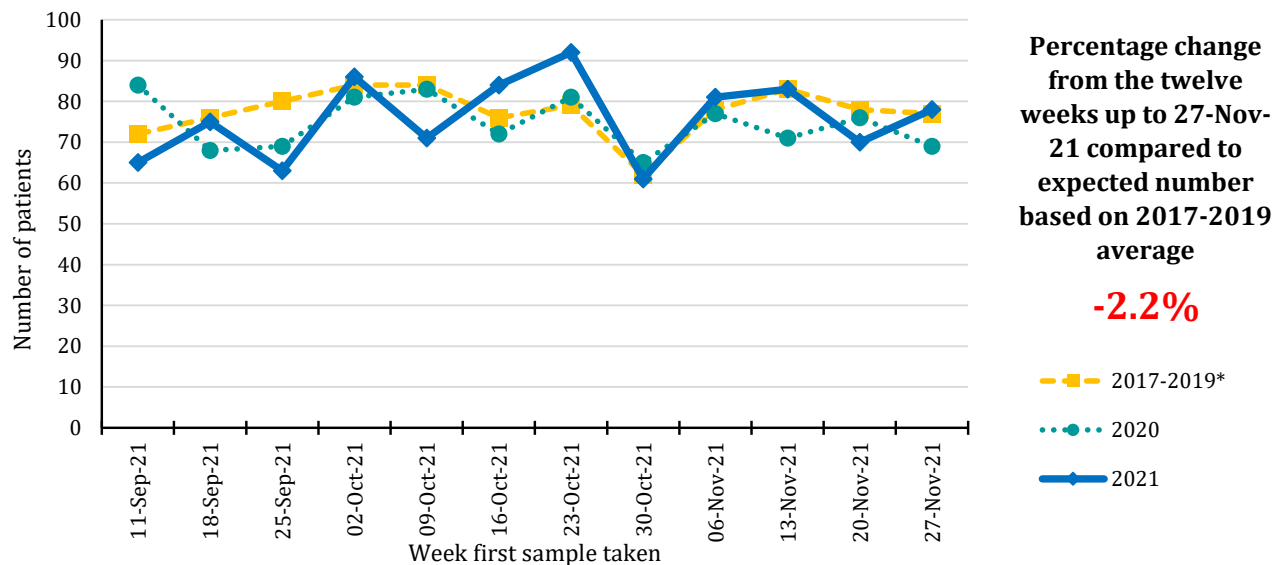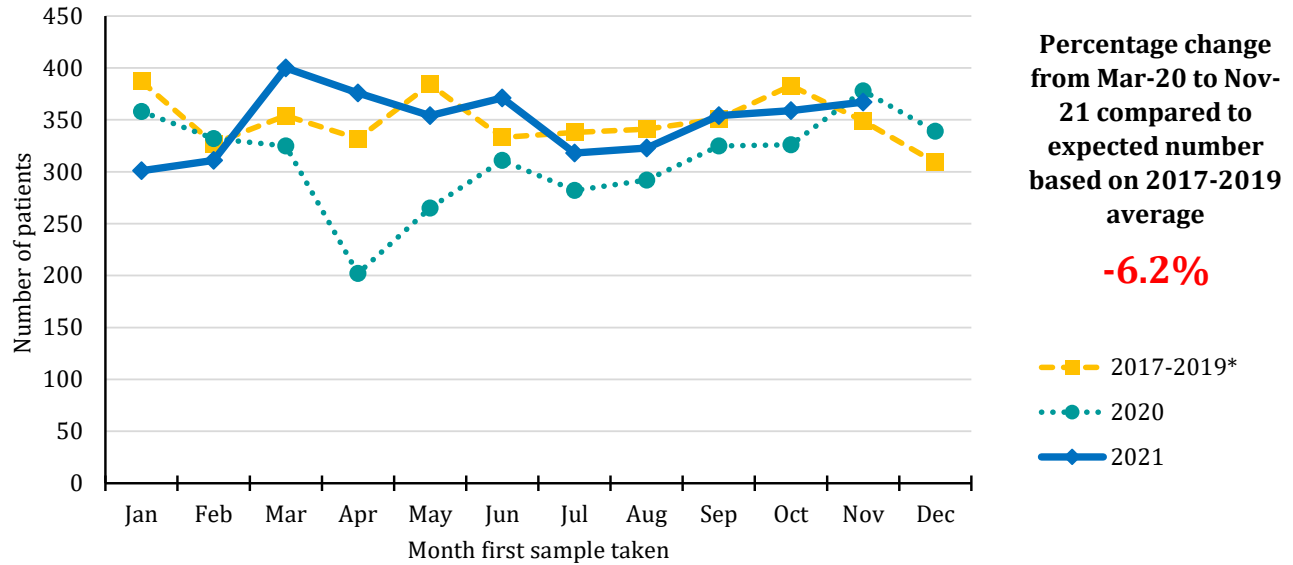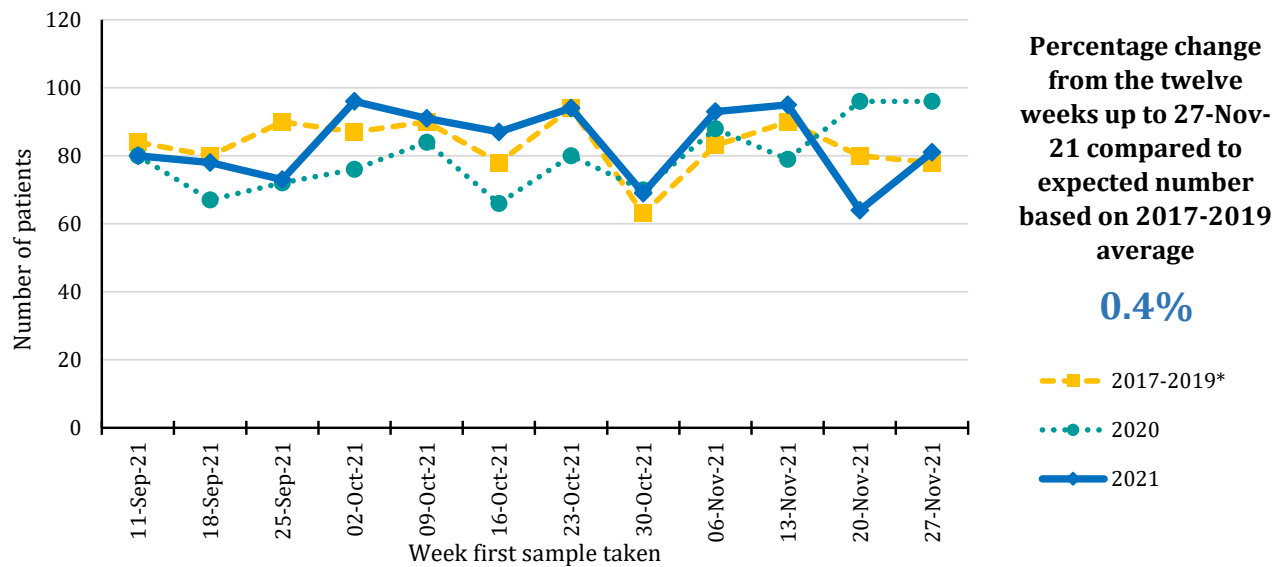## Patients with pathology samples indicating cancer (ex NMSC): Ages 70 and over

Trends in patients with pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-4.1%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	271	226	255	247	305	271	259	266	262	297	285	234
2020	303	256	232	134	191	262	258	235	283	243	286	259
2021	218	226	301	247	291	322	258	257	268	252	292	

Annual average

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

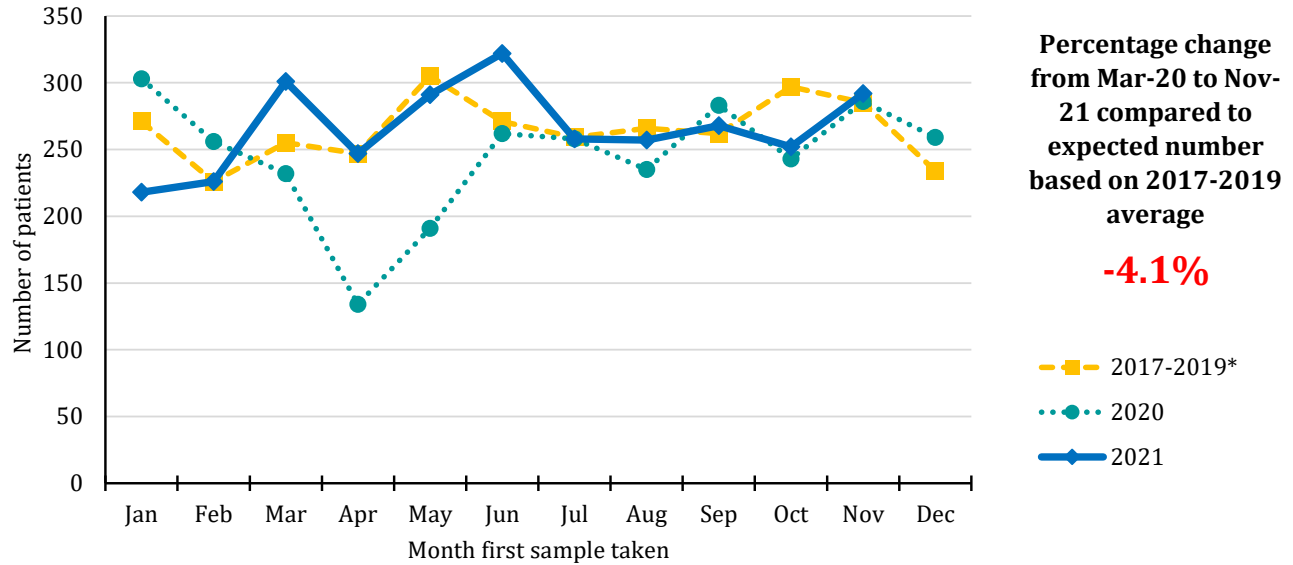**Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average**

-2.5%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	54	66	64	71	72	66	56	55	69	58	73	69
2020	66	55	69	66	58	56	66	44	71	59	73	63
2021	57	68	63	54	60	70	62	48	69	61	72	70

Annual average

*** The date of the end of the week in which the sample was taken in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.*

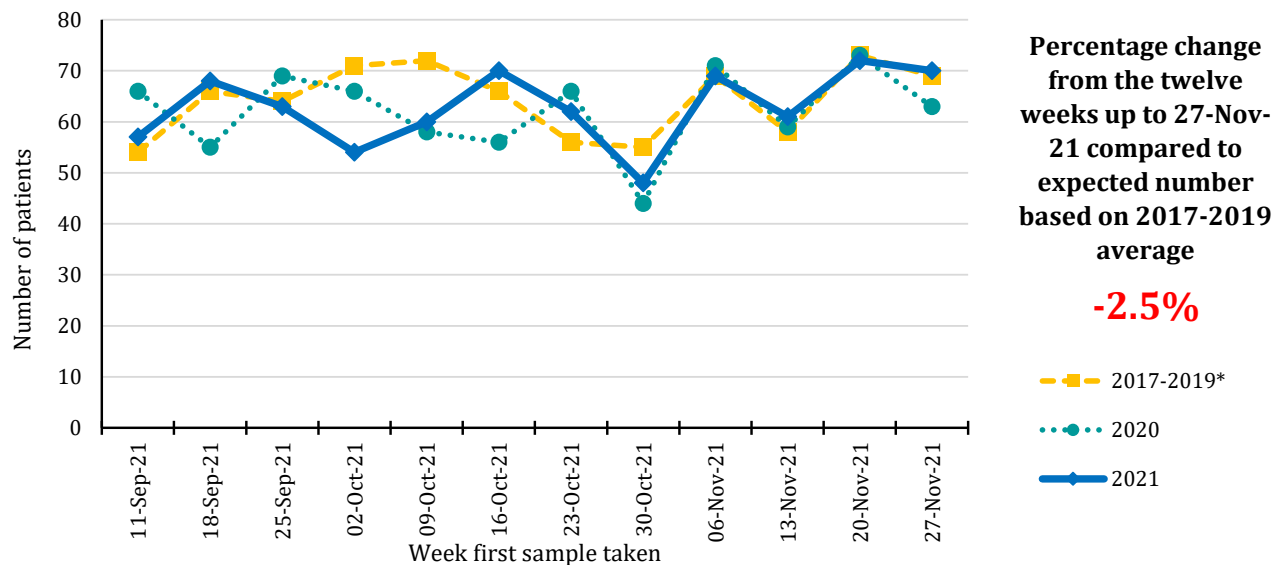## Patients with pathology samples indicating bowel cancer: All persons

