Recent trends in the number of patients with pathology samples indicating cancer in Northern Ireland

Dec 2023 update

CONTENTS

SUMMARY

Recent trends in the number of patients with pathology samples indicating cancer: Dec 2023

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 March 2020 to Dec 2023 in Northern Ireland.

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.

Data are sourced from the four NHS pathology laboratories in NI (Belfast, Altnagelvin, Antrim, Craigavon), which are usually provided to NICR on a monthly basis. **Altnagelvin laboratory is excluded from some analysis as a change in recording systems led to an undercount in the number of reported samples in Jan-Apr 2021.**

CHANGE IN THE NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 _(Excludes Altnagelvin)_

From March 2020 to Dec 2023 the number of patients with a pathological sample indicating cancer (ex NMSC) was 1.6% lower than the average number for the same time period in 2017-2019.
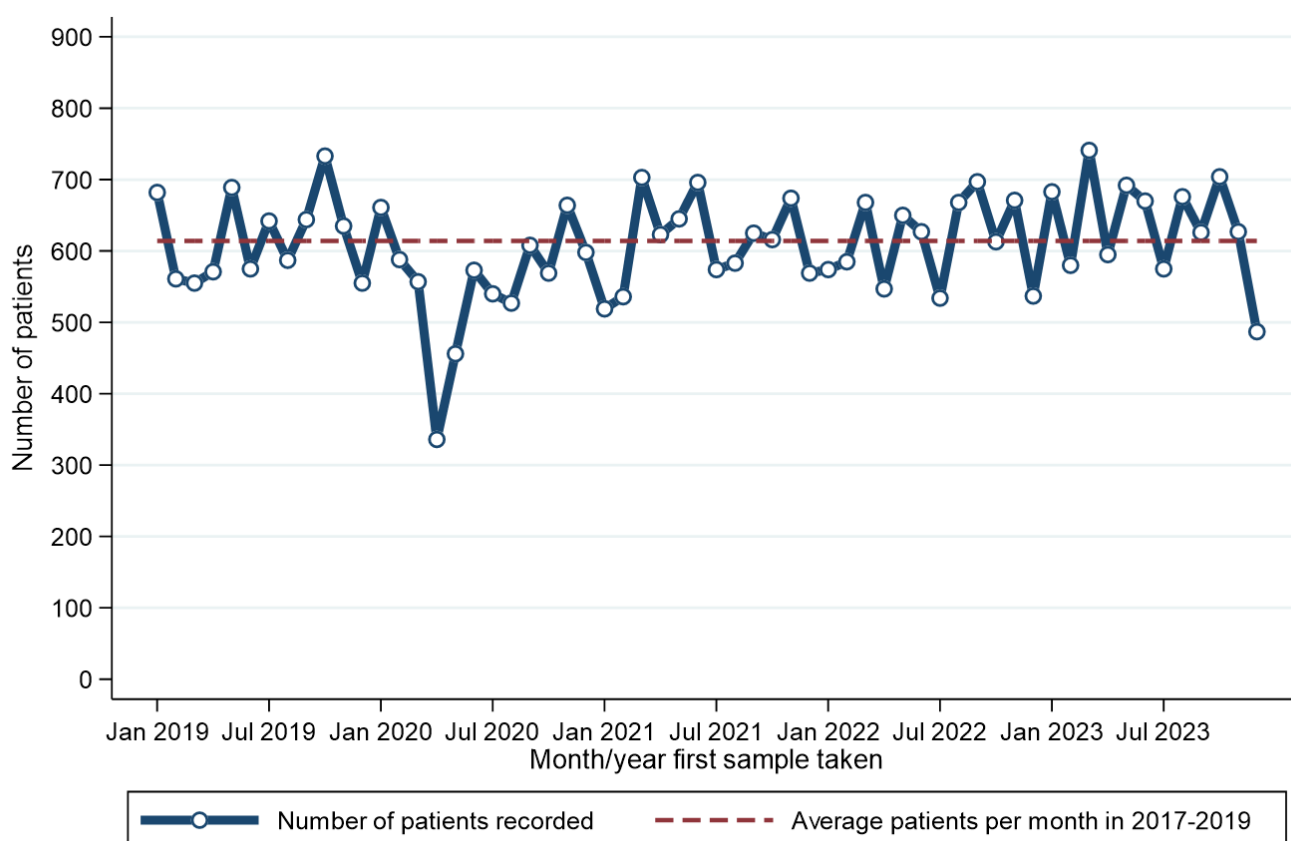
From March 2020 to Dec 2023 there was a 1.5% decrease among males and a 1.6% decrease among females compared to the same time period in 2017-2019. A decrease of 2.6% occurred in the number of patients aged 0-69 years, while there was a decrease of 0.1% among those aged 70 and older.
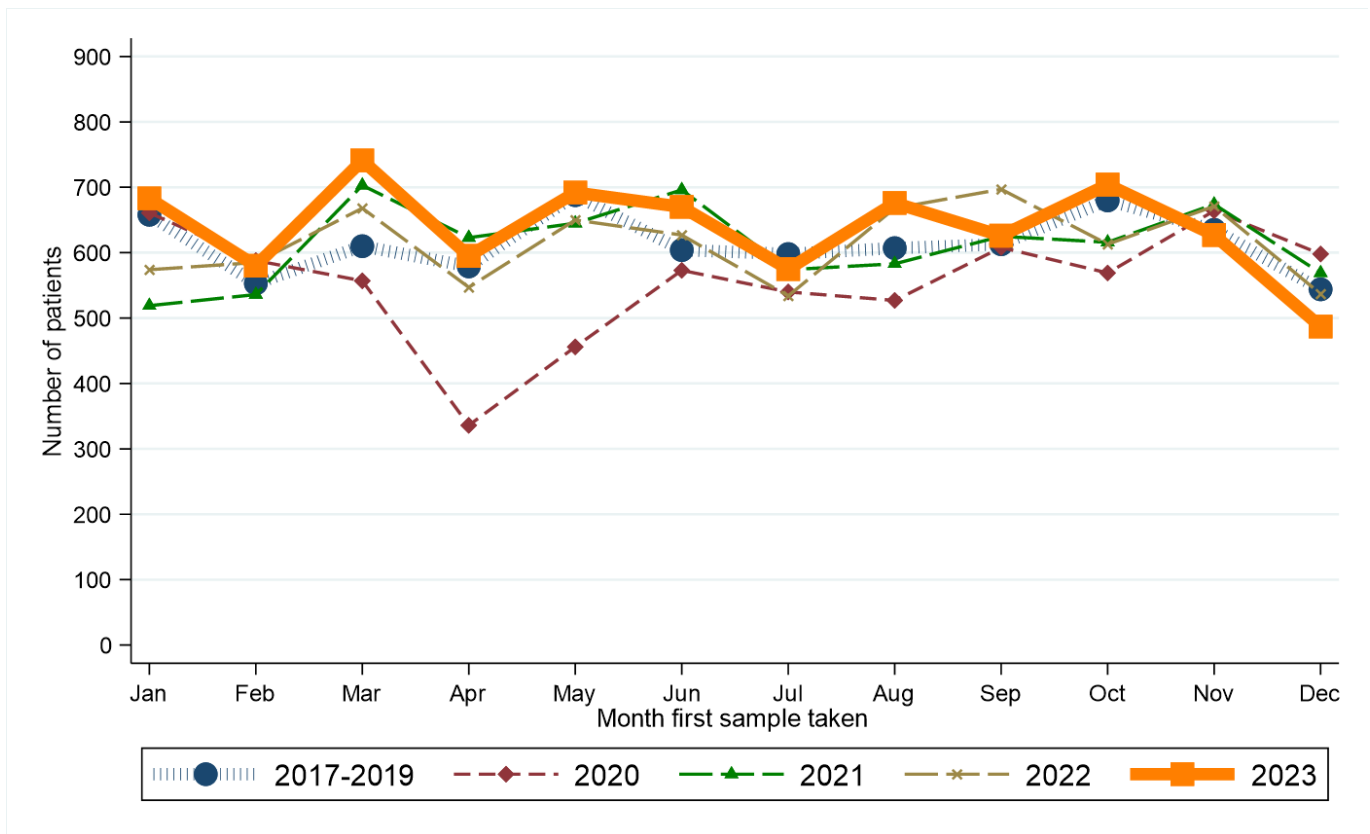
Compared to the annual average in 2017-2019, from March 2020 to Dec 2023 the number of patients with a pathology sample indicating lung cancer decreased by 17.1%. Increases were recorded for bowel cancer, female breast cancer, prostate cancer, haematological cancer and melanoma, while decreases of more than 10% were recorded for gynaecological cancer, urinary cancer and non-melanoma skin cancer.

⑵ **Recent trends in the number of patients with pathology samples indicating cancer - Dec 2023**
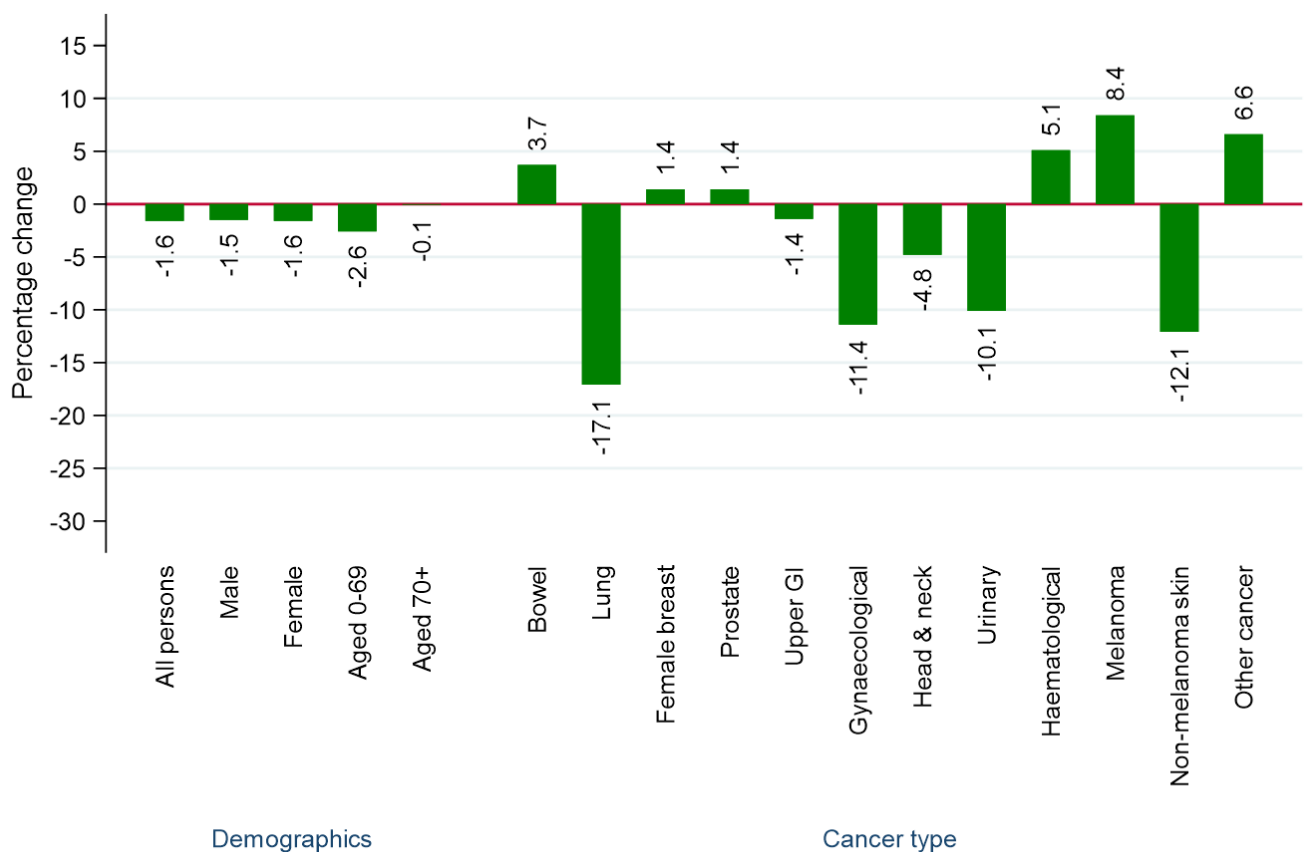
There was a 1.7% increase in the number of patients with a pathology sample indicating cancer in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to the average value in the equivalent weeks in 2017-2019.