Trends in patients with pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

0.0%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	73	65	74	74	81	70	67	74	71	75	84	67
2020	84	76	70	35	45	70	71	73	82	61	58	71
2021	66	80	84	97	86	73	74	87	80	81	79	

Annual average

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

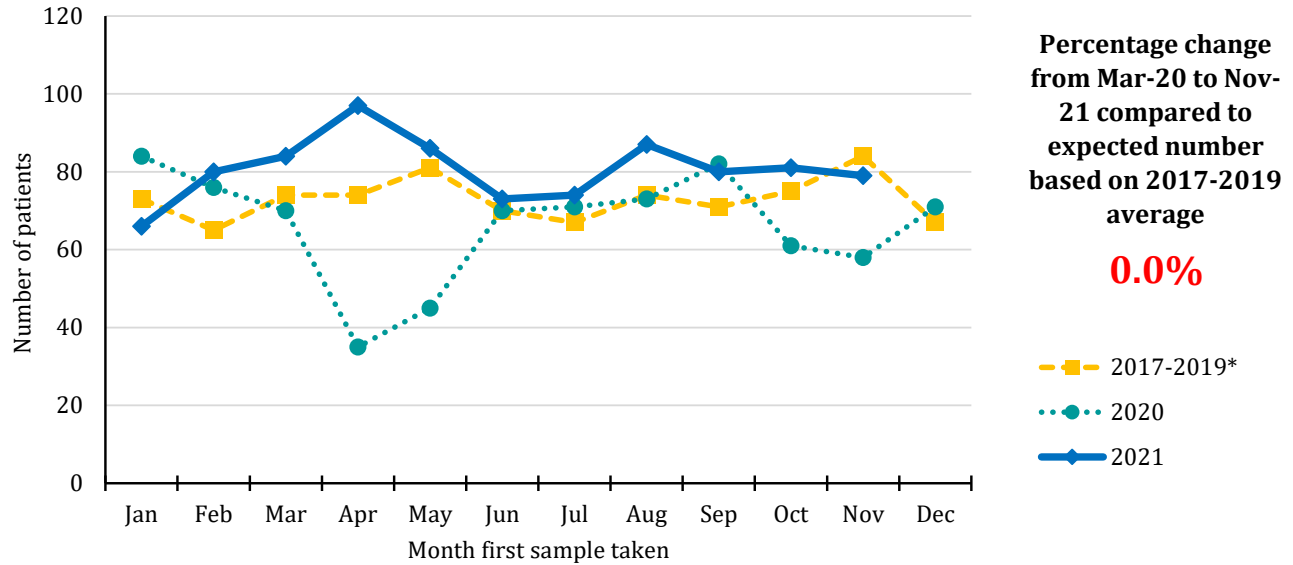**Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average**

3.3%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	15	18	18	17	16	17	16	14	19	20	21	21
2020	18	20	14	22	17	15	11	12	17	13	14	11
2021	18	17	17	21	14	17	17	27	17	24	9	21

Annual average

** The date of the end of the week in which the sample was taken in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

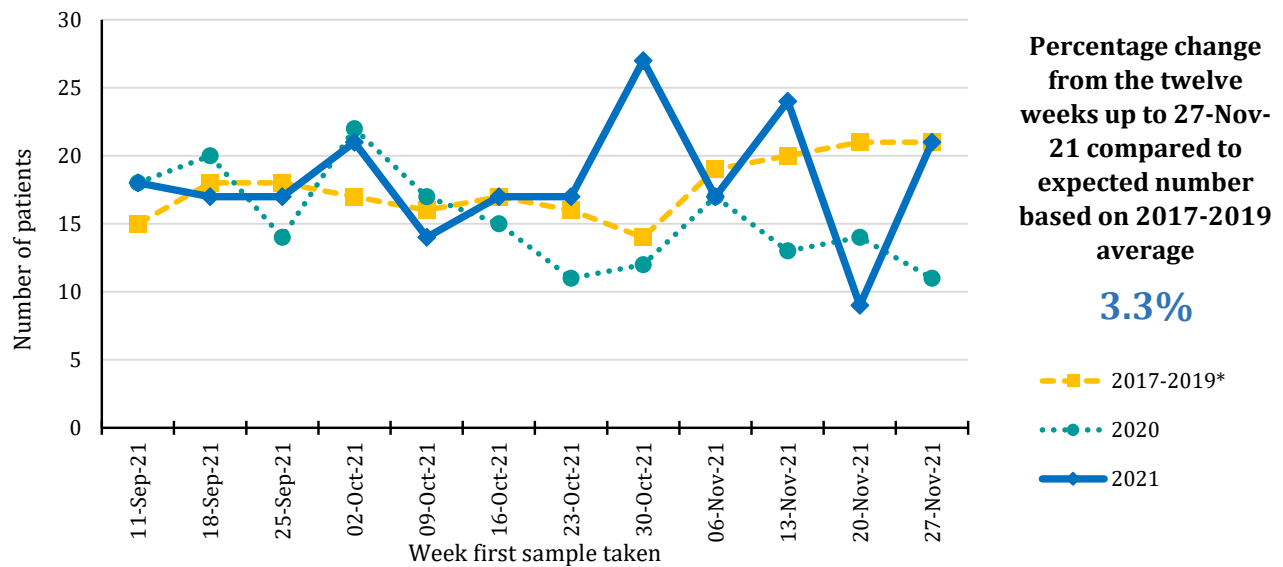## Patients with pathology samples indicating bowel cancer: All persons, screening age (60-74)

Trends in patients with pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

1.0%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	34	28	33	30	34	27	28	32	31	33	40	27
2020	41	31	42	14	17	37	33	18	30	23	28	29
2021	27	42	42	45	35	34	34	33	29	35	35	

Annual average

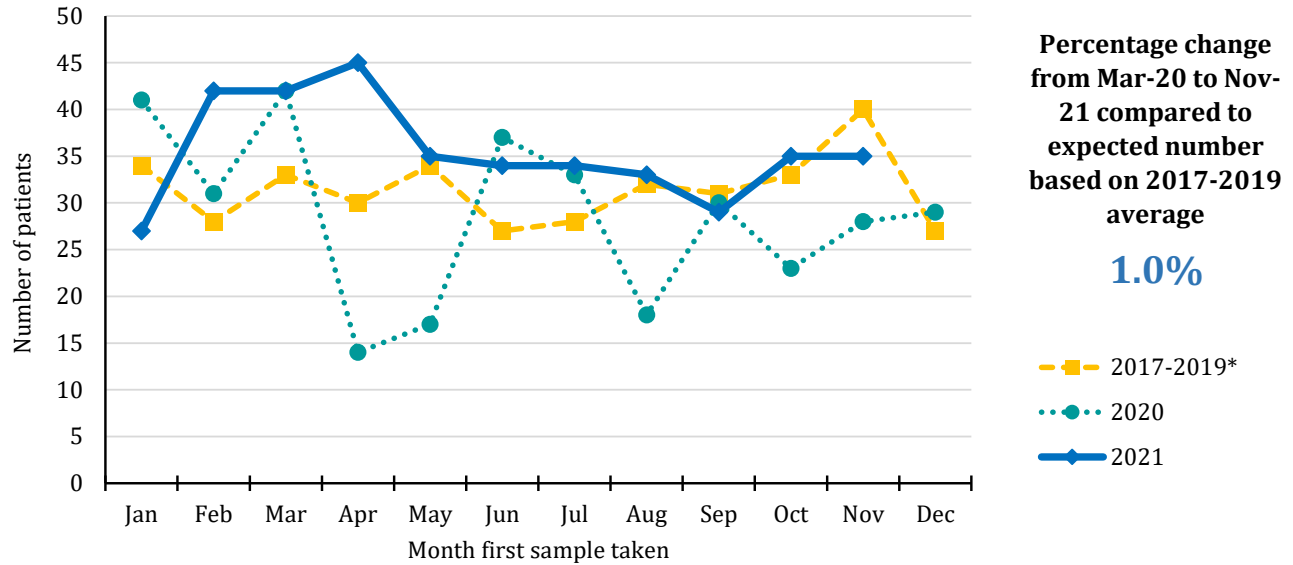**Trends in patients with pathology samples indicating cancer by week and year first sample taken**

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-1.1%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	6	8	7	7	8	6	8	6	9	9	10	10
2020	9	8	4	11	4	8	5	2	6	8	8	4
2021	7	5	10	6	8	6	8	11	4	13	2	13

Annual average

** The date of the end of the week in which the sample was taken in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

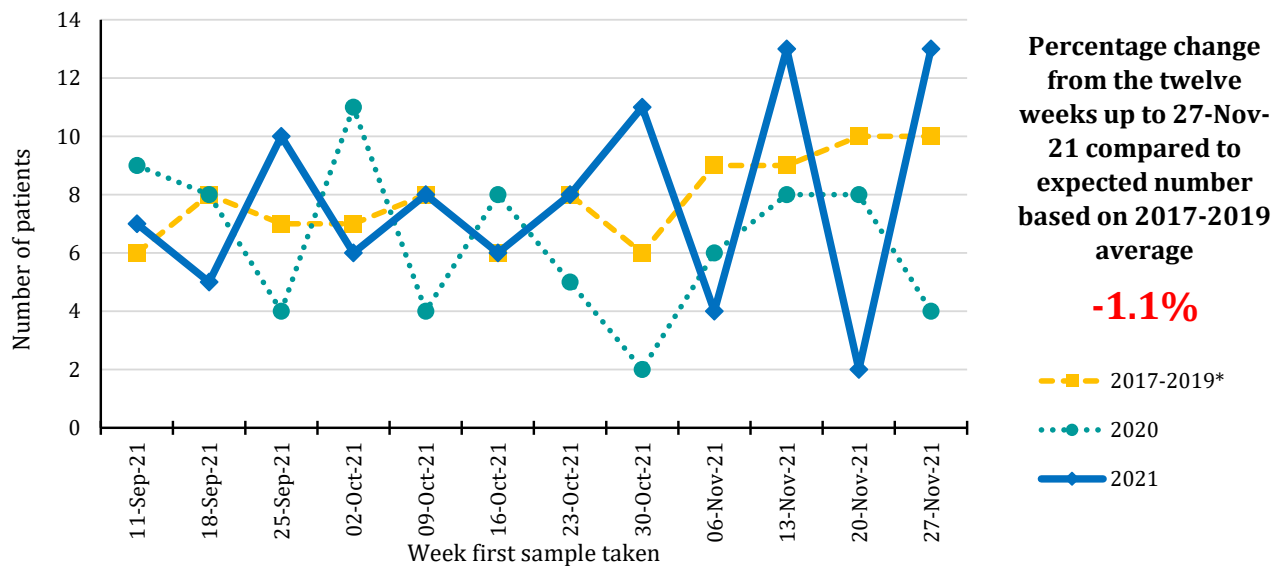## Patients with pathology samples indicating lung cancer: All persons