Note: Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years
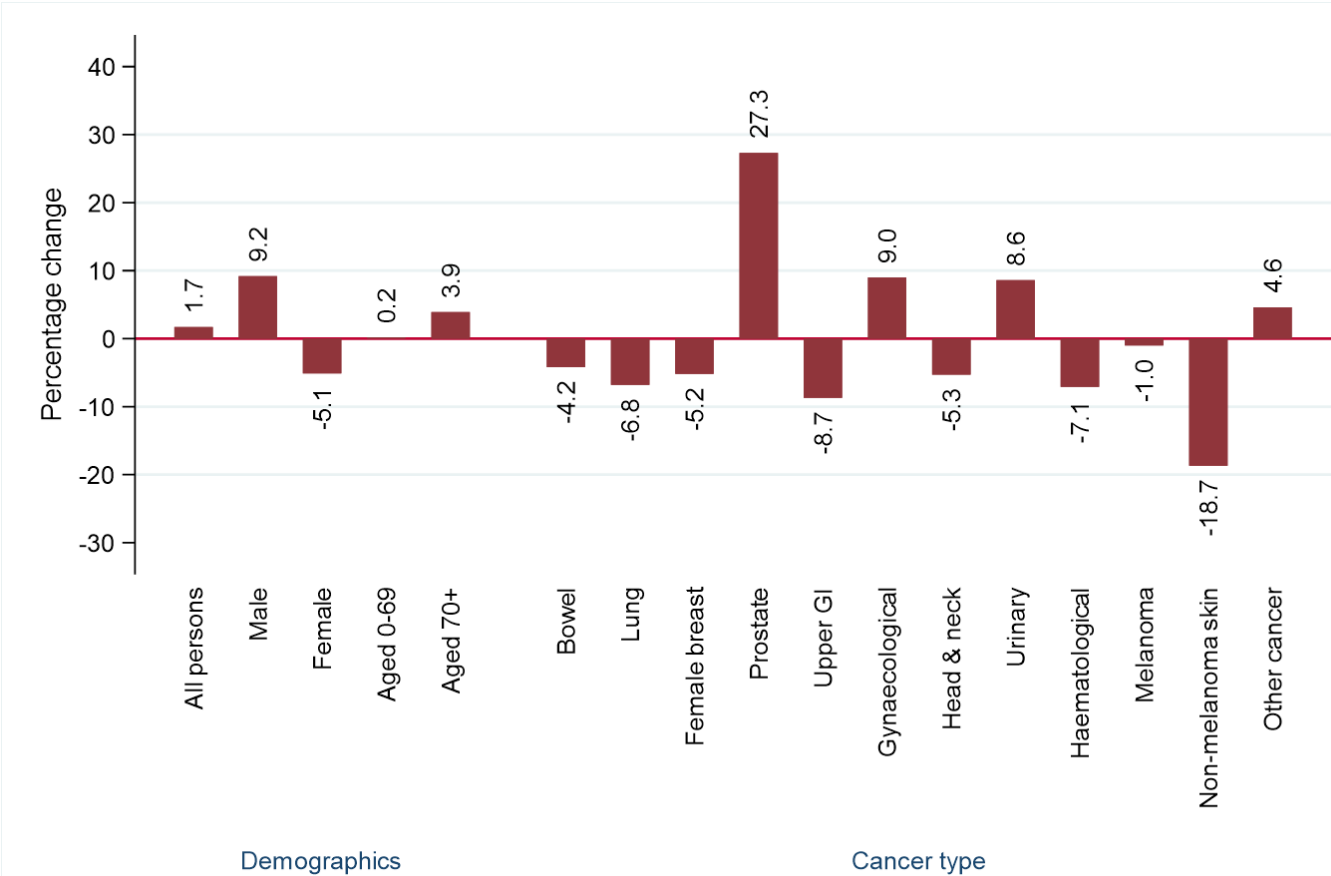
In the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 there was a 9.2% increase among males and a 5.1% decrease among females compared to the same time period in 2017-2019. An increase of 0.2% occurred in the number of patients aged 0-69 years, while there was an increase of 3.9% among those aged 70 and older.
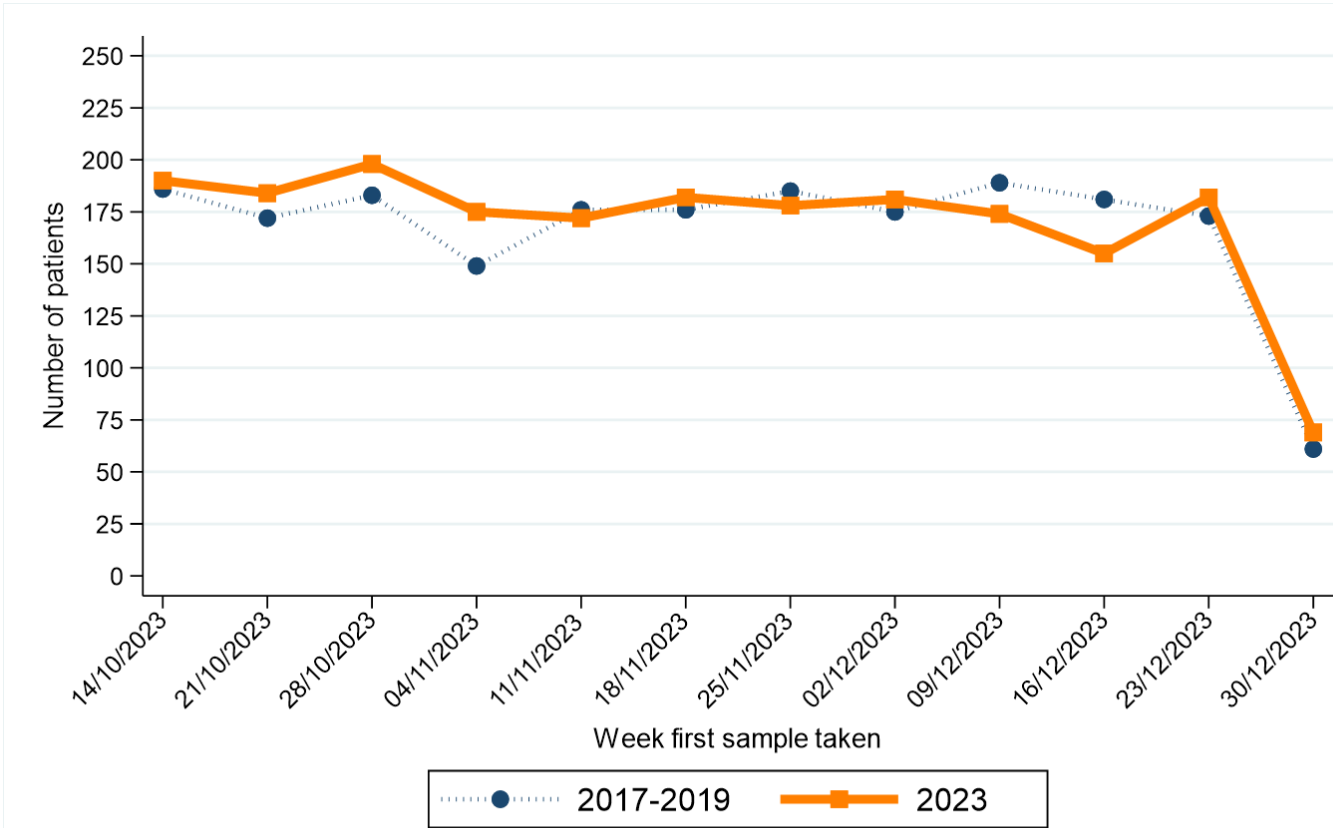
Compared to the annual average in 2017-2019, in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 the number of patients with a pathology sample indicating lung cancer decreased by 6.8%. Increases were recorded for prostate cancer, gynaecological cancer and urinary cancer, while decreases of more than 10% were recorded for non-melanoma skin cancer.

ALL PERSONS: CANCER (EX NMSC)

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-1.6%
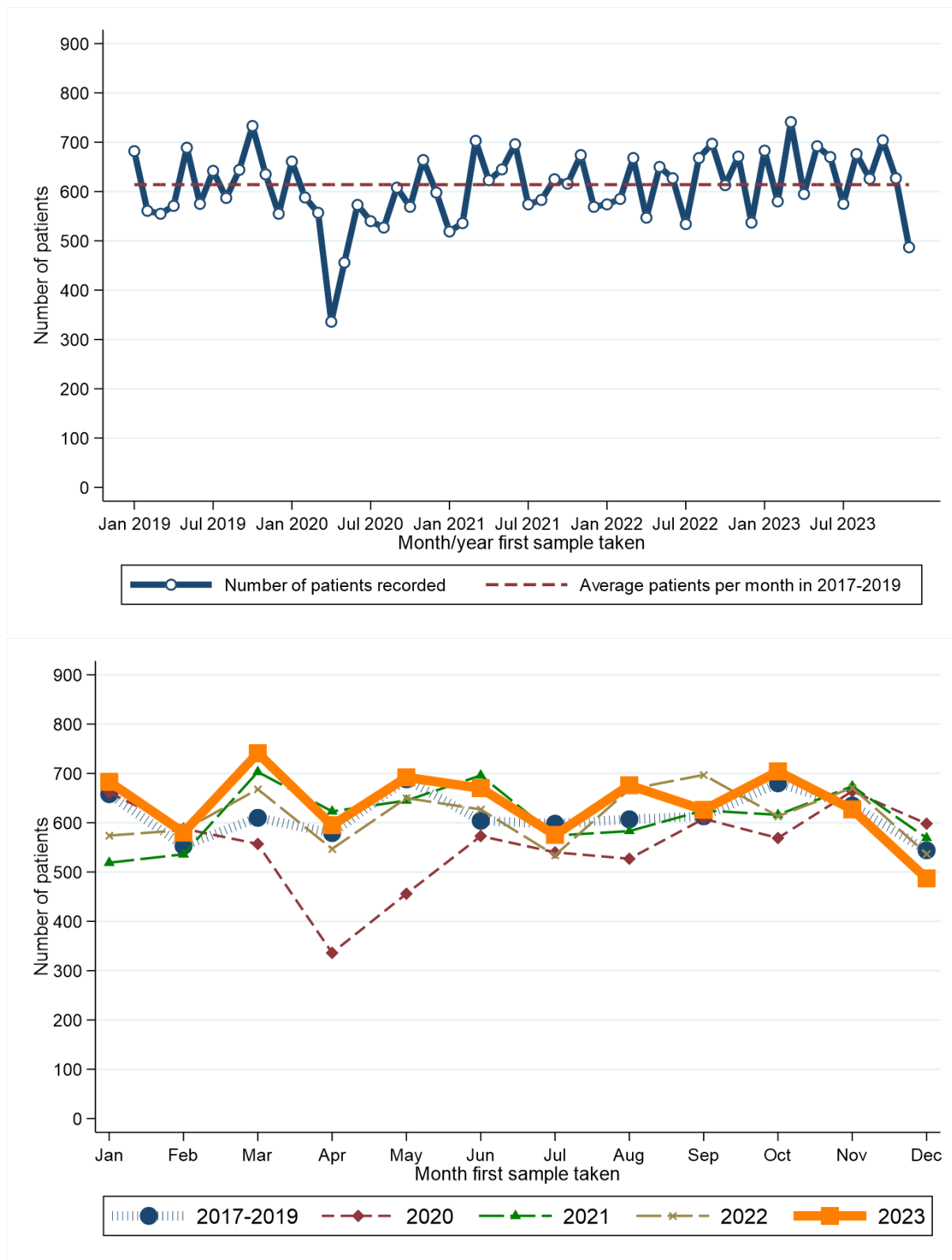
Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023	Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	658	661	519	574	683	Jul	598	540	574	534	575
Feb	553	588	536	585	580	Aug	607	527	583	668	676
Mar	610	557	703	668	741	Sep	613	608	625	697	626
Apr	579	336	623	547	595	Oct	680	569	616	613	704
May	688	456	645	650	692	Nov	635	664	674	671	627
Jun	604	573	696	627	670	Dec	544	598	569	537	487

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+1.7%
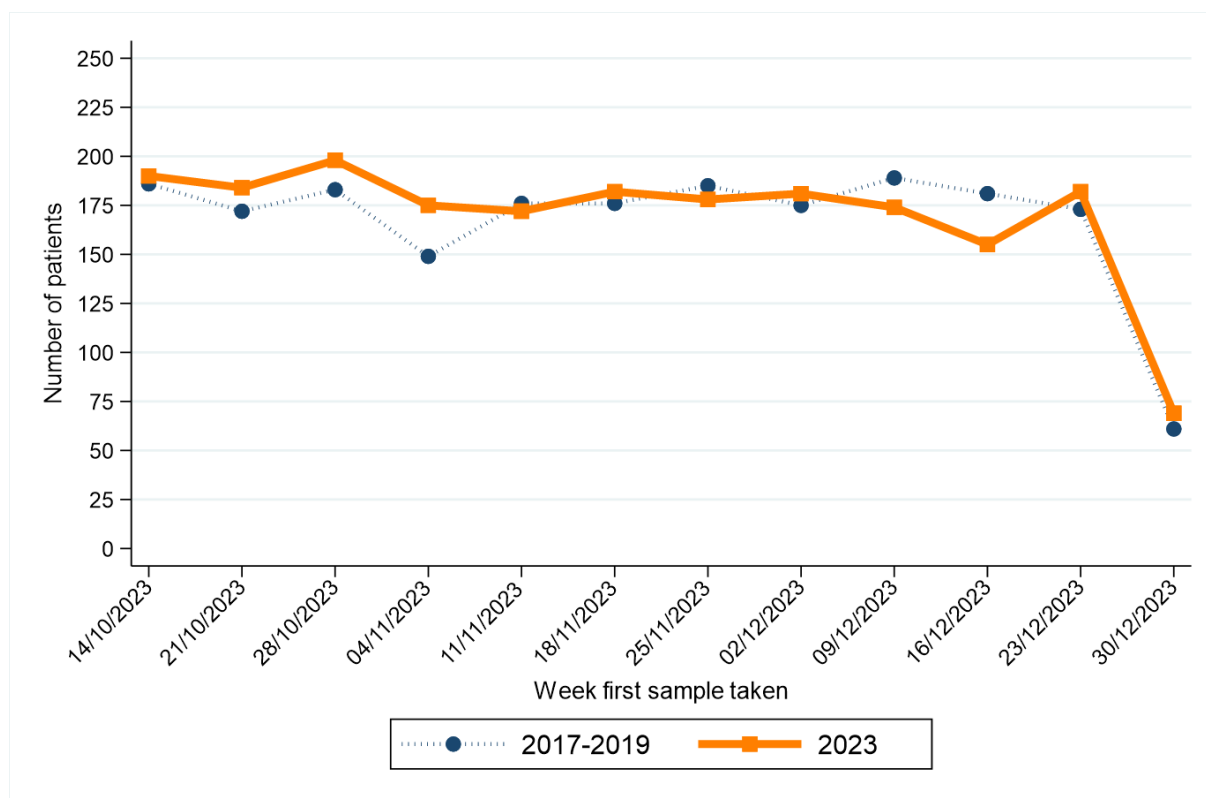
Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023	Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	186	190	25/11/2023	185	178
21/10/2023	172	184	02/12/2023	175	181
28/10/2023	183	198	09/12/2023	189	174
04/11/2023	149	175	16/12/2023	181	155
11/11/2023	176	172	23/12/2023	173	182
18/11/2023	176	182	30/12/2023	61	69

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

MALE : CANCER (EX NMSC)

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-1.5%
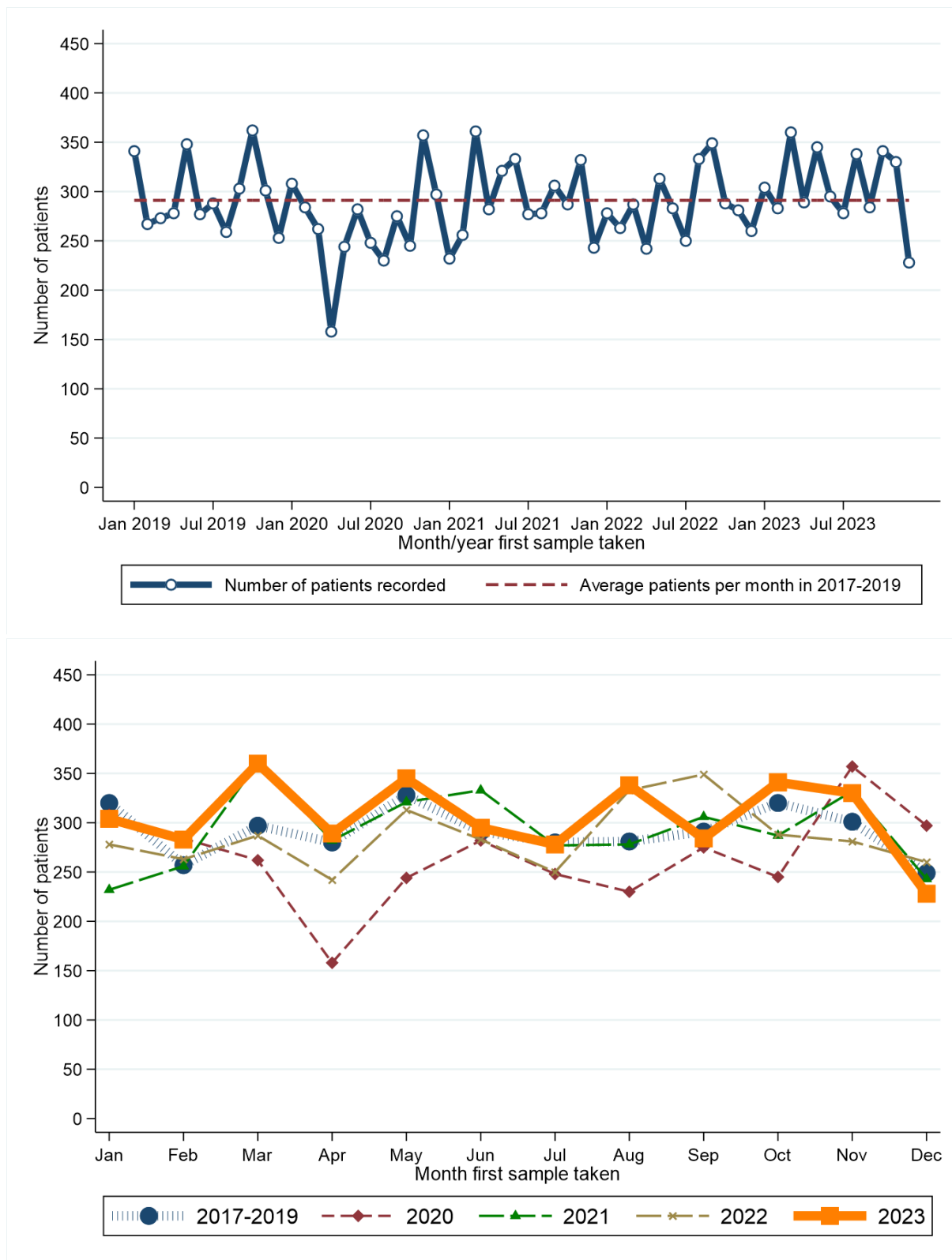
Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023		Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	320	308	232	278	304		Jul	280	248	277	250	278
Feb	257	284	256	263	283		Aug	281	230	278	333	338
Mar	297	262	361	287	360		Sep	291	275	306	349	284
Apr	280	158	282	242	289		Oct	320	245	287	288	341
May	328	244	321	313	345		Nov	301	357	332	281	330
Jun	291	282	333	283	295		Dec	249	297	243	260	228

Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+9.2%

Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023		Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	92	97		25/11/2023	95	105
21/10/2023	81	98		02/12/2023	86	98
28/10/2023	90	95		09/12/2023	89	91
04/11/2023	74	90		16/12/2023	84	69
11/11/2023	86	86		23/12/2023	81	98
18/11/2023	78	95		30/12/2023	30	33

*Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.*

*** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.*

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

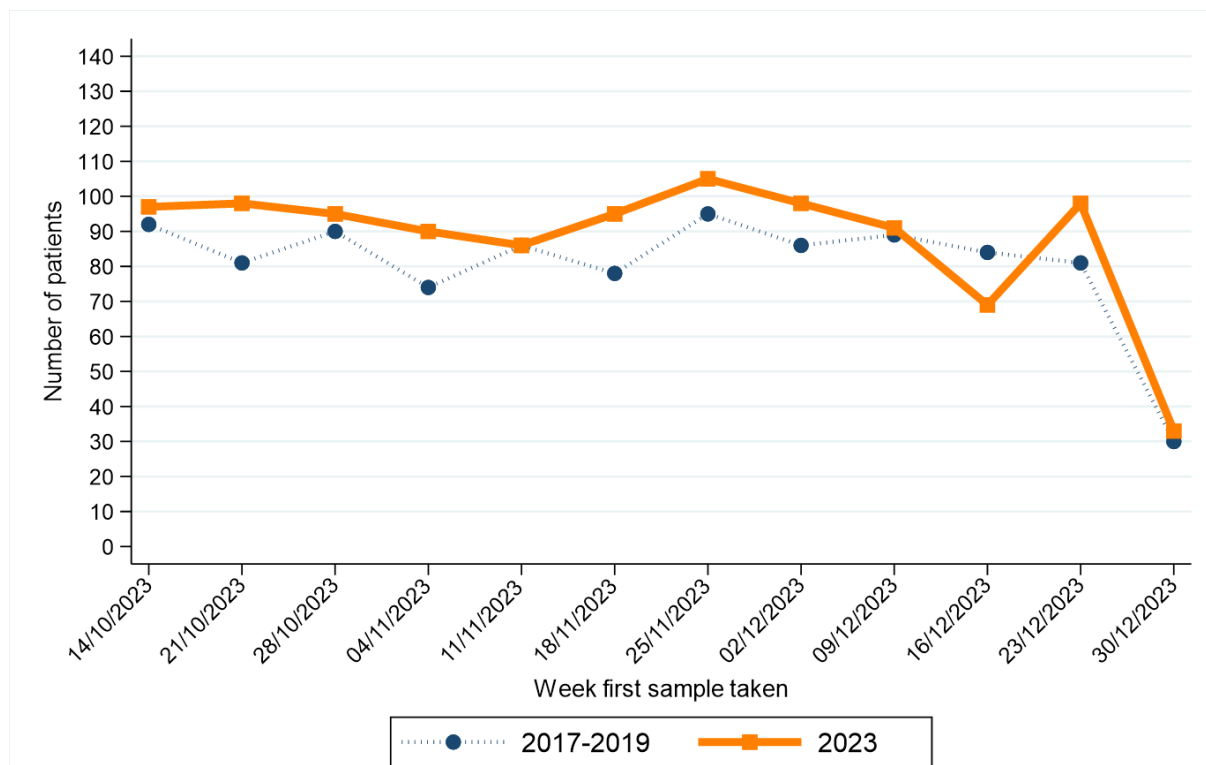**Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average**

-1.6%

Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023		Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	338	353	287	296	379		Jul	317	292	297	284	297
Feb	295	304	280	322	297		Aug	326	297	305	334	338
Mar	312	295	342	380	381		Sep	322	333	319	348	342
Apr	299	178	341	305	306		Oct	360	324	329	325	362
May	360	212	324	337	347		Nov	333	307	342	390	297
Jun	313	291	363	344	375		Dec	295	301	326	277	259

Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-5.1%

Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023		Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	94	92		25/11/2023	89	73
21/10/2023	91	86		02/12/2023	88	83
28/10/2023	93	103		09/12/2023	100	83
04/11/2023	75	85		16/12/2023	97	86
11/11/2023	90	86		23/12/2023	92	84
18/11/2023	97	87		30/12/2023	31	36

Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.
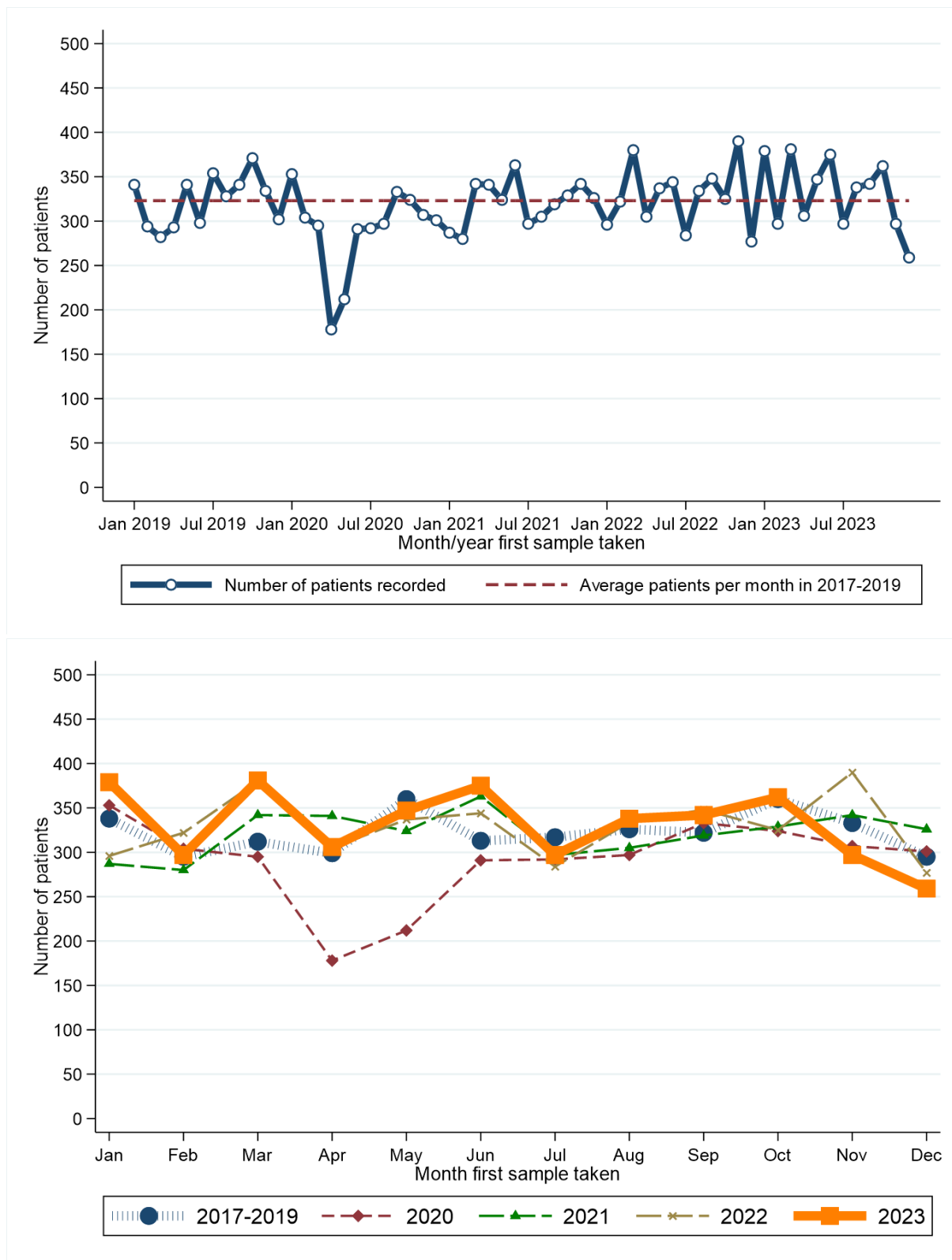
** *Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.*

AGED 0-69: CANCER (EX NMSC)

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average
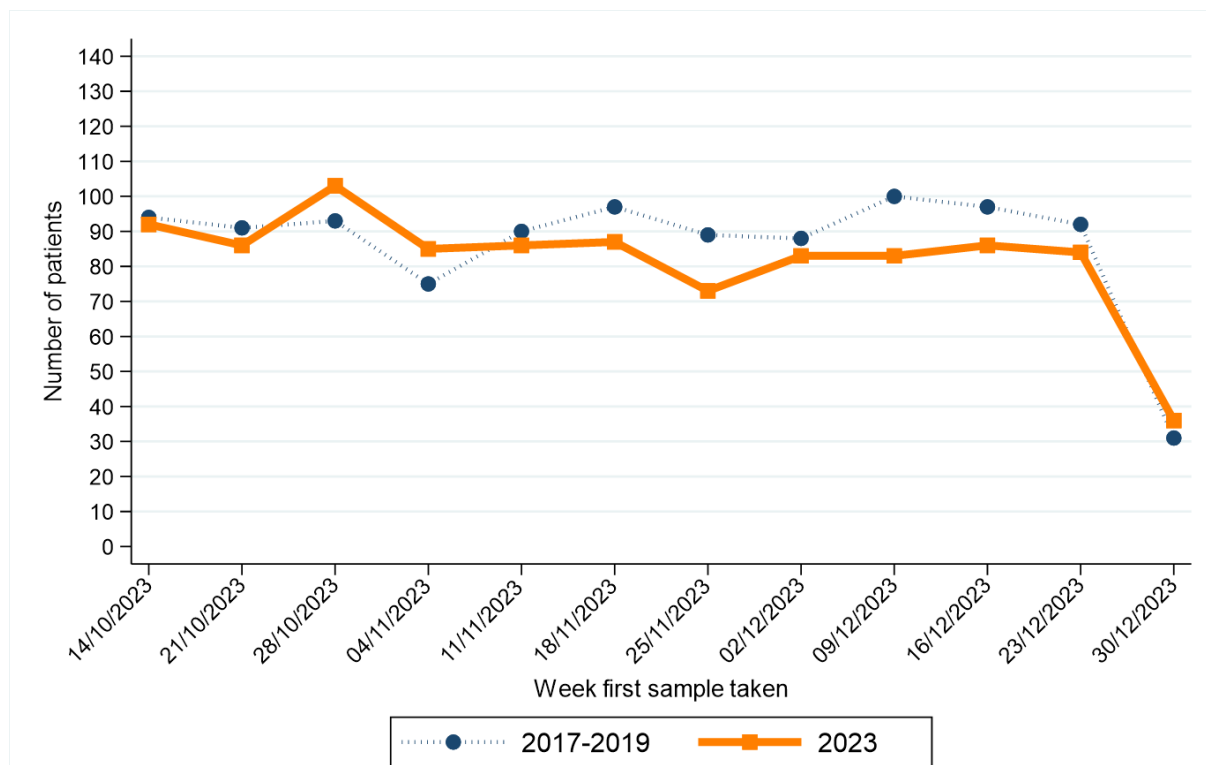
-2.6%
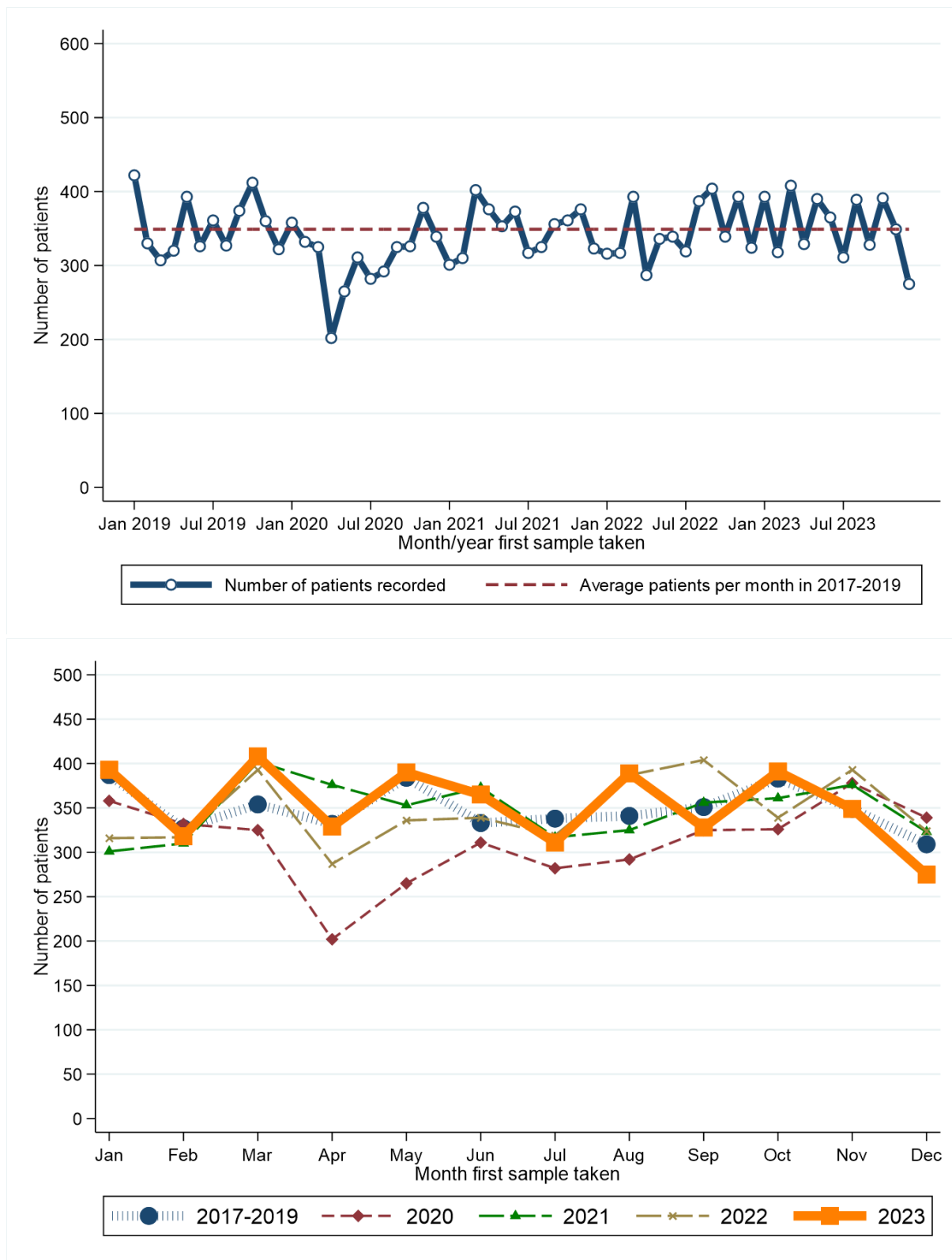
Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023	Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	387	358	301	316	393	Jul	338	282	317	319	311
Feb	327	332	310	317	318	Aug	341	292	325	387	389
Mar	354	325	402	393	408	Sep	351	325	356	404	328
Apr	332	202	376	287	329	Oct	383	326	361	339	391
May	384	265	353	336	390	Nov	349	378	376	393	349
Jun	333	311	373	339	365	Dec	309	339	323	324	275