Trends in patients with pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-18.2%

- — ■ — 2017-2019*
- ⋯ ● ⋯ 2020
- —— 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	51	43	43	44	53	47	51	49	52	52	50	35
2020	56	52	37	22	36	43	39	39	38	34	38	40
2021	26	35	33	42	43	39	41	36	46	40	49	

Annual average

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

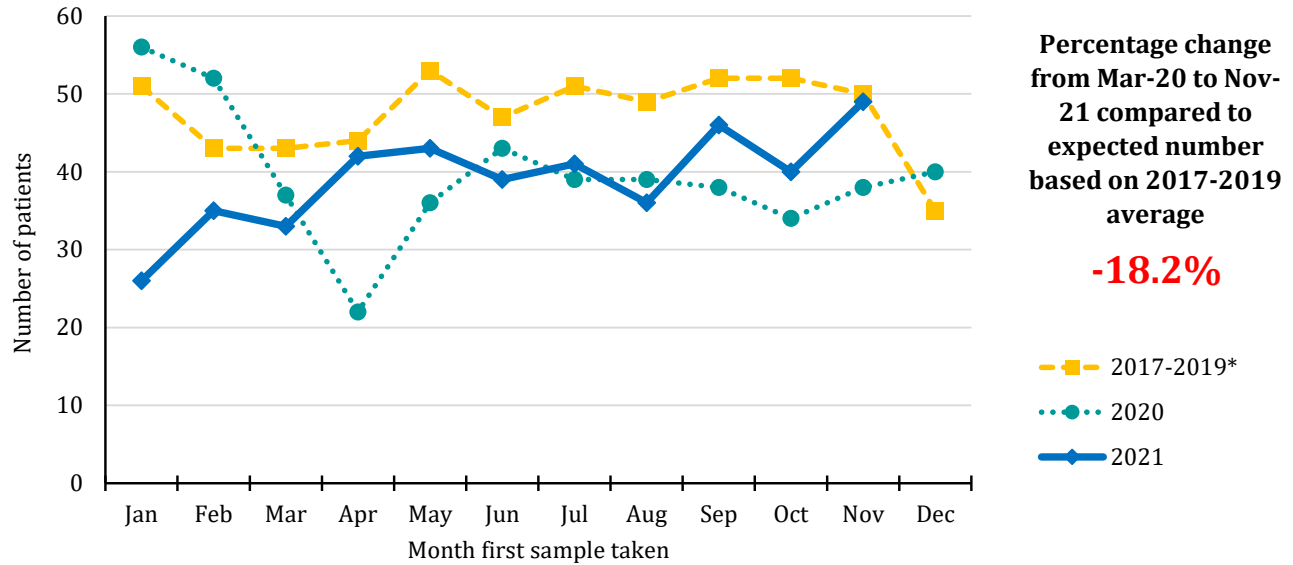**Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average**

-9.8%

- — ■ — 2017-2019*
- ⋯ ● ⋯ 2020
- —— 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	13	14	12	14	14	11	9	9	10	12	14	11
2020	10	5	12	6	8	6	9	10	9	9	8	9
2021	8	11	14	10	18	8	9	5	16	10	11	9

Annual average

** The date of the end of the week in which the sample was taken in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

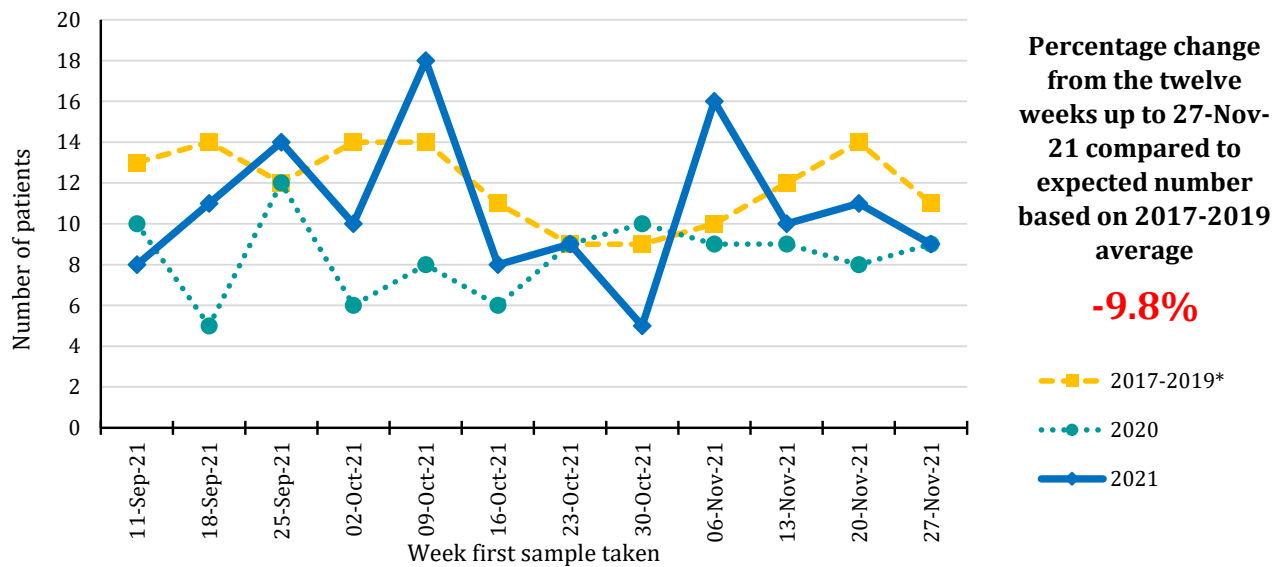## Patients with pathology samples indicating breast cancer: Females

Trends in patients with pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-1.5%

- - ■ - - 2017-2019*
- ● ● ● 2020
- ——◆—— 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	116	94	108	93	120	93	101	103	106	116	101	97
2020	93	102	92	62	58	89	93	104	118	123	107	103
2021	121	97	125	116	122	130	101	89	101	106	110	

Annual average

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

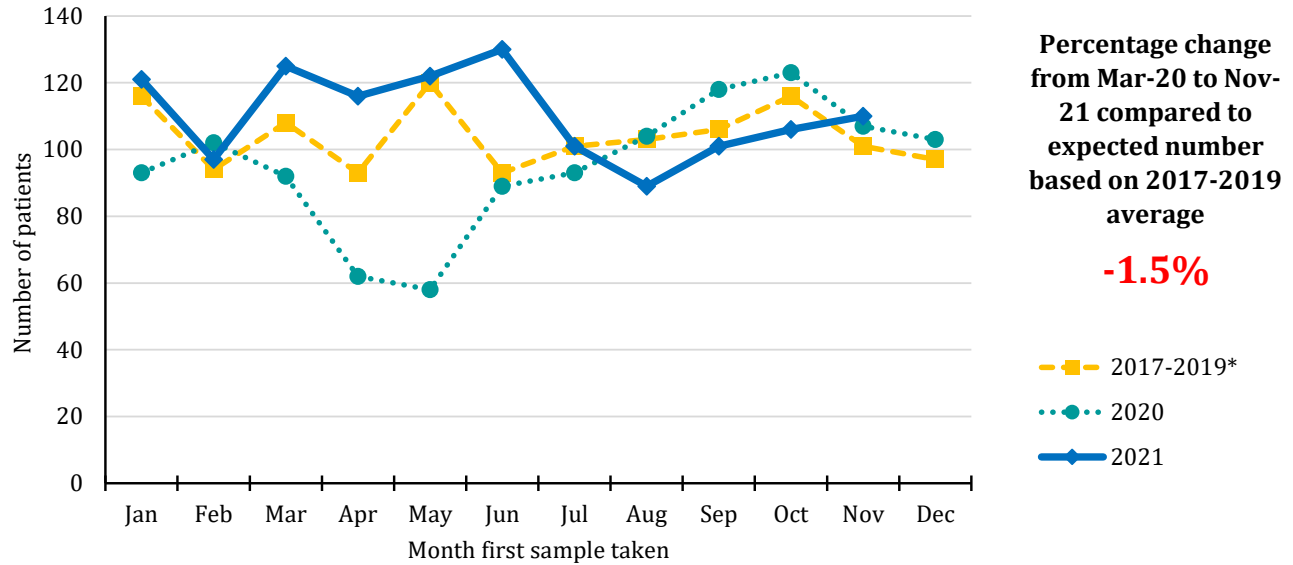**Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average**

0.0%

- - ■ - - 2017-2019*
- ● ● ● 2020
- ——◆—— 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	24	23	27	27	25	24	28	19	26	23	20	26
2020	28	24	29	28	27	29	32	27	24	26	27	26
2021	16	20	26	27	30	23	38	11	26	26	22	27

Annual average

*** The date of the end of the week in which the sample was taken in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.*

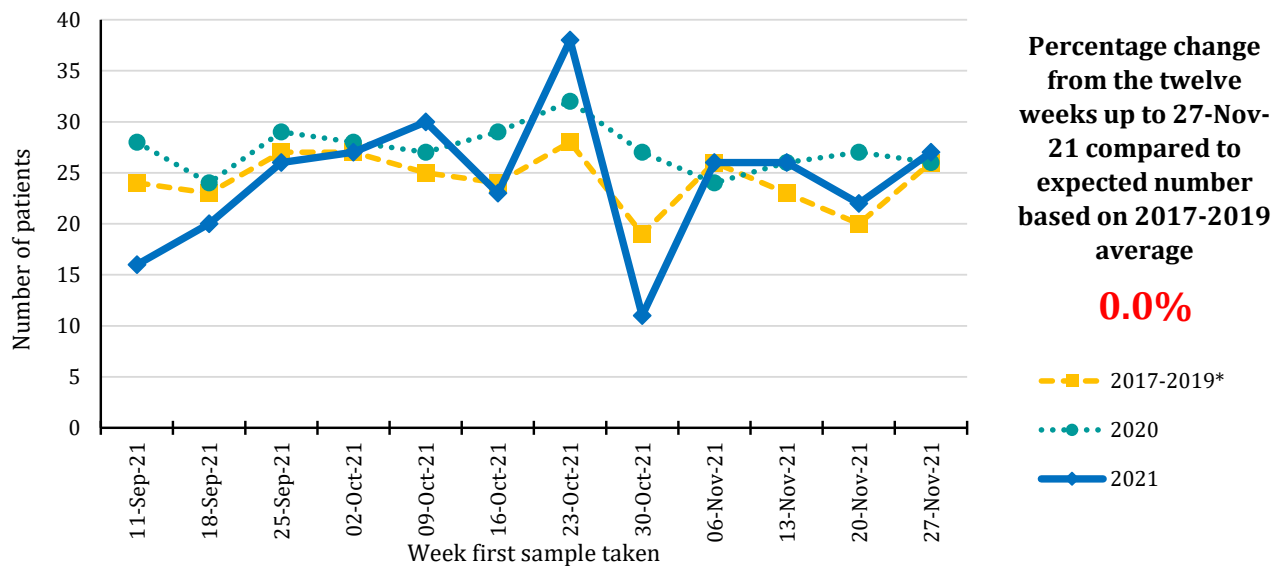## Patients with pathology samples indicating breast cancer: Females, screening age (50-70)

Trends in patients with pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

4.6%

- ■ 2017-2019*
- ● 2020
- ◆ 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	61	50	51	41	57	44	52	54	53	62	48	51
2020	44	44	50	32	22	35	40	58	65	68	65	55
2021	67	61	84	68	66	70	47	45	53	62	51	