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+0.2%

Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023	Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	105	110	25/11/2023	96	100
21/10/2023	96	90	02/12/2023	94	93
28/10/2023	115	108	09/12/2023	110	99
04/11/2023	81	88	16/12/2023	106	95
11/11/2023	95	101	23/12/2023	95	96
18/11/2023	107	112	30/12/2023	30	40

** Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.*

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

AGED 70+: CANCER (EX NMSC)

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

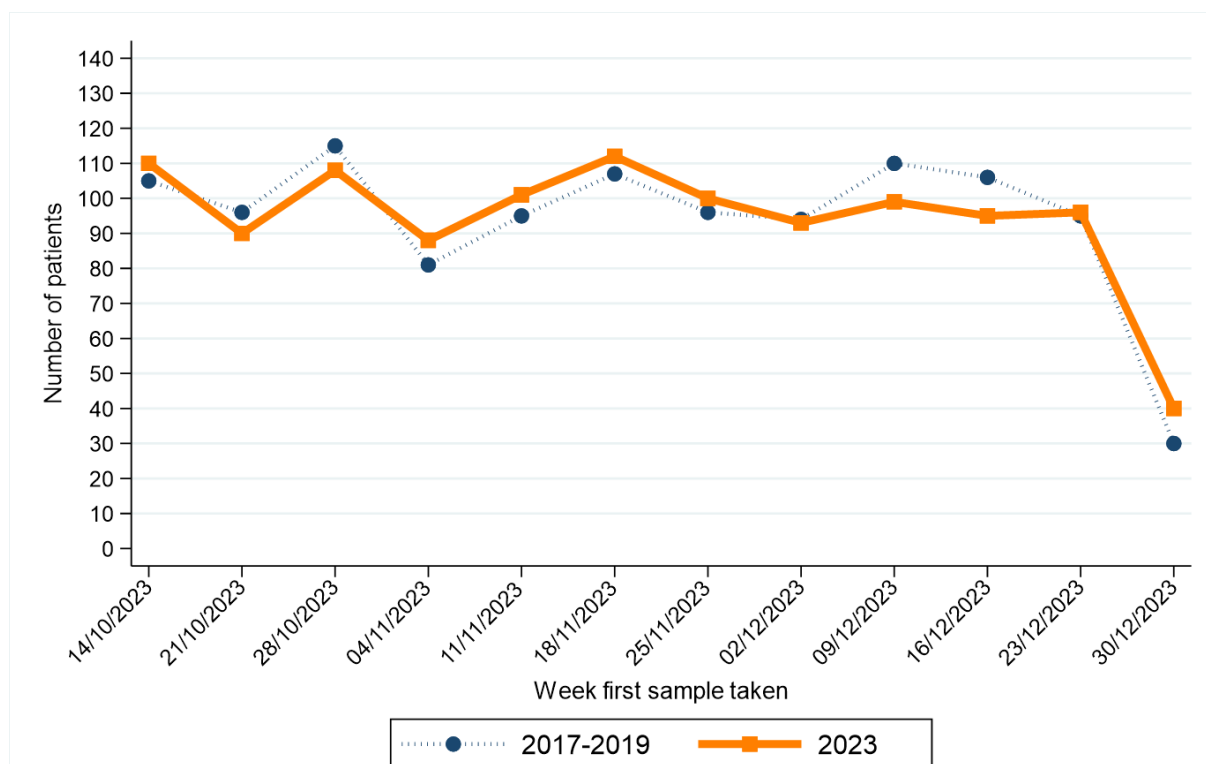**Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average**

-0.1%
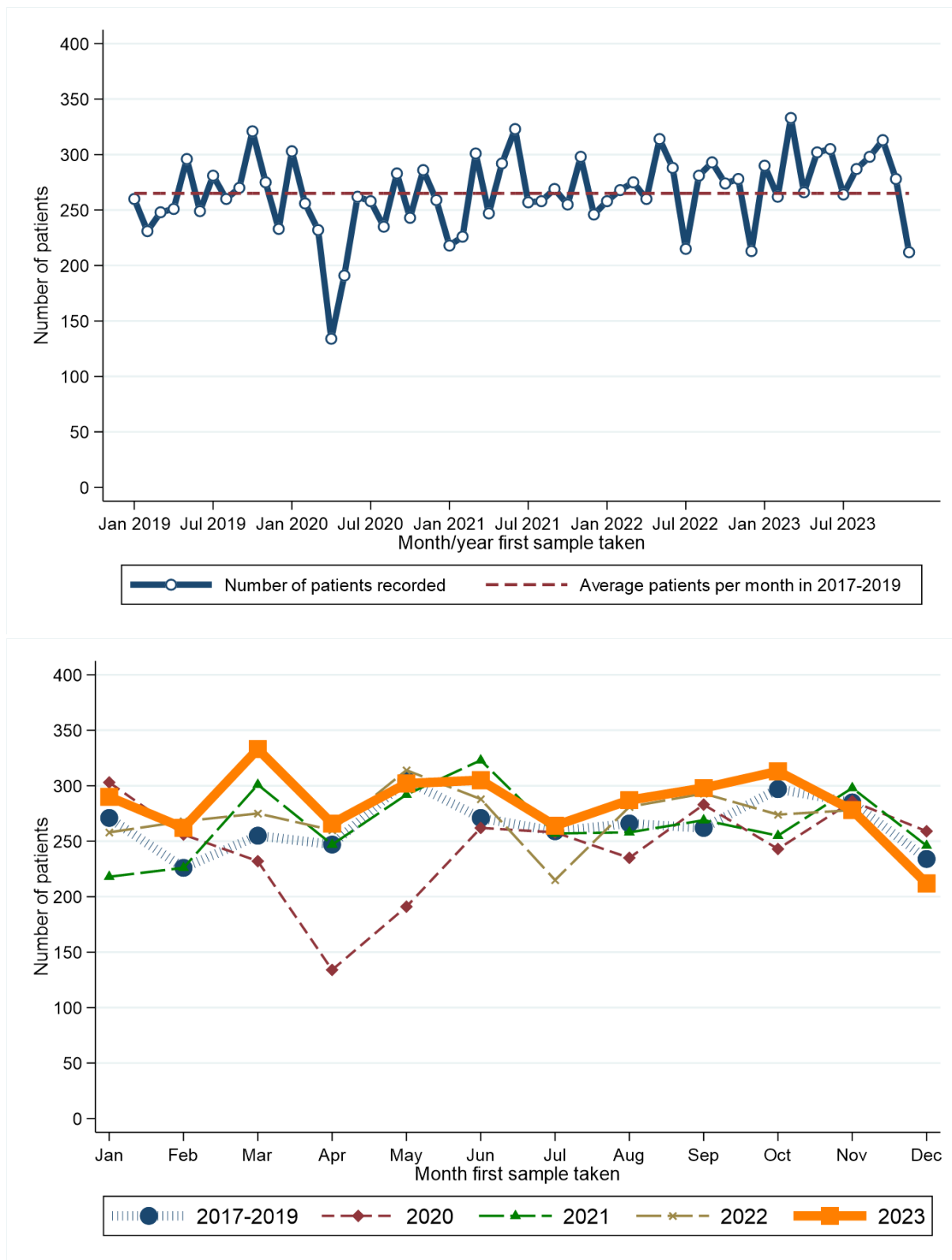
Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023	Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	271	303	218	258	290	Jul	259	258	257	215	264
Feb	226	256	226	268	262	Aug	266	235	258	281	287
Mar	255	232	301	275	333	Sep	262	283	269	293	298
Apr	247	134	247	260	266	Oct	297	243	255	274	313
May	305	191	292	314	302	Nov	285	286	298	278	278
Jun	271	262	323	288	305	Dec	234	259	246	213	212

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+3.9%

Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023	Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	81	80	25/11/2023	89	78
21/10/2023	76	94	02/12/2023	81	88
28/10/2023	68	90	09/12/2023	79	75
04/11/2023	68	87	16/12/2023	75	60
11/11/2023	80	71	23/12/2023	77	86
18/11/2023	69	70	30/12/2023	31	29

** Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.*

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

BOWEL CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

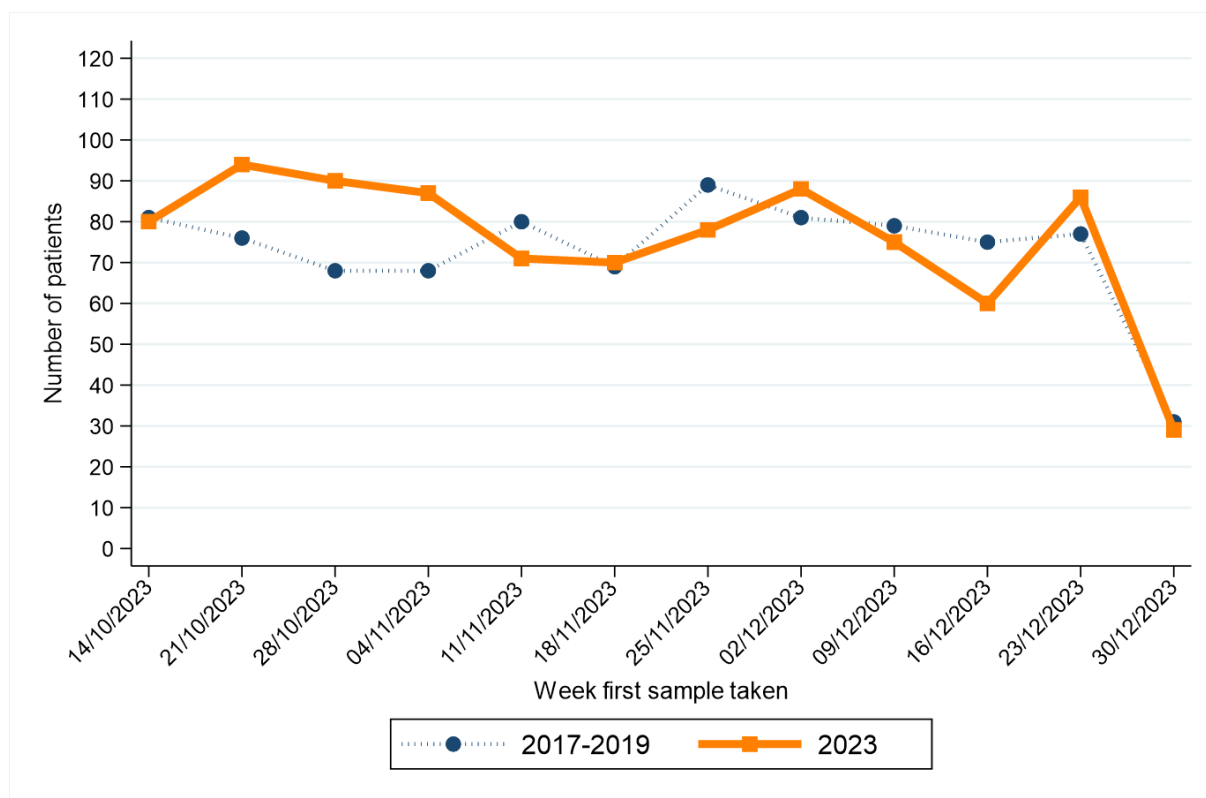**Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average**