Annual average

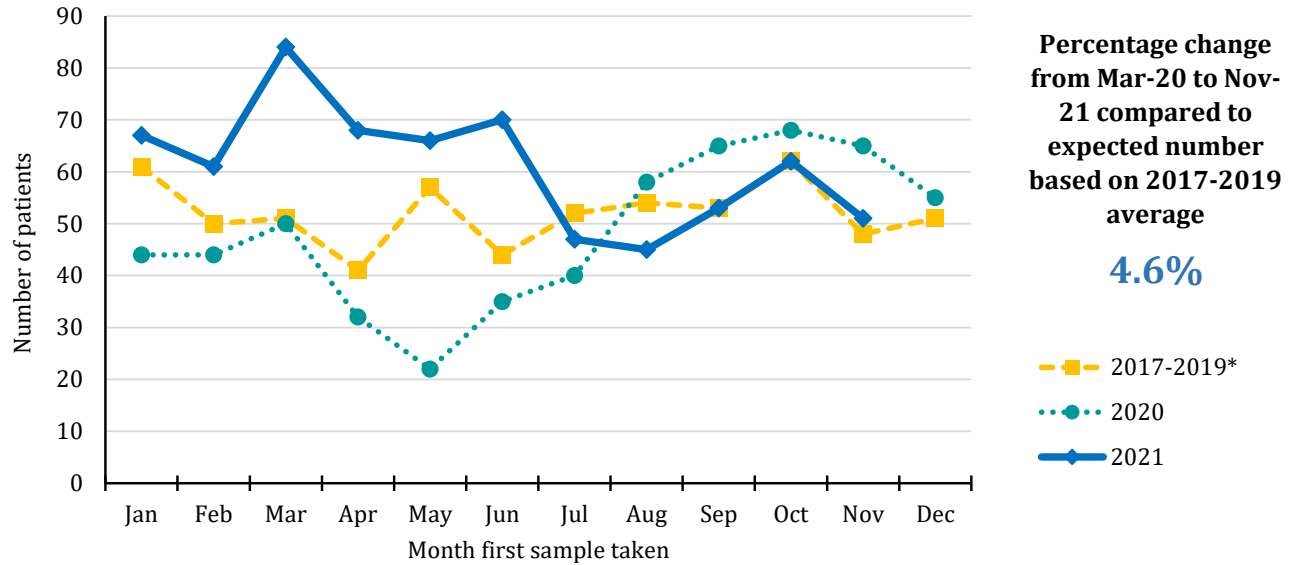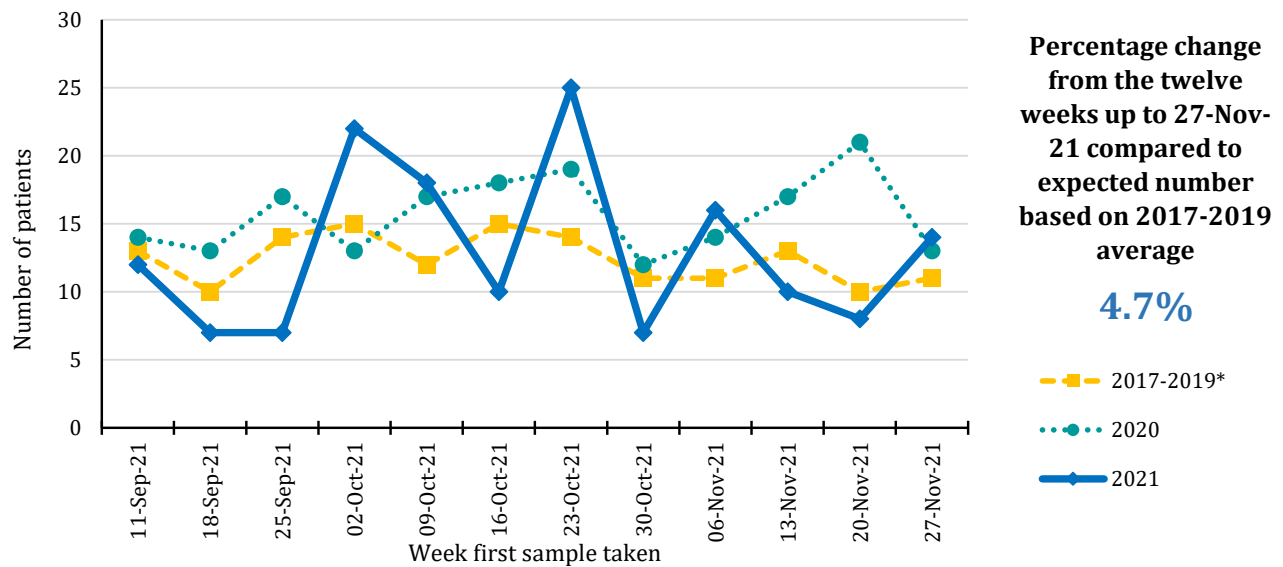**Trends in patients with pathology samples indicating cancer by week and year first sample taken**

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

4.7%

- ■ 2017-2019*
- ● 2020
- ◆ 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	13	10	14	15	12	15	14	11	11	13	10	11
2020	14	13	17	13	17	18	19	12	14	17	21	13
2021	12	7	7	22	18	10	25	7	16	10	8	14

Annual average

*** The date of the end of the week in which the sample was taken in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.*

Patients with pathology samples indicating prostate cancer: Males

Trends in patients with pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-4.4%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	79	59	75	61	89	69	69	60	58	88	75	53
2020	75	62	67	40	78	67	37	39	46	53	137	79
2021	42	51	118	63	70	88	39	57	86	60	92	

Annual average

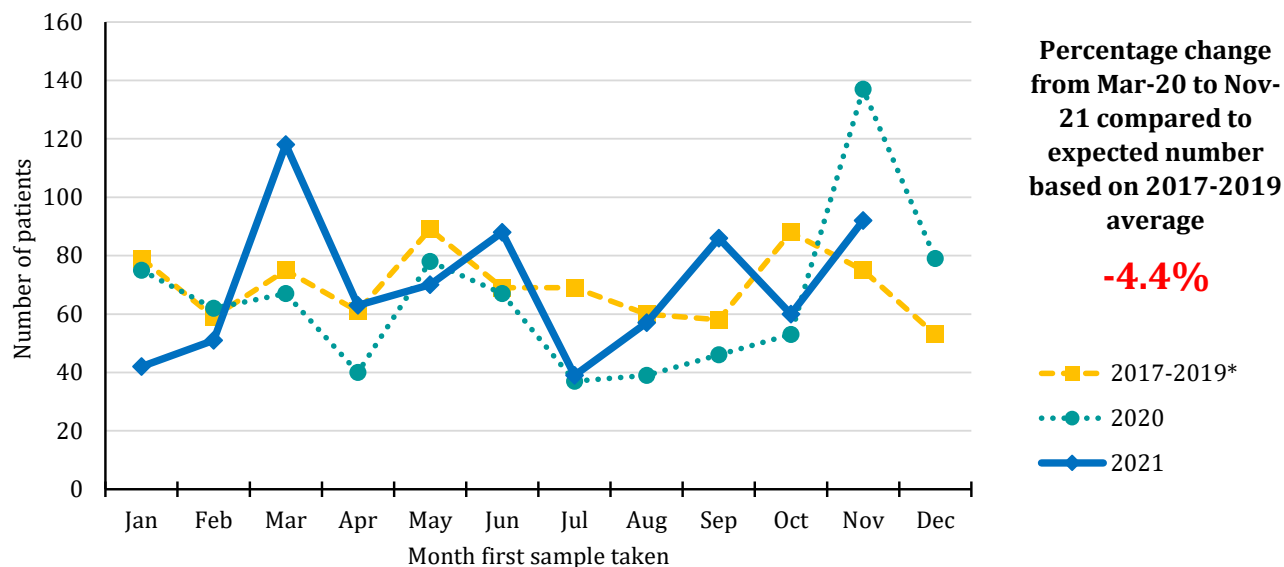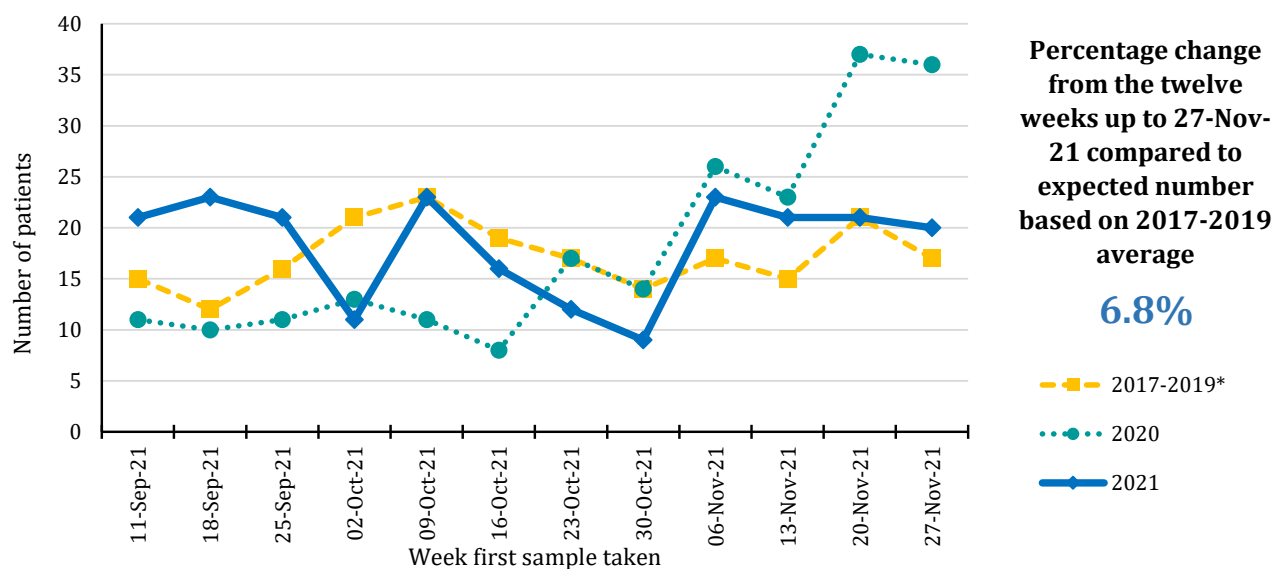**Trends in patients with pathology samples indicating cancer by week and year first sample taken**

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

6.8%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	15	12	16	21	23	19	17	14	17	15	21	17
2020	11	10	11	13	11	8	17	14	26	23	37	36
2021	21	23	21	11	23	16	12	9	23	21	21	20

Annual average

** The date of the end of the week in which the sample was taken in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

Patients with pathology samples indicating gynaecological cancer: Females

Trends in patients with pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-14.5%

Legend:
- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	58	49	58	48	60	60	55	56	56	58	50	49
2020	60	43	42	32	38	41	42	38	54	59	53	48
2021	31	42	51	40	38	54	50	64	52	47	62	

Annual average

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

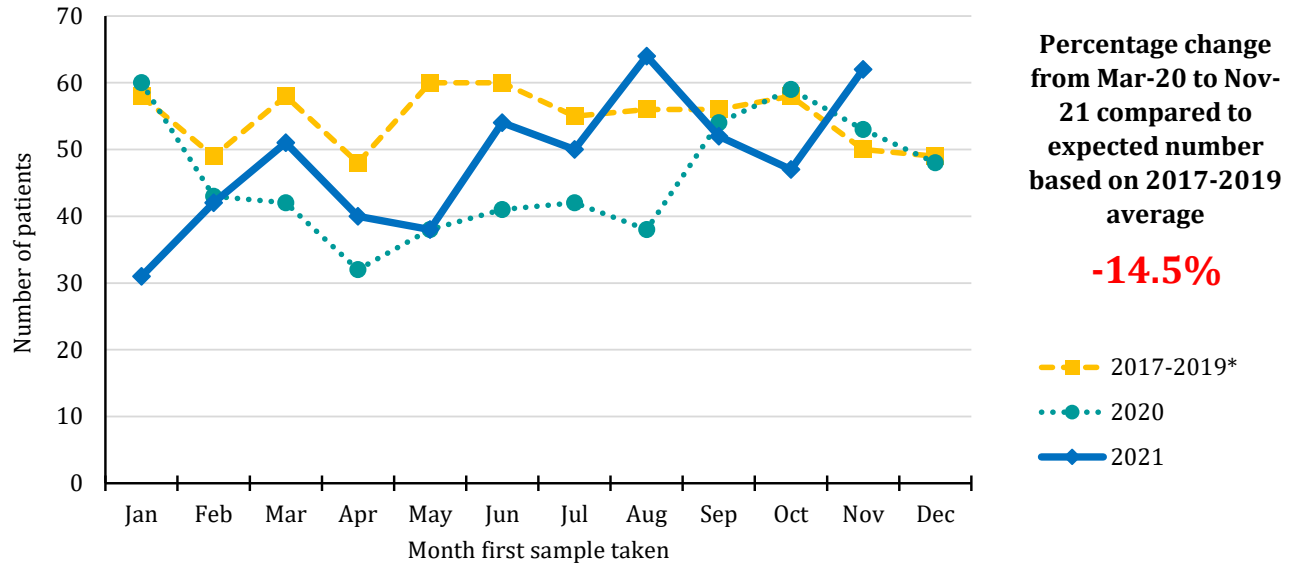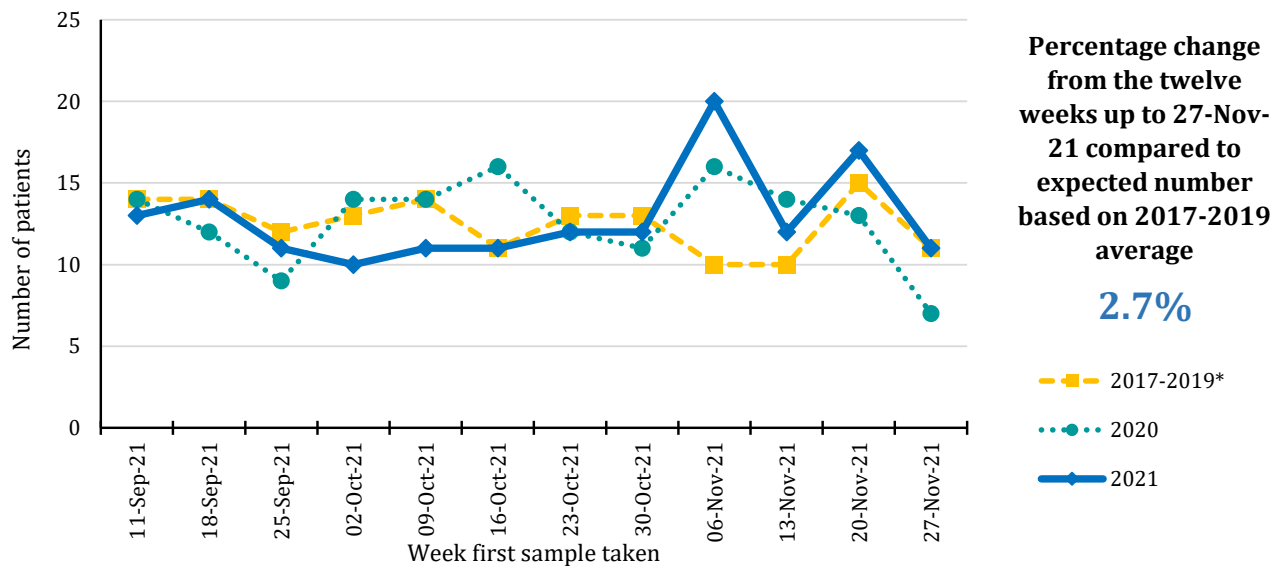**Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average**

2.7%

Legend:
- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	14	14	12	13	14	11	13	13	10	10	15	11
2020	14	12	9	14	14	16	12	11	16	14	13	7
2021	13	14	11	10	11	11	12	12	20	12	17	11

Annual average

*** The date of the end of the week in which the sample was taken in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.*

Patients with pathology samples indicating upper gastrointestinal cancer: All persons

Trends in patients with pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-2.2%

- - ■ - - 2017-2019*
- ⋯●⋯ 2020
- —◆— 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	31	24	29	28	26	28	30	29	32	27	28	23
2020	42	28	22	14	17	27	22	19	30	31	28	29
2021	18	24	35	28	23	36	37	20	34	36	33	

Annual average

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

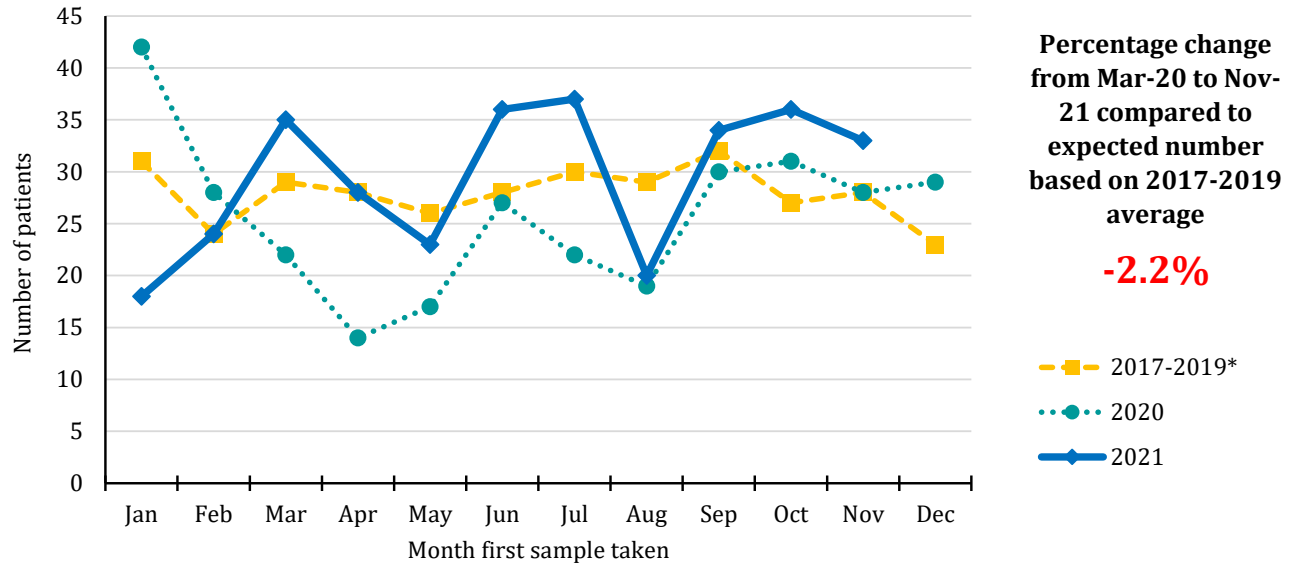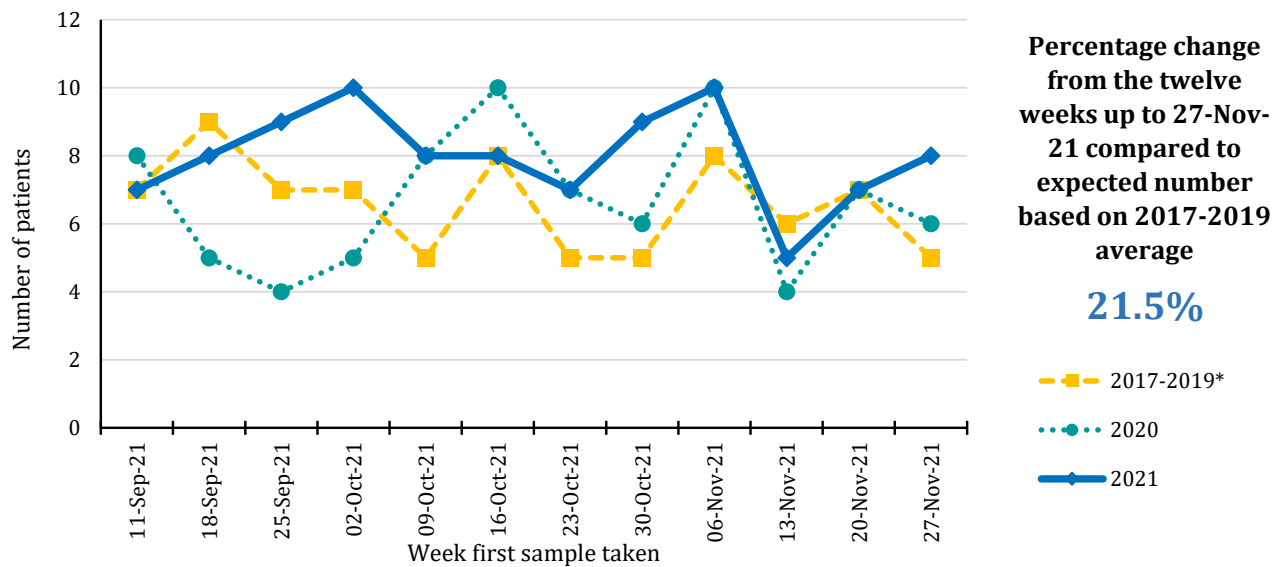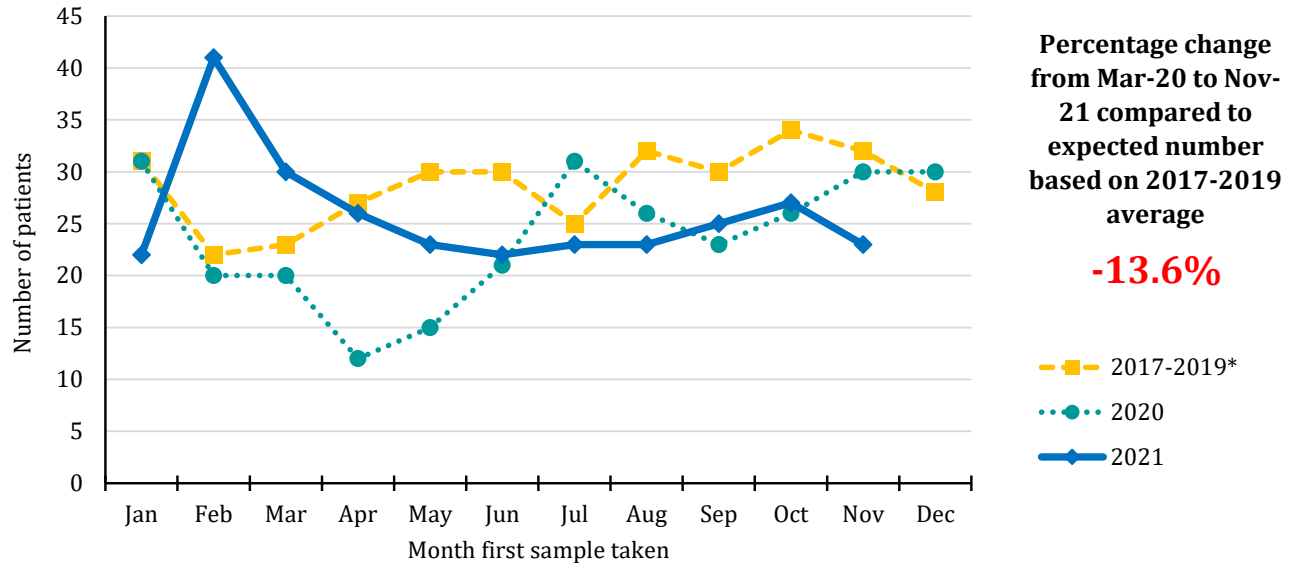**Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average**