+3.7%
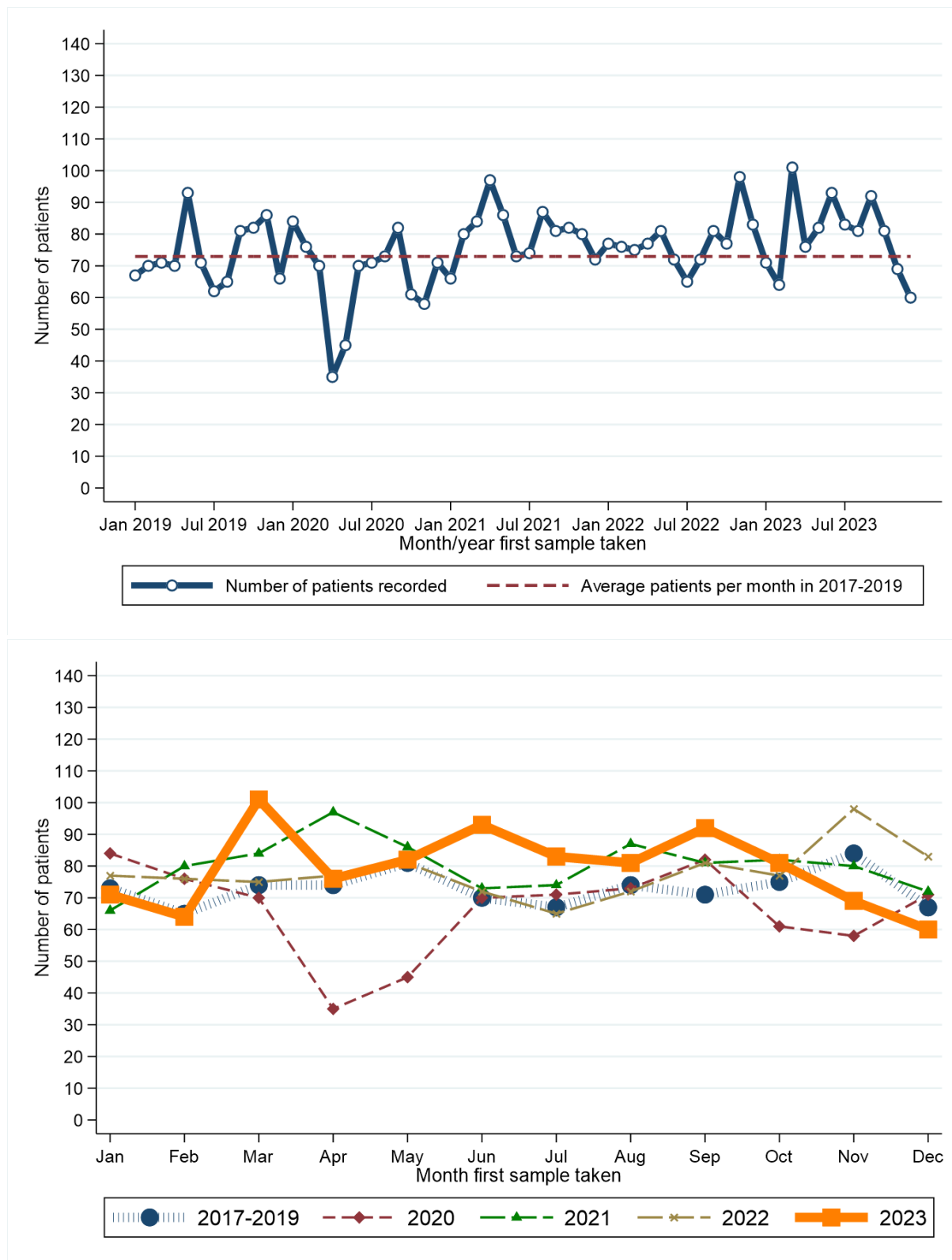
Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023	Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	73	84	66	77	71	Jul	67	71	74	65	83
Feb	65	76	80	76	64	Aug	74	73	87	72	81
Mar	74	70	84	75	101	Sep	71	82	81	81	92
Apr	74	35	97	77	76	Oct	75	61	82	77	81
May	81	45	86	81	82	Nov	84	58	80	98	69
Jun	70	70	73	72	93	Dec	67	71	72	83	60

Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-4.2%

Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023	Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	19	15	25/11/2023	24	19
21/10/2023	20	28	02/12/2023	24	26
28/10/2023	19	16	09/12/2023	25	23
04/11/2023	18	22	16/12/2023	19	22
11/11/2023	21	18	23/12/2023	18	16
18/11/2023	23	20	30/12/2023	10	5

*Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.*

*** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.*

BOWEL CANCER (SCREENING AGE)

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average
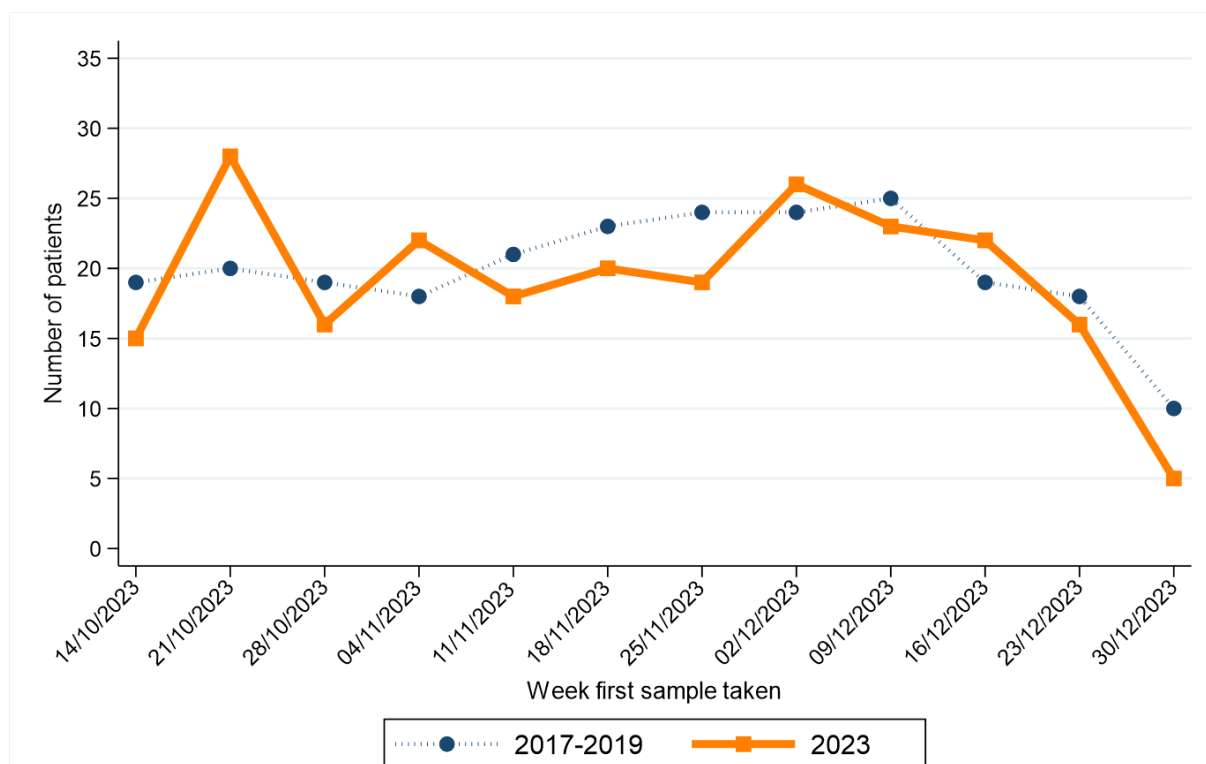
+6.5%
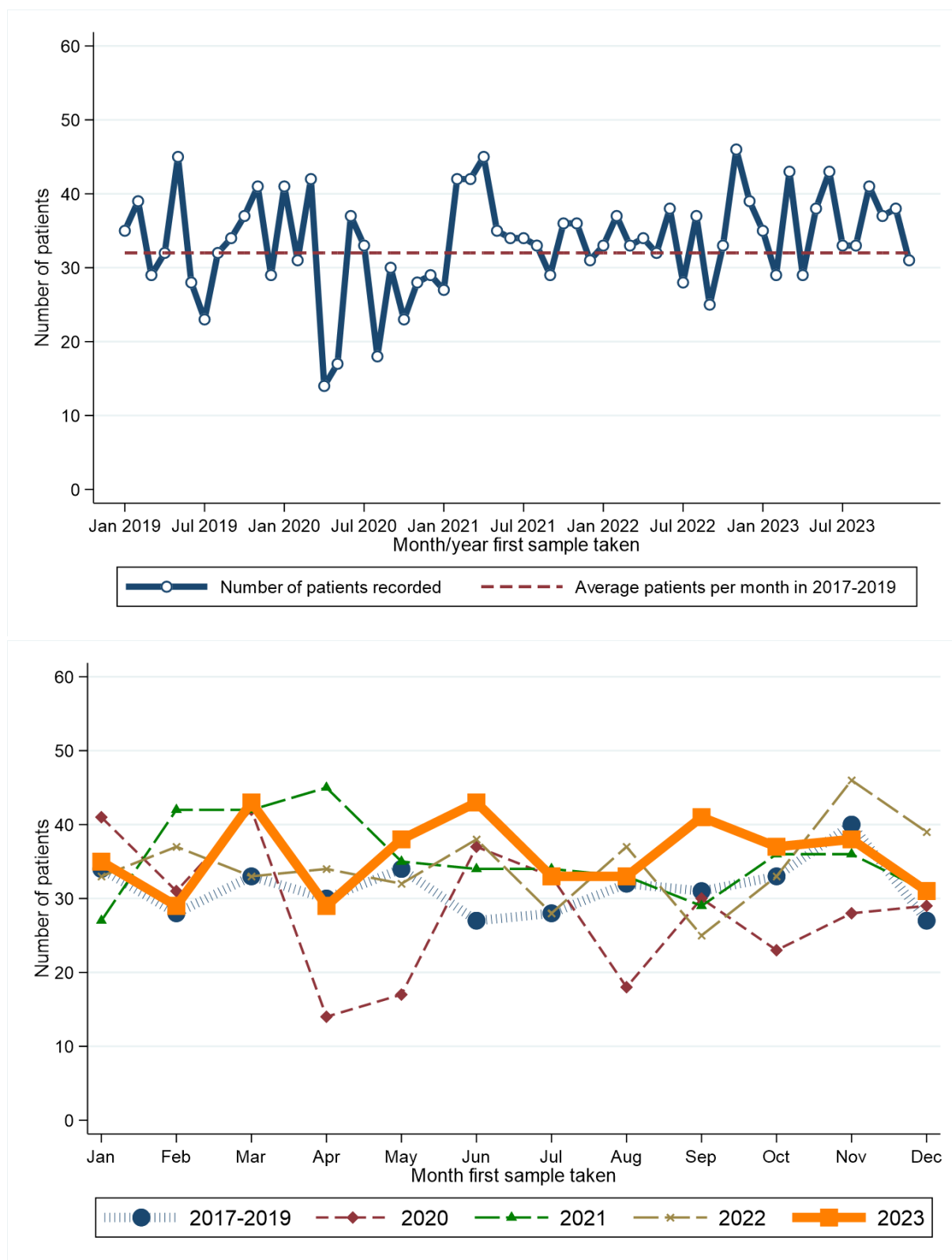
Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023	Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	34	41	27	33	35	Jul	28	33	34	28	33
Feb	28	31	42	37	29	Aug	32	18	33	37	33
Mar	33	42	42	33	43	Sep	31	30	29	25	41
Apr	30	14	45	34	29	Oct	33	23	36	33	37
May	34	17	35	32	38	Nov	40	28	36	46	38
Jun	27	37	34	38	43	Dec	27	29	31	39	31

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+8.4%

Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023	Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	10	11	25/11/2023	11	9
21/10/2023	7	9	02/12/2023	10	13
28/10/2023	9	7	09/12/2023	12	14
04/11/2023	8	9	16/12/2023	9	12
11/11/2023	11	12	23/12/2023	6	10
18/11/2023	11	10	30/12/2023	3	0

** Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.*

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

LUNG CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average
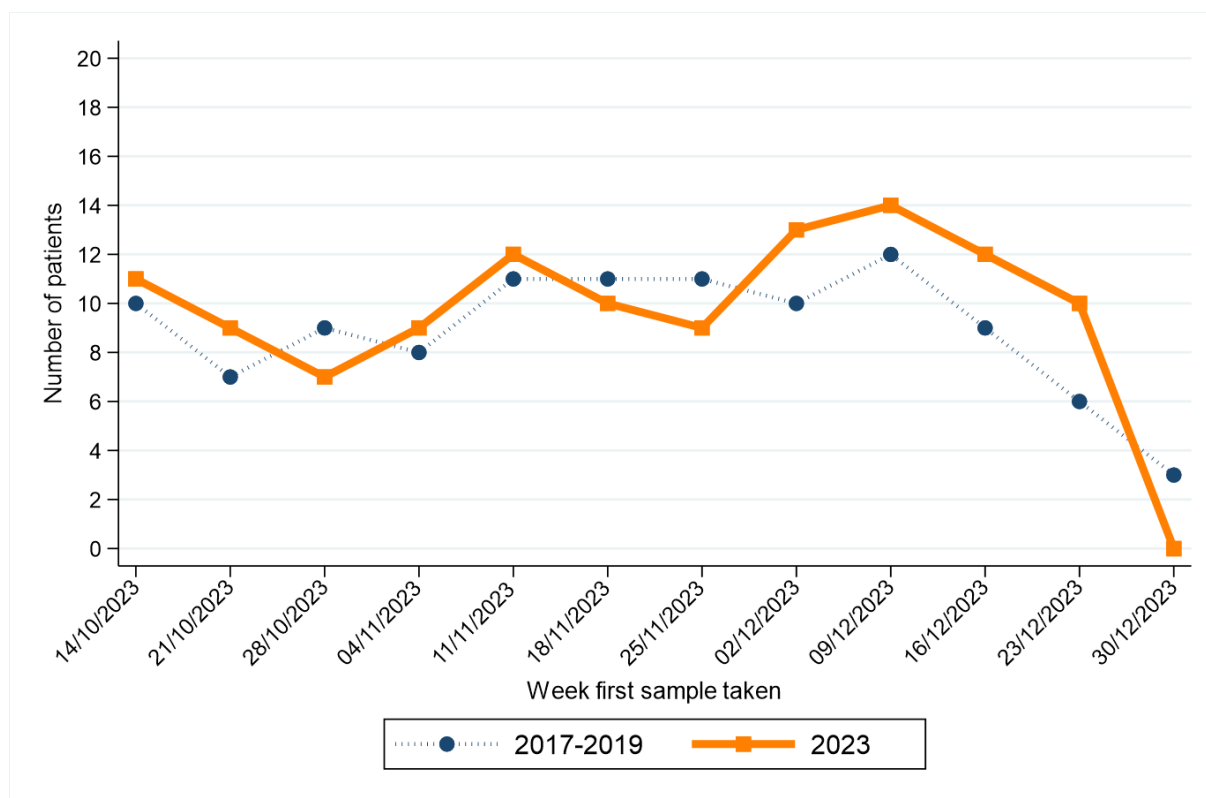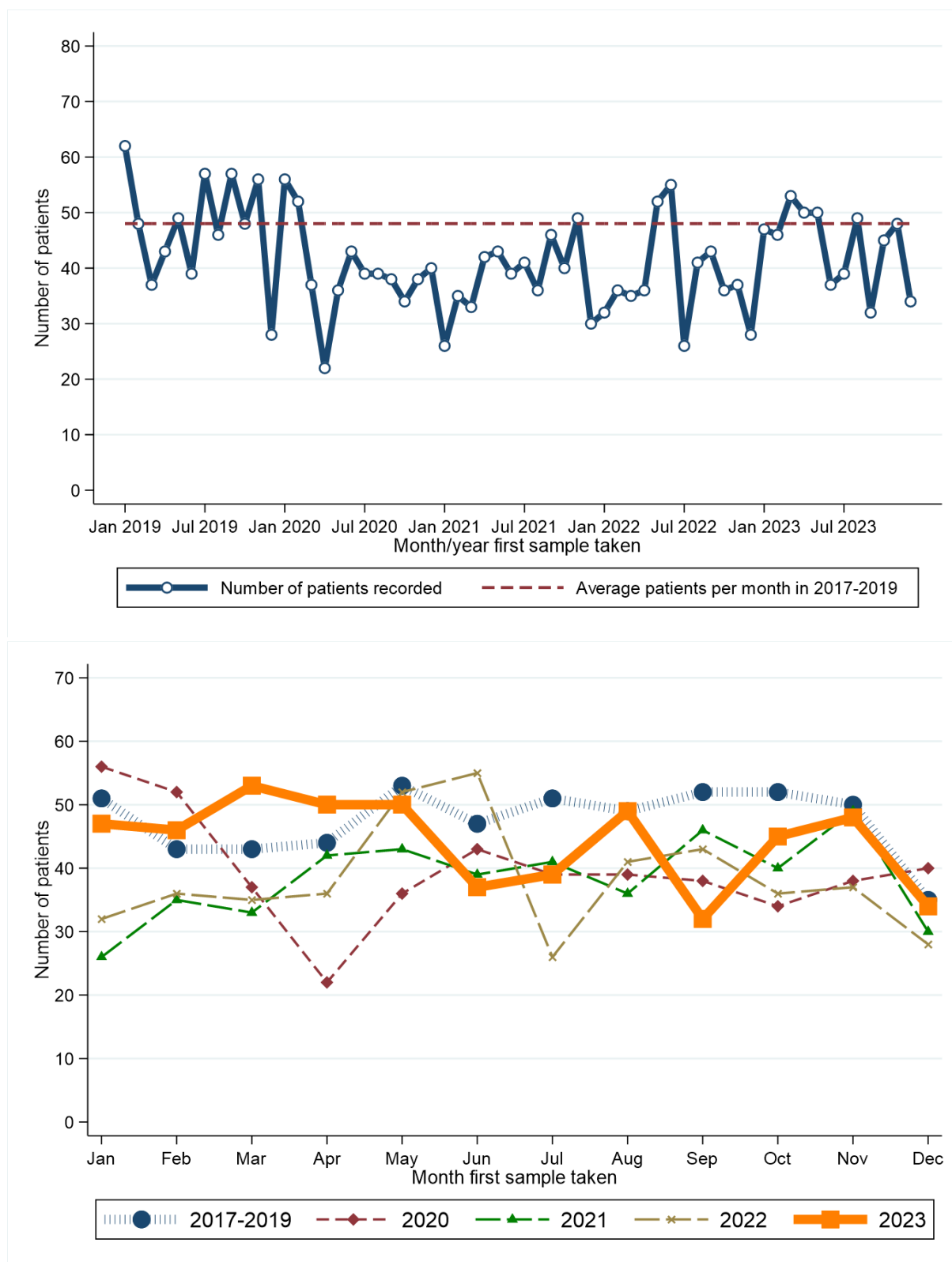
-17.1%

Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023	Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	51	56	26	32	47	Jul	51	39	41	26	39
Feb	43	52	35	36	46	Aug	49	39	36	41	49
Mar	43	37	33	35	53	Sep	52	38	46	43	32
Apr	44	22	42	36	50	Oct	52	34	40	36	45
May	53	36	43	52	50	Nov	50	38	49	37	48
Jun	47	43	39	55	37	Dec	35	40	30	28	34

Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-6.8%

Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023	Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	16	19	25/11/2023	17	17
21/10/2023	13	12	02/12/2023	13	13
28/10/2023	12	11	09/12/2023	11	13
04/11/2023	10	6	16/12/2023	12	11
11/11/2023	13	11	23/12/2023	12	11
18/11/2023	14	11	30/12/2023	5	3

Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

*** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.*

FEMALE BREAST CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

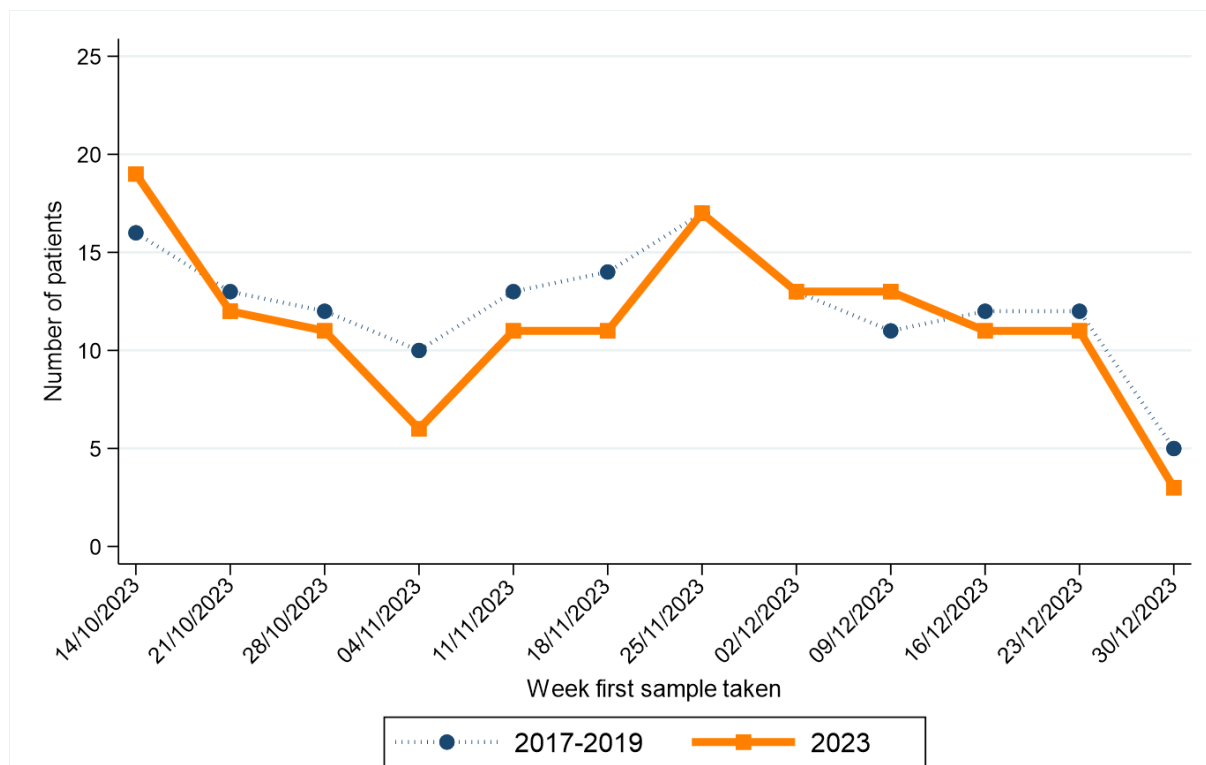## +1.4%

Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023		Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	116	93	121	90	134		Jul	101	93	101	99	86
Feb	94	102	97	106	103		Aug	103	104	89	120	106
Mar	108	92	125	130	124		Sep	106	118	101	121	103
Apr	93	62	116	106	87		Oct	116	123	106	103	112
May	120	58	122	122	109		Nov	101	107	112	136	74
Jun	93	89	130	120	115		Dec	97	103	104	86	85

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-5.2%

Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023		Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	28	28		25/11/2023	25	22
21/10/2023	33	32		02/12/2023	31	23
28/10/2023	36	40		09/12/2023	32	27
04/11/2023	29	28		16/12/2023	35	26
11/11/2023	31	19		23/12/2023	31	36
18/11/2023	30	36		30/12/2023	8	14

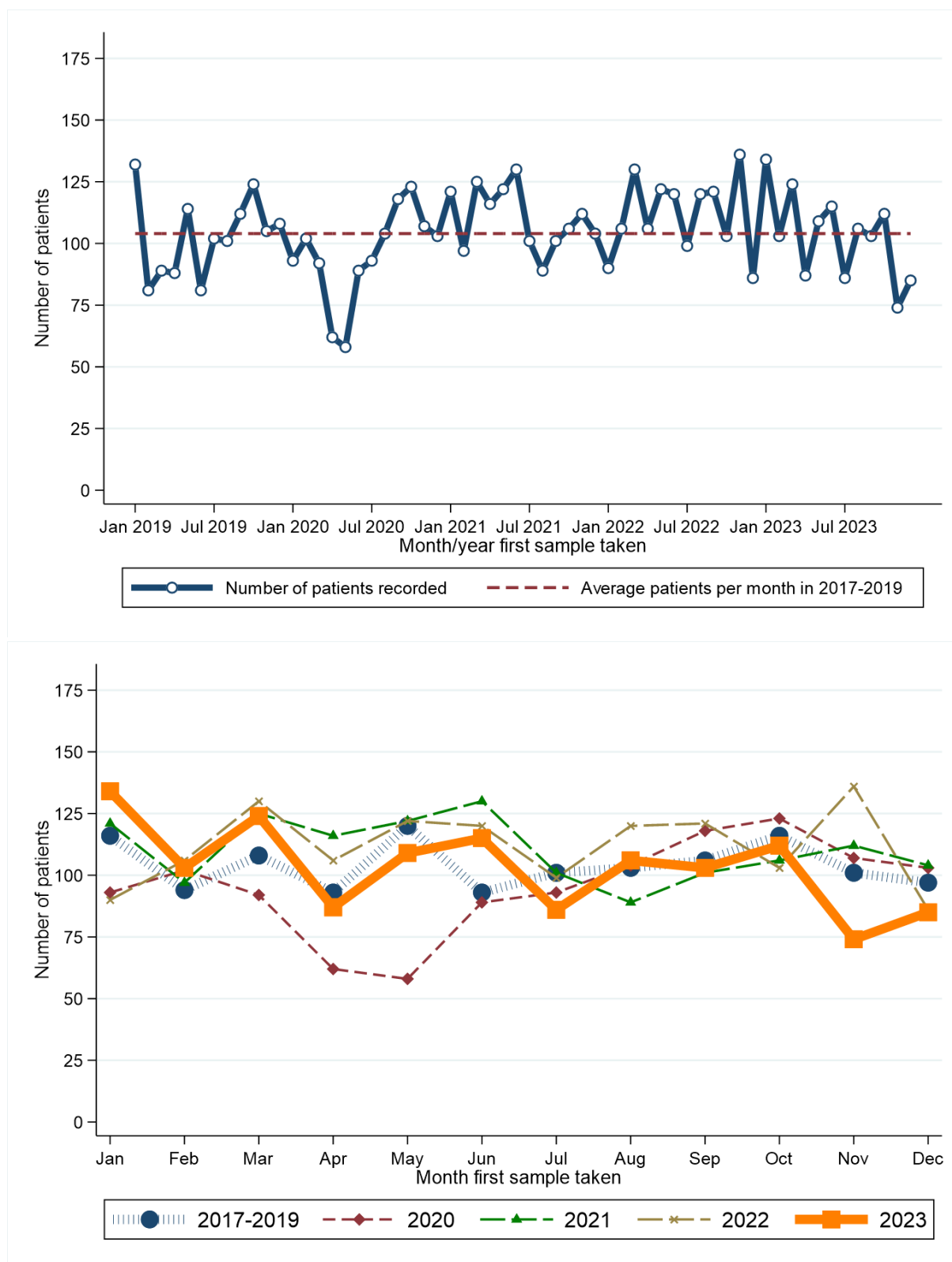** Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.*
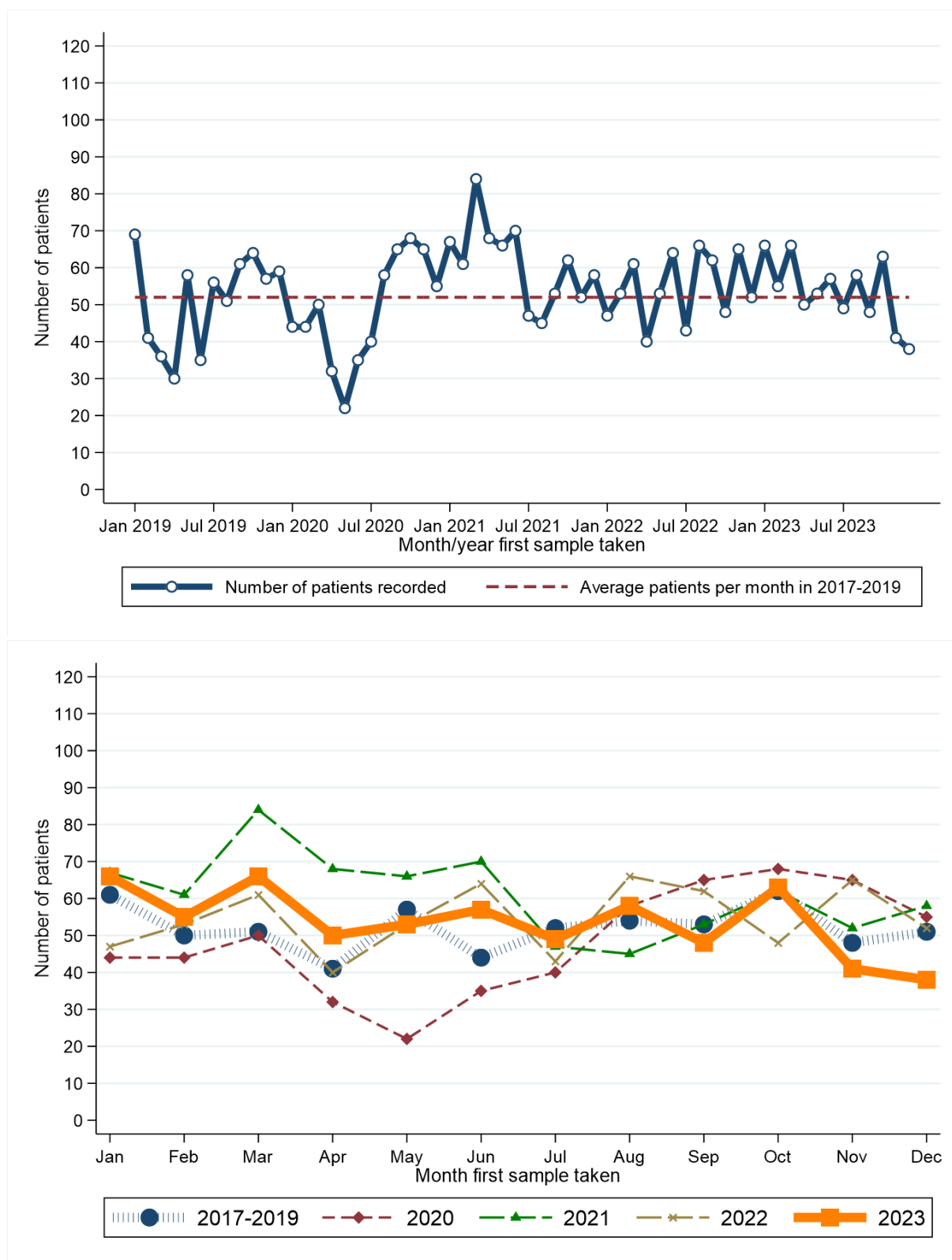
** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