21.5%

- - ■ - - 2017-2019*
- ⋯●⋯ 2020
- —◆— 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	7	9	7	7	5	8	5	5	8	6	7	5
2020	8	5	4	5	8	10	7	6	10	4	7	6
2021	7	8	9	10	8	8	7	9	10	5	7	8

Annual average

** The date of the end of the week in which the sample was taken in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.*

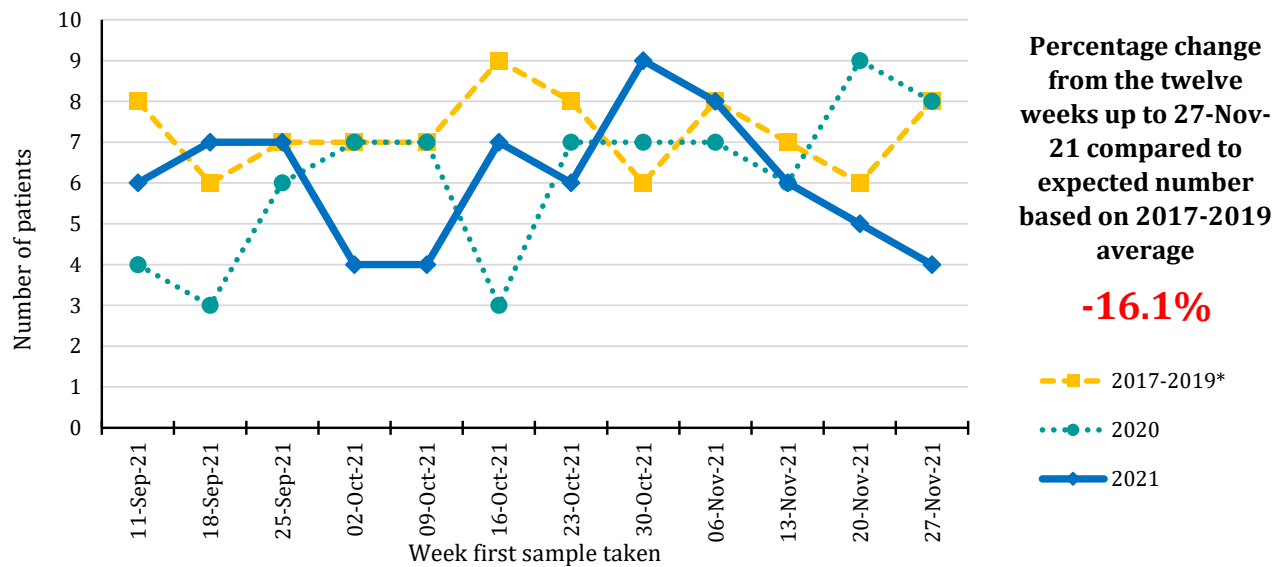## Patients with pathology samples indicating head & neck cancer: All persons

Trends in patients with pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-13.6%

--- 2017-2019*

···●··· 2020

—◆— 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	31	22	23	27	30	30	25	32	30	34	32	28
2020	31	20	20	12	15	21	31	26	23	26	30	30
2021	22	41	30	26	23	22	23	23	25	27	23	

Annual average

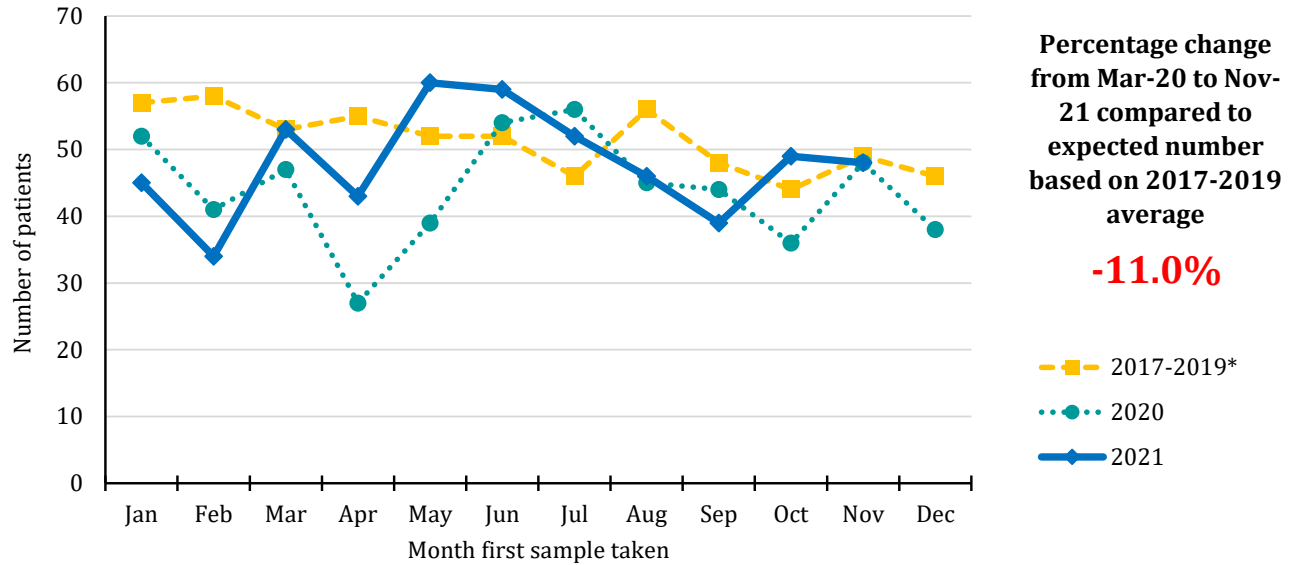**Trends in patients with pathology samples indicating cancer by week and year first sample taken**

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-16.1%

--- 2017-2019*

···●··· 2020

—◆— 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	8	6	7	7	7	9	8	6	8	7	6	8
2020	4	3	6	7	7	3	7	7	7	6	9	8
2021	6	7	7	4	4	7	6	9	8	6	5	4

Annual average

*** The date of the end of the week in which the sample was taken in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.*

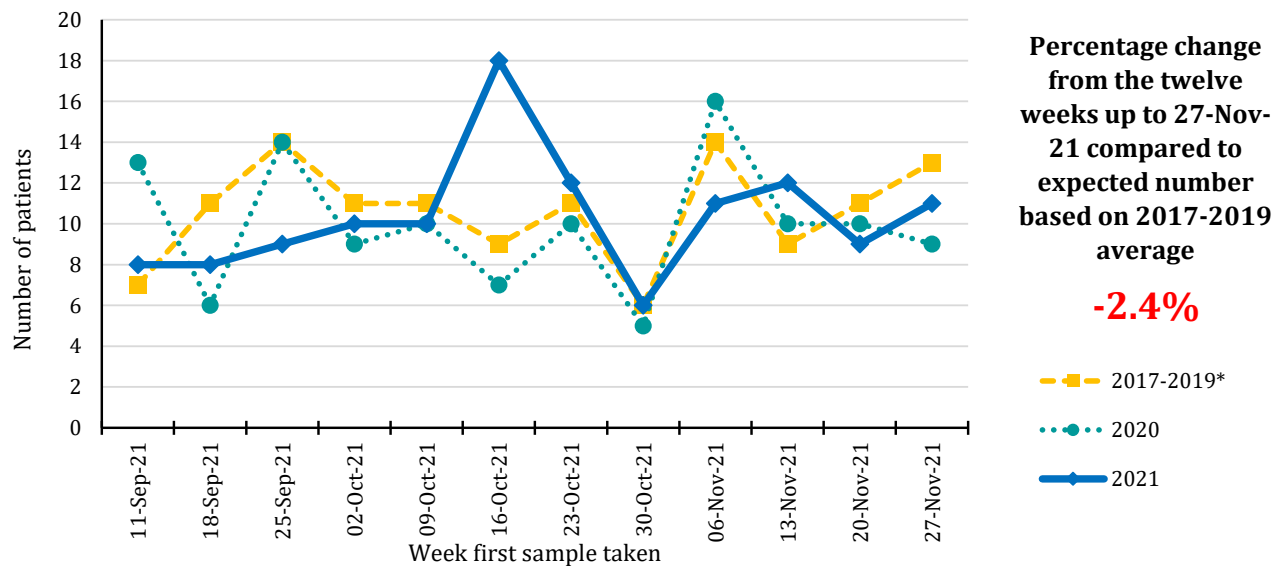## Patients with pathology samples indicating urinary cancer: All persons

Trends in patients with pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-11.0%

- — ■ — 2017-2019*
- ······● 2020
- —◆— 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	57	58	53	55	52	52	46	56	48	44	49	46
2020	52	41	47	27	39	54	56	45	44	36	48	38
2021	45	34	53	43	60	59	52	46	39	49	48	

*Annual average

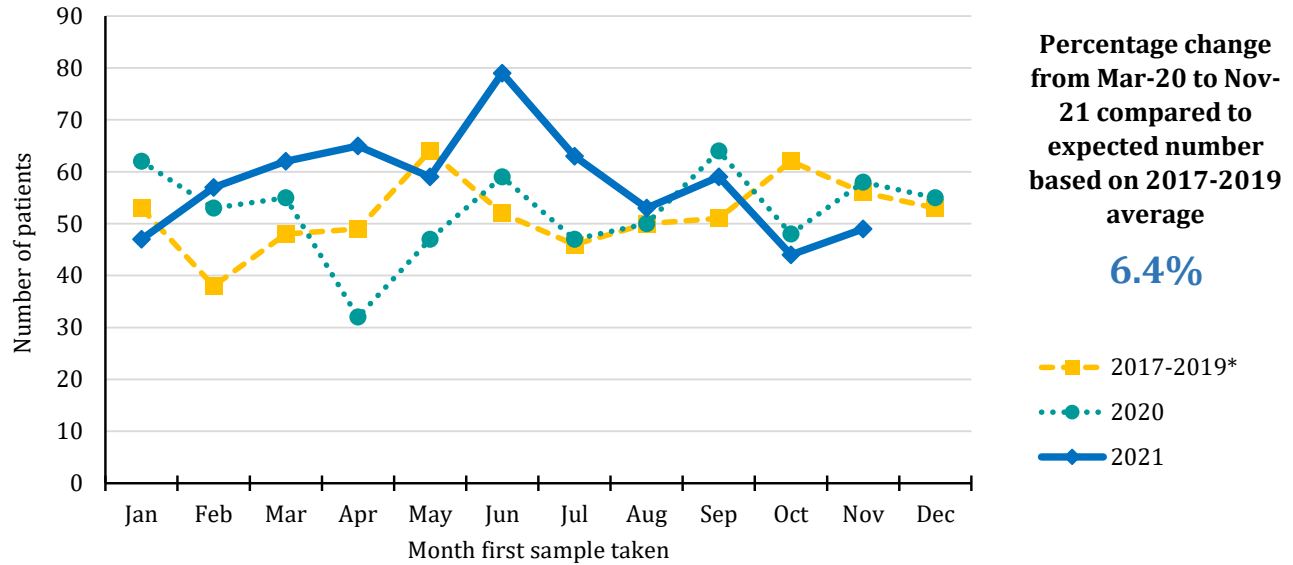**Trends in patients with pathology samples indicating cancer by week and year first sample taken**