FEMALE BREAST CANCER (SCREENING AGE)

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+5.7%

Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023	Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	61	44	67	47	66	Jul	52	40	47	43	49
Feb	50	44	61	53	55	Aug	54	58	45	66	58
Mar	51	50	84	61	66	Sep	53	65	53	62	48
Apr	41	32	68	40	50	Oct	62	68	62	48	63
May	57	22	66	53	53	Nov	48	65	52	65	41
Jun	44	35	70	64	57	Dec	51	55	58	52	38

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-3.8%

Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023	Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	14	11	25/11/2023	13	14
21/10/2023	23	15	02/12/2023	13	12
28/10/2023	19	27	09/12/2023	16	13
04/11/2023	18	21	16/12/2023	17	15
11/11/2023	14	7	23/12/2023	16	16
18/11/2023	18	24	30/12/2023	4	3

** Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.*

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

PROSTATE CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+1.4%
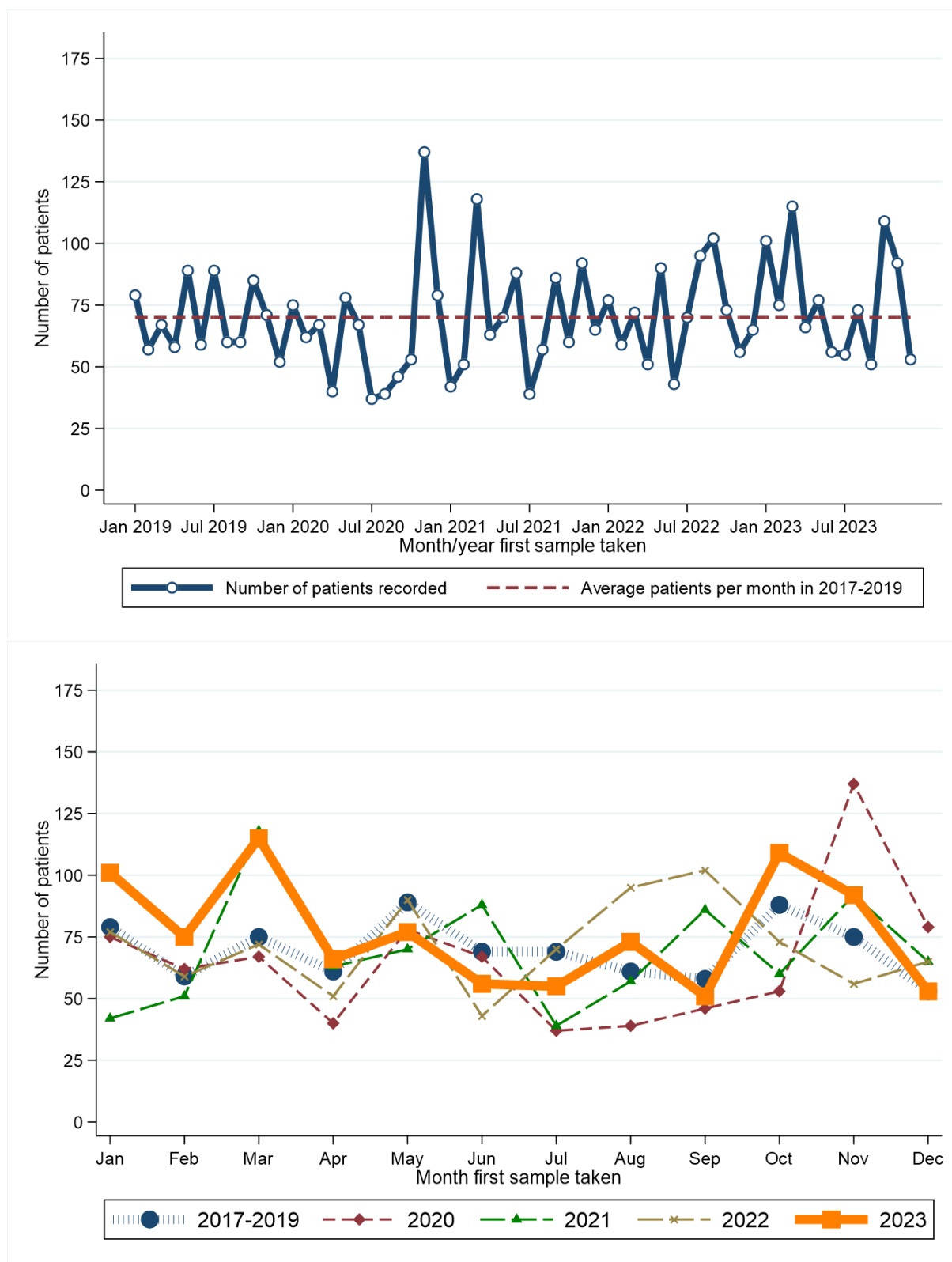
Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023	Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	79	75	42	77	101	Jul	69	37	39	70	55
Feb	59	62	51	59	75	Aug	61	39	57	95	73
Mar	75	67	118	72	115	Sep	58	46	86	102	51
Apr	61	40	63	51	66	Oct	88	53	60	73	109
May	89	78	70	90	77	Nov	75	137	92	56	92
Jun	69	67	88	43	56	Dec	53	79	65	65	53

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+27.3%

Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023	Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	31	34	25/11/2023	29	29
21/10/2023	23	36	02/12/2023	25	33
28/10/2023	23	37	09/12/2023	22	24
04/11/2023	19	28	16/12/2023	27	19
11/11/2023	24	27	23/12/2023	19	29
18/11/2023	22	33	30/12/2023	3	11

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

UPPER GASTROINTESTINAL CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

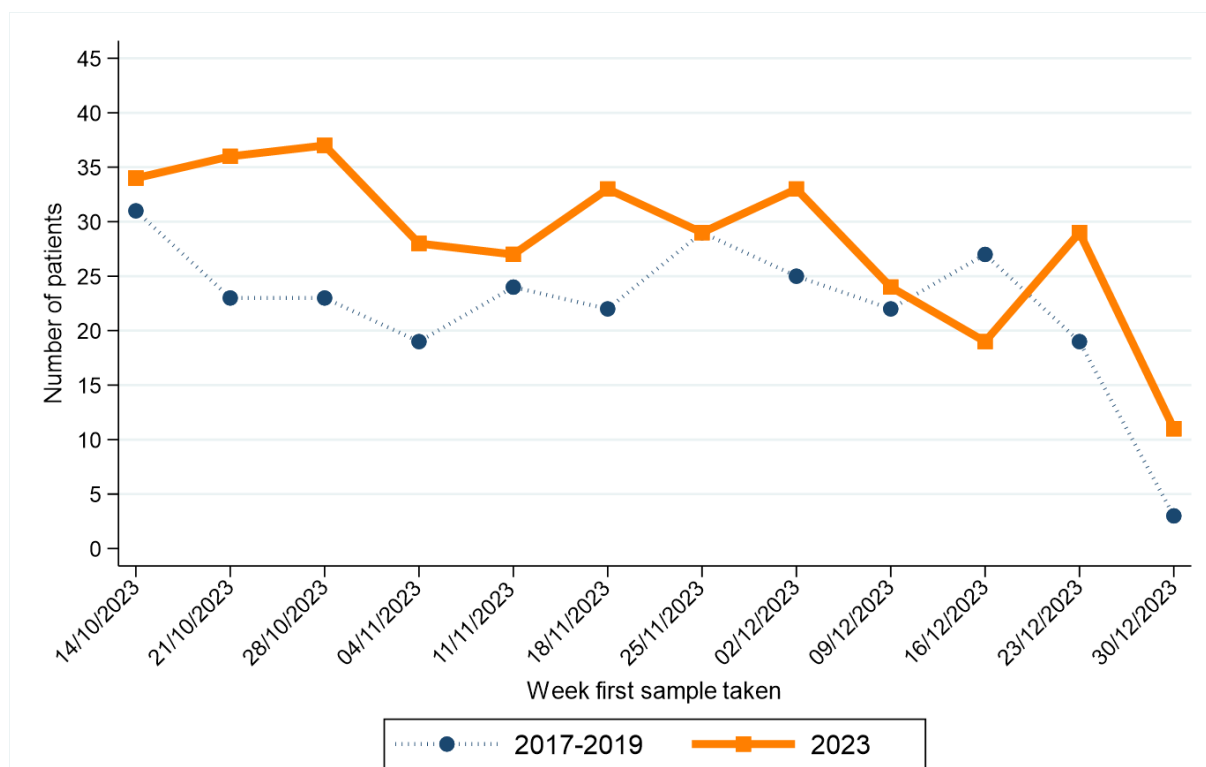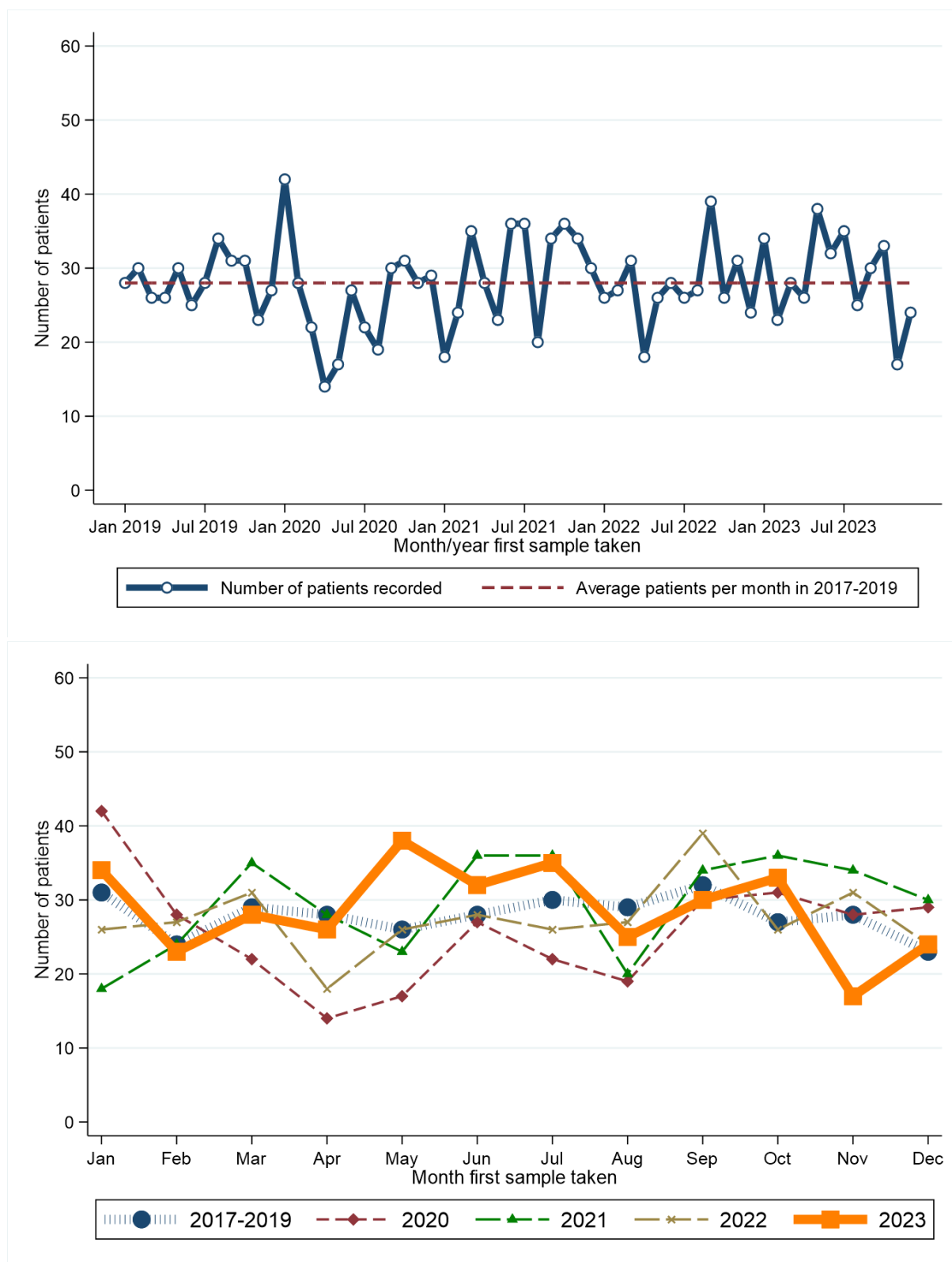**Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average**

-1.4%

Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023	Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	31	42	18	26	34	Jul	30	22	36	26	35
Feb	24	28	24	27	23	Aug	29	19	20	27	25
Mar	29	22	35	31	28	Sep	32	30	34	39	30
Apr	28	14	28	18	26	Oct	27	31	36	26	33
May	26	17	23	26	38	Nov	28	28	34	31	17
Jun	28	27	36	28	32	Dec	23	29	30	24	24