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-2.4%

- — ■ — 2017-2019*
- ······● 2020
- —◆— 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	7	11	14	11	11	9	11	6	14	9	11	13
2020	13	6	14	9	10	7	10	5	16	10	10	9
2021	8	8	9	10	10	18	12	6	11	12	9	11

*Annual average

** The date of the end of the week in which the sample was taken in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

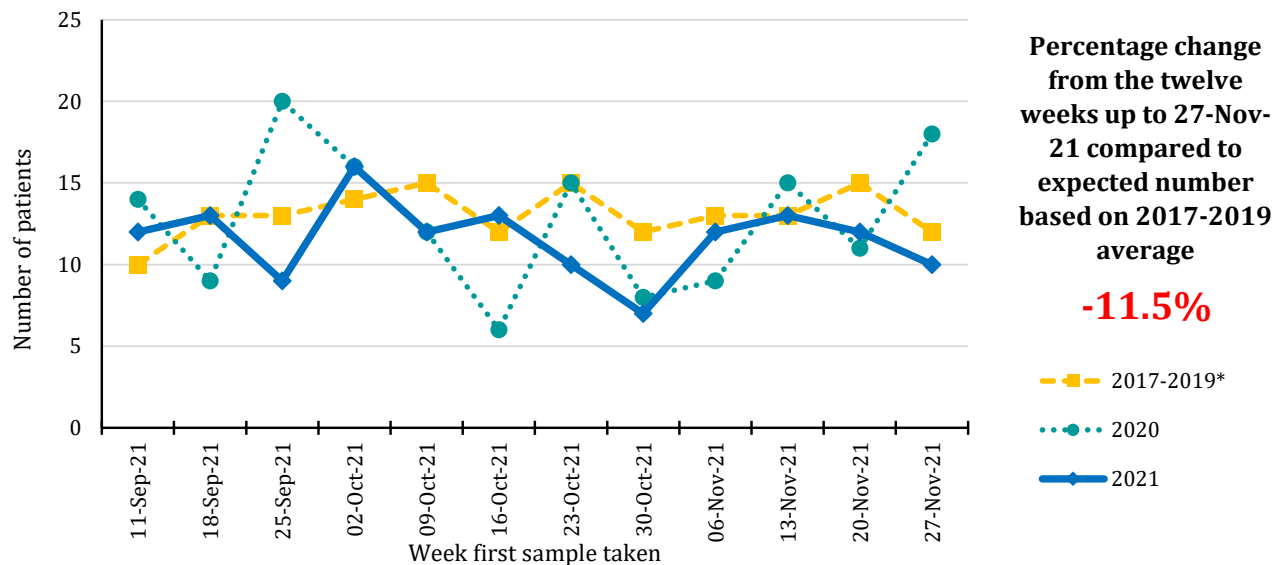## Patients with pathology samples indicating haematological cancer: All persons

Trends in patients with pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

6.4%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	53	38	48	49	64	52	46	50	51	62	56	53
2020	62	53	55	32	47	59	47	50	64	48	58	55
2021	47	57	62	65	59	79	63	53	59	44	49	

*Annual average

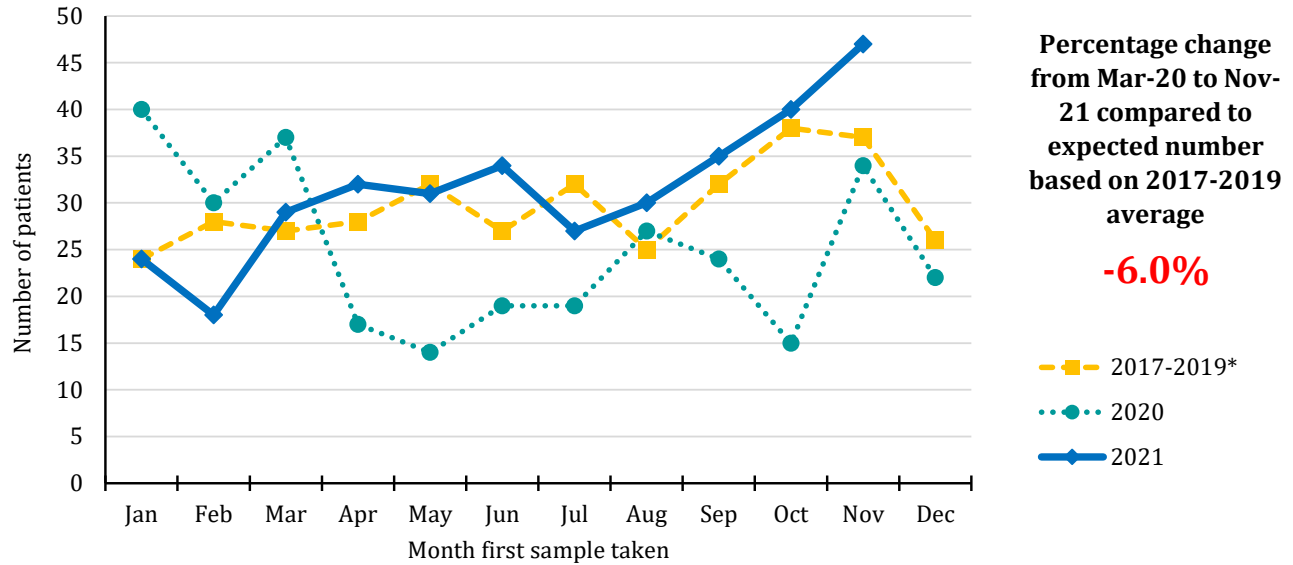**Trends in patients with pathology samples indicating cancer by week and year first sample taken**

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-11.5%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	10	13	13	14	15	12	15	12	13	13	15	12
2020	14	9	20	16	12	6	15	8	9	15	11	18
2021	12	13	9	16	12	13	10	7	12	13	12	10

*Annual average

** The date of the end of the week in which the sample was taken in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

Trends in patients with pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-6.0%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	24	28	27	28	32	27	32	25	32	38	37	26
2020	40	30	37	17	14	19	19	27	24	15	34	22
2021	24	18	29	32	31	34	27	30	35	40	47	

Annual average

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

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

10.0%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	6	9	8	9	11	10	7	6	7	12	8	7
2020	7	4	6	4	4	3	4	3	10	7	8	8
2021	7	8	4	10	5	12	10	11	8	14	11	10

Annual average

** The date of the end of the week in which the sample was taken in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

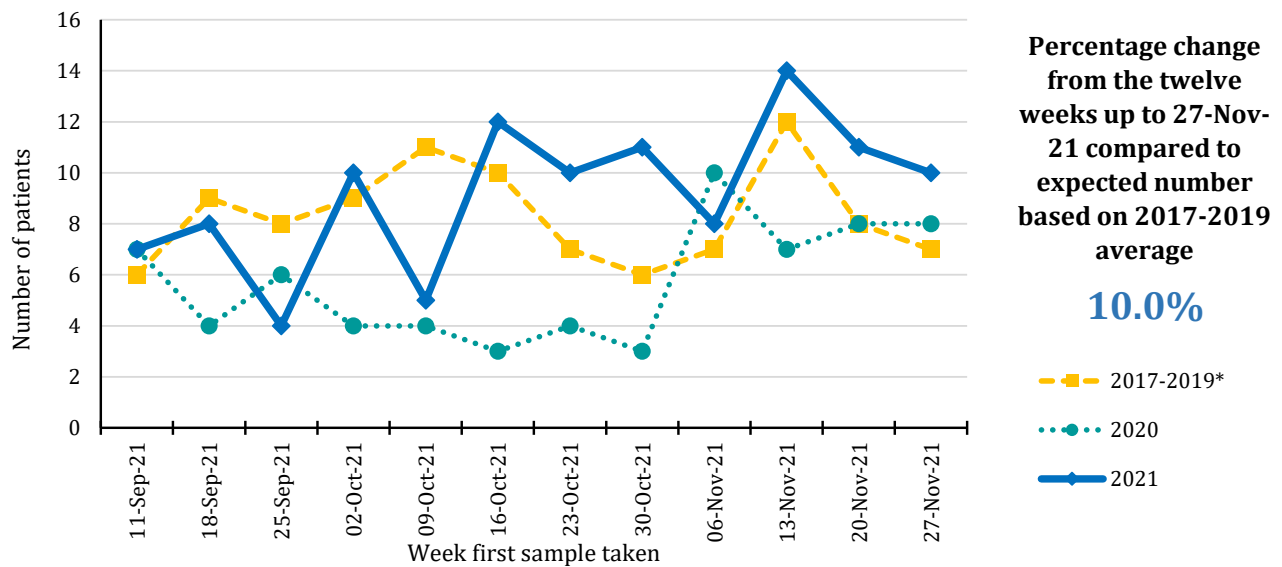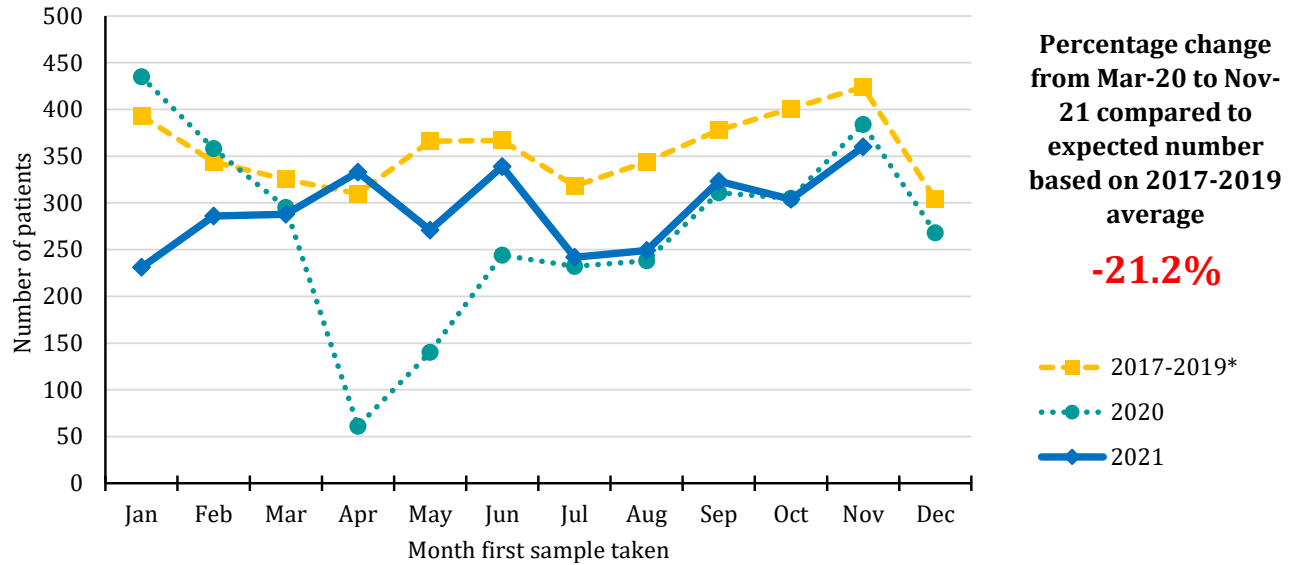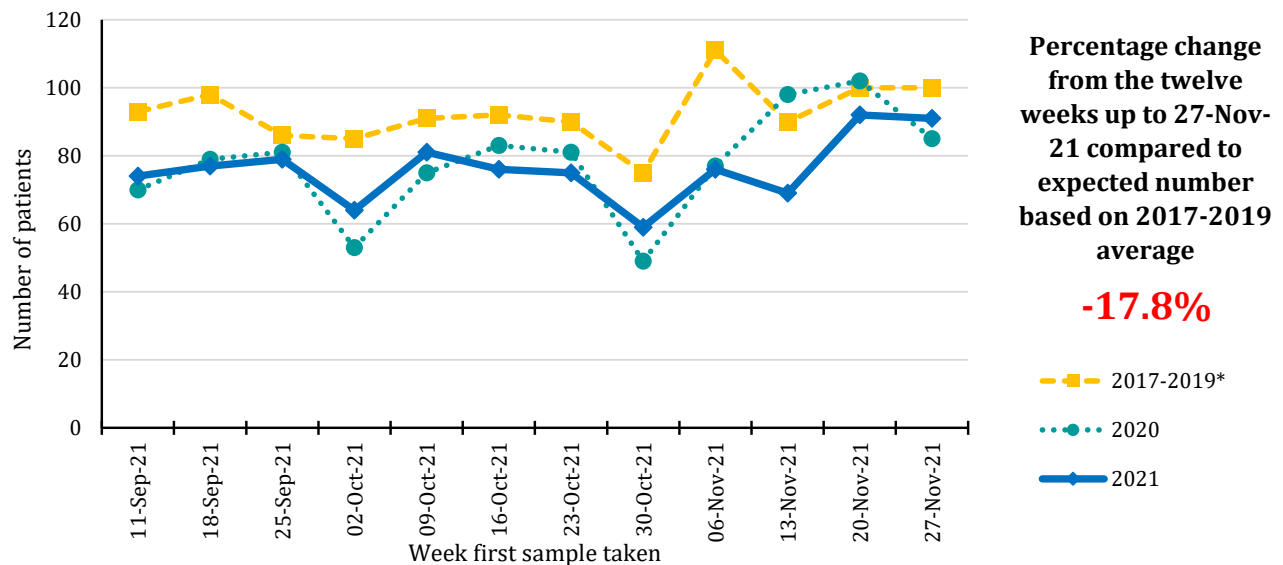**Patients with pathology samples indicating non-melanoma skin cancer: All persons**

Trends in patients with pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-21.2%

- - ■ - - 2017-2019*
······●······ 2020
——◆—— 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	393	344	325	310	366	367	318	344	378	401	424	304
2020	435	358	295	61	140	244	232	238	311	305	384	268
2021	231	286	288	333	271	339	242	249	323	304	360	

Annual average

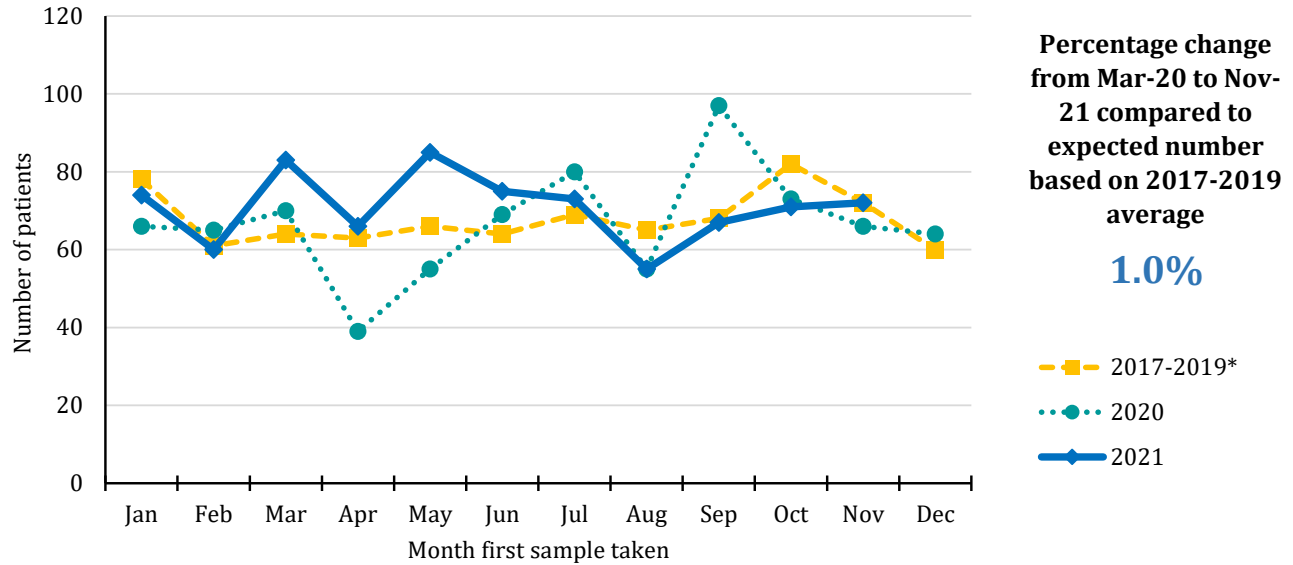**Trends in patients with pathology samples indicating cancer by week and year first sample taken**

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-17.8%

- - ■ - - 2017-2019*
······●······ 2020
——◆—— 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	93	98	86	85	91	92	90	75	111	90	100	100
2020	70	79	81	53	75	83	81	49	77	98	102	85
2021	74	77	79	64	81	76	75	59	76	69	92	91

Annual average

** The date of the end of the week in which the sample was taken in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

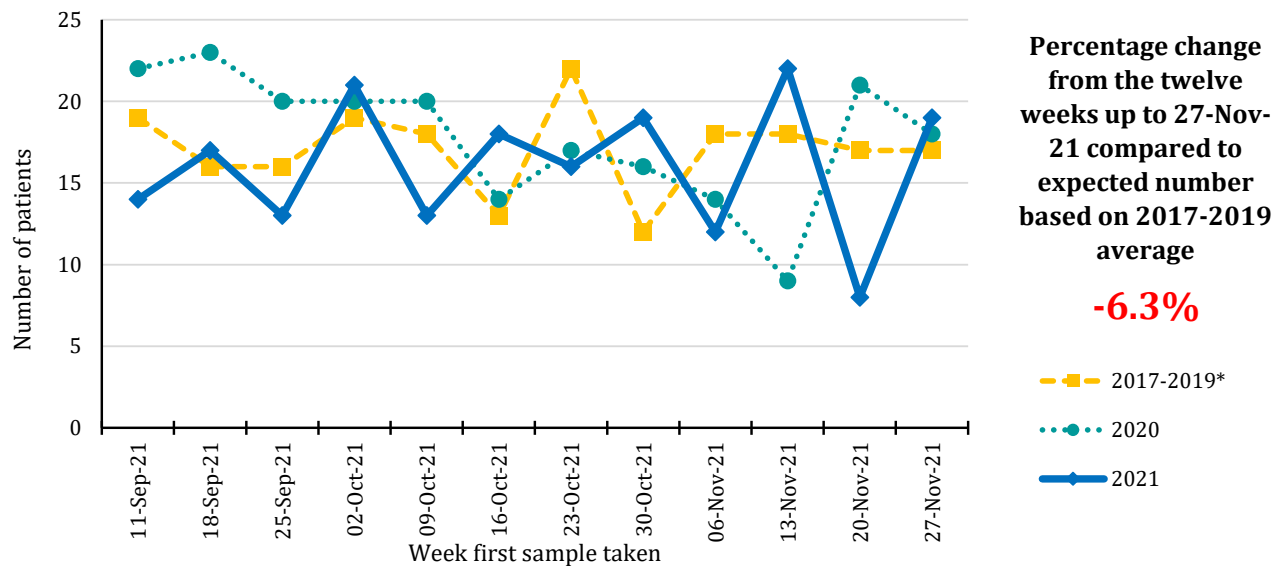## Patients with pathology samples indicating other cancer: All persons

Trends in patients with pathology samples indicating cancer by month and year first sample taken

Percentage change from Mar-20 to Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

1.0%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Month sample taken											
	Jan	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2017-2019*	78	61	64	63	66	64	69	65	68	82	72	60
2020	66	65	70	39	55	69	80	55	97	73	66	64
2021	74	60	83	66	85	75	73	55	67	71	72	

Annual average

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

Percentage change from the twelve weeks up to 27-Nov-21 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-6.3%

- 2017-2019*
- 2020
- 2021

Year sample taken	Week sample taken**											
	11-Sep-21	**18-Sep-21**	**25-Sep-21**	**02-Oct-21**	**09-Oct-21**	**16-Oct-21**	**23-Oct-21**	**30-Oct-21**	**06-Nov-21**	**13-Nov-21**	**20-Nov-21**	**27-Nov-21**
2017-2019*	19	16	16	19	18	13	22	12	18	18	17	17
2020	22	23	20	20	20	14	17	16	14	9	21	18
2021	14	17	13	21	13	18	16	19	12	22	8	19

Annual average

** The date of the end of the week in which the sample was taken in 2021. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

Notes:

1. NMSC: Non-melanoma skin cancer

2. Data is sourced from three of the four NHS pathology laboratories in Northern Ireland (Antrim, Belfast, Craigavon), which is provided to the NI Cancer Registry on a monthly basis. It does not include information on pathology samples processed by private laboratories.

3. Figures represent the number of patients with pathology samples that indicated a malignant tumour and had this result coded and recorded by the end of Nov-21. Due to potential reporting delays, pathology data from the month following Nov-21 are used in compiling the presented results.

4. Assignment of week number is based upon a Sunday to Saturday week. The week ending label used in graphs and tables is based upon the date of the end of the week (a Saturday) in 2020/2021. This is compared with the equivalent Sunday-Saturday week in 2017-2019, although the actual date ending this week in 2017-2019 will differ.

5. Individual patients with cancer may have more than one pathology sample. A diagnosis of cancer may be a result of more than one procedure indicating cancer, for example a breast cancer diagnosis may be based upon a positive biopsy of the breast and then a separate positive dissection of a lymph node. Patients are thus only included once per cancer type unless they have had pathology samples separated by more than two years, thus a patient with samples in March and April of 2019 will be counted once (in the March 2019 count), while a patient with samples in April 2017 and May 2020 will be counted in both the April 2017 and May 2020 counts.

6. Cancer types are defined as follows:

> **Bowel cancer:** Includes colon, rectum and rectosigmoid junction (ICD10 codes: C18-C20)
> **Lung cancer:** Includes lung and trachea (ICD10 codes: C33-C34)
> **Breast cancer:** Includes female breast only (ICD10 codes: C50)
> **Prostate cancer:** (ICD10 codes: C61)
> **Gynaecological cancer:** Includes uterus, ovary, cervix, vulva, vagina, placenta and other female genital (ICD10 codes: C51-C58)
> **Upper GI cancer:** Includes oesophagus and stomach (ICD10 codes: C15, C16).
> **Head and neck cancer:** Includes lip, tongue, mouth, parotid & salivary glands, tonsil, oropharynx, nasopharynx, pyriform sinus, hypopharynx, nasal cavity, middle ear, sinuses and larynx (ICD10 codes: C00-C14, C30-C32)
> **Urinary cancer:** Includes kidney, renal pelvis, ureter, bladder and other urinary (ICD10 codes: C64-C68).
> **Haematological cancer:** Includes lymphoma (all types), leukaemia (all types), myeloma, malignant immunoproliferative disease and other lymphoid and haematopoietic (ICD10 codes: C81-C96)
> **Melanoma:** (ICD10 code: C43)
> **Non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC):** (ICD10 code: C44)
> **Other cancer:** Includes cancers of small intestine, anus, liver, gallbladder, thymus, bone, mesothelioma, soft tissue, penis, testis, eye, brain, endocrine system and thyroid (ICD10 codes: C16, C21-C26, C37-C41, C45-C49, C60, C62, C63, C69-C75). Excludes cancer of unknown primary."

Acknowledgements

Further Information

Further data is available at: **www.qub.ac.uk/nicr**
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e-mail: nicr@qub.ac.uk