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-8.7%
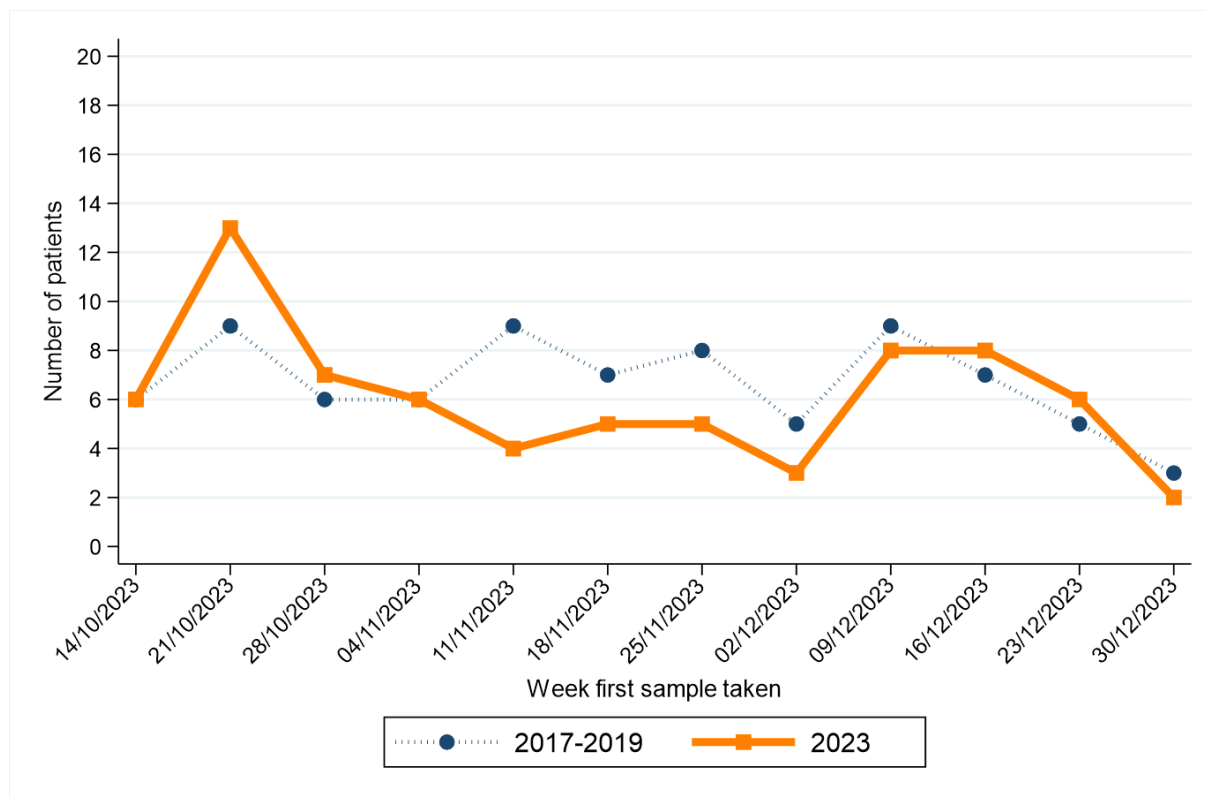
Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023	Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	6	6	25/11/2023	8	5
21/10/2023	9	13	02/12/2023	5	3
28/10/2023	6	7	09/12/2023	9	8
04/11/2023	6	6	16/12/2023	7	8
11/11/2023	9	4	23/12/2023	5	6
18/11/2023	7	5	30/12/2023	3	2

** Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.*

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

GYNAECOLOGICAL CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

**Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average**

-11.4%
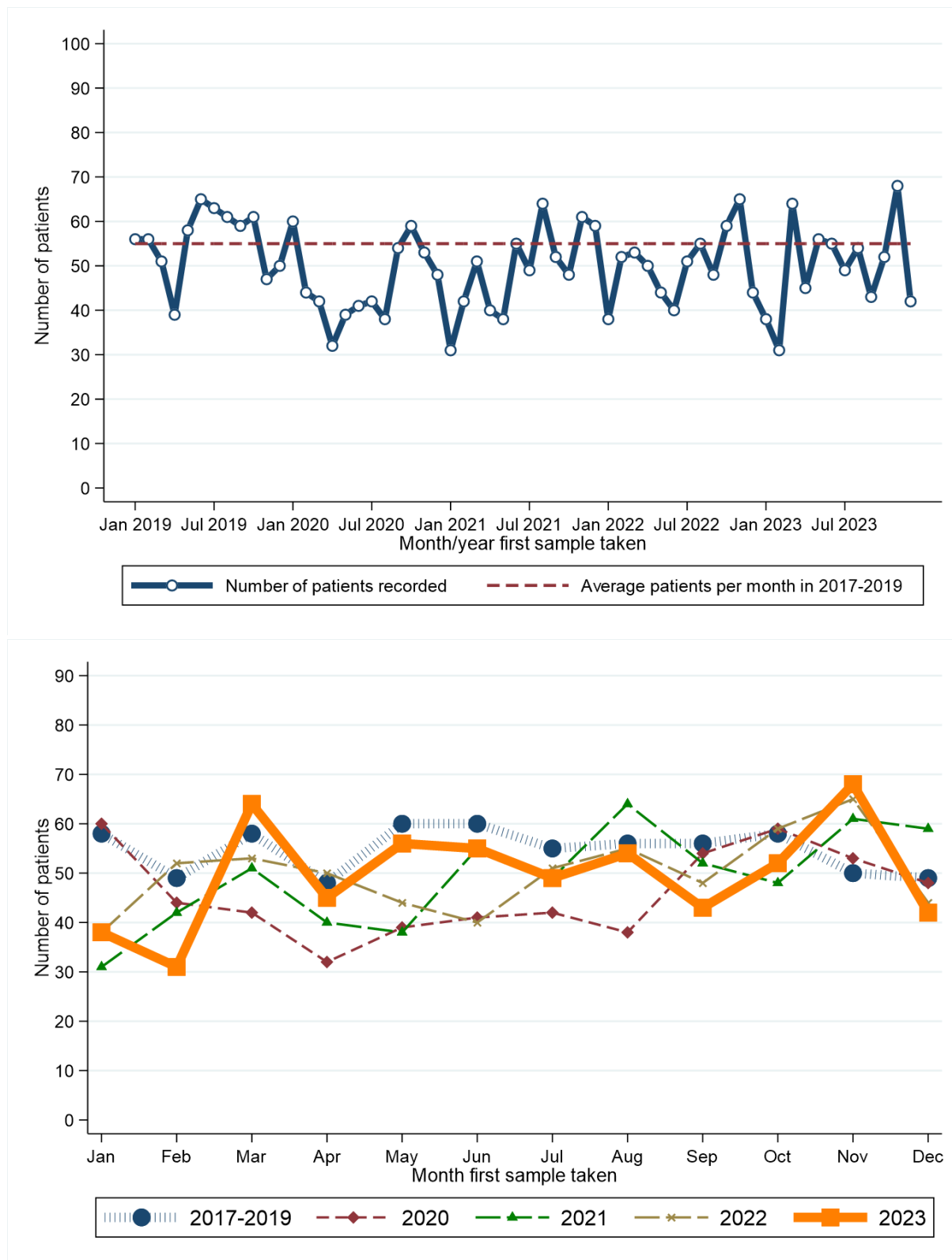
Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023	Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	58	60	31	38	38	Jul	55	42	49	51	49
Feb	49	44	42	52	31	Aug	56	38	64	55	54
Mar	58	42	51	53	64	Sep	56	54	52	48	43
Apr	48	32	40	50	45	Oct	58	59	48	59	52
May	60	39	38	44	56	Nov	50	53	61	65	68
Jun	60	41	55	40	55	Dec	49	48	59	44	42

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 BY DETAILED CANCER TYPE - Excluding Altnagelvin
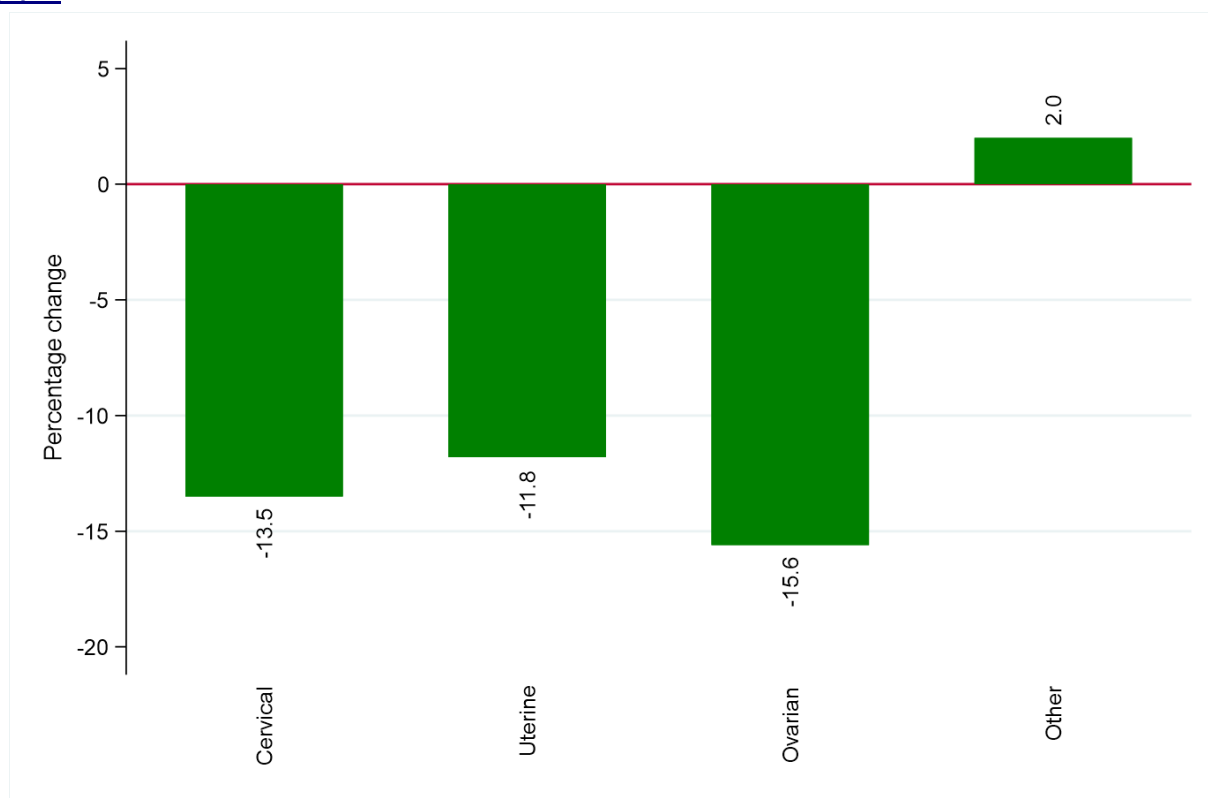
Cancer type	Number of patients (March 2020 to Dec 2023)	
	Expected number*	Recorded number
Cervical cancer	505	437
Uterine cancer	1,221	1,077
Ovarian cancer	855	722
Other gynaecological cancer	256	261

* Based upon average monthly number of patients from 2017-2019.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - *Including Altnagelvin*

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+9.0%

Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023	Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	14	11	25/11/2023	17	19
21/10/2023	11	8	02/12/2023	12	23
28/10/2023	15	16	09/12/2023	17	15
04/11/2023	14	11	16/12/2023	15	18
11/11/2023	12	20	23/12/2023	12	8
18/11/2023	11	13	30/12/2023	6	8

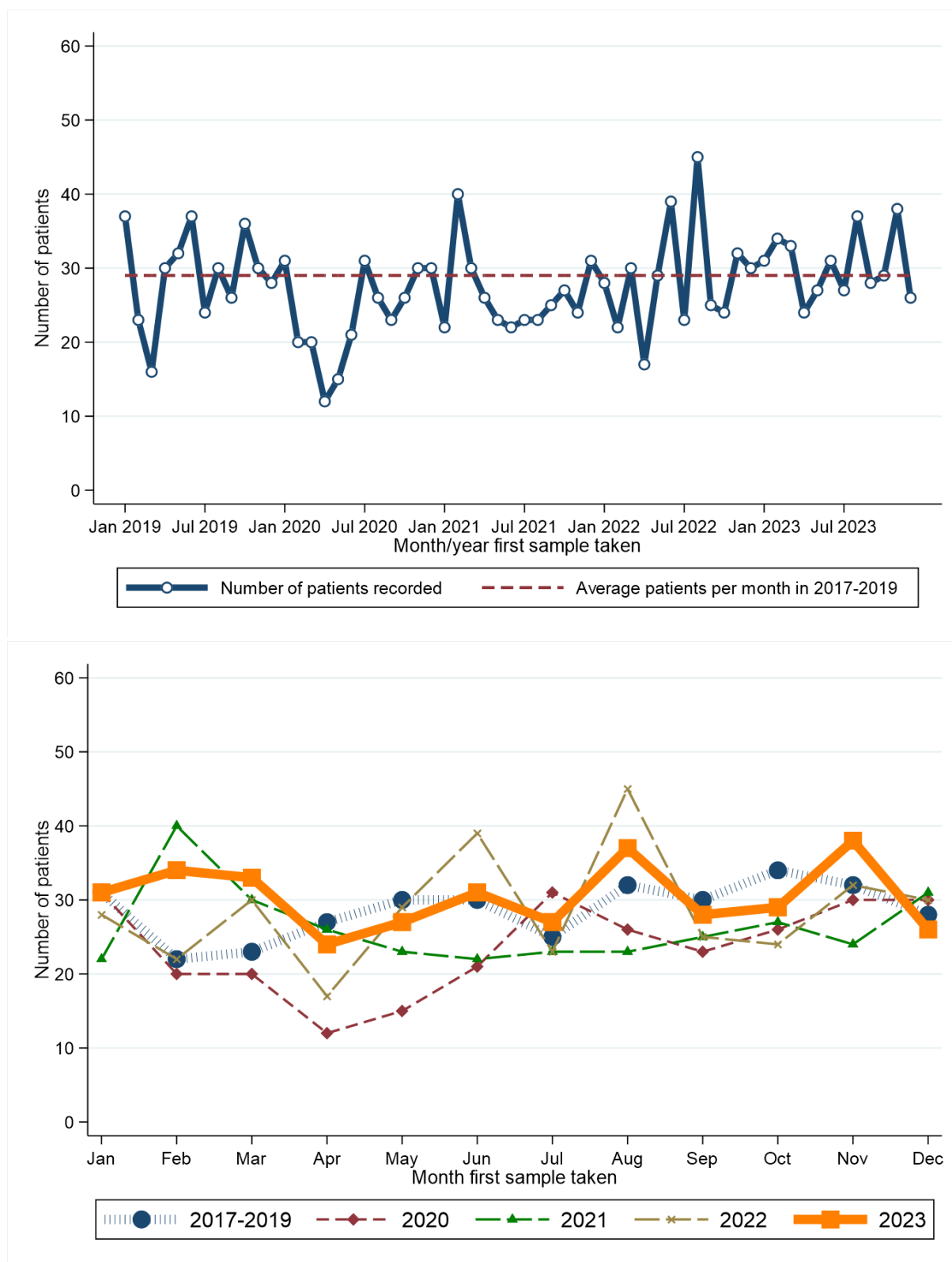*Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.*

*** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.*

HEAD AND NECK CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-4.8%

Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023	Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	31	31	22	28	31	Jul	25	31	23	23	27
Feb	22	20	40	22	34	Aug	32	26	23	45	37
Mar	23	20	30	30	33	Sep	30	23	25	25	28
Apr	27	12	26	17	24	Oct	34	26	27	24	29
May	30	15	23	29	27	Nov	32	30	24	32	38
Jun	30	21	22	39	31	Dec	28	30	31	30	26

Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-5.3%

Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023	Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	7	5	25/11/2023	7	13
21/10/2023	9	5	02/12/2023	9	9
28/10/2023	9	9	09/12/2023	9	8
04/11/2023	6	4	16/12/2023	9	6
11/11/2023	9	9	23/12/2023	10	13
18/11/2023	8	8	30/12/2023	3	1

*Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.*

*** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.*

URINARY CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

**Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average**

-10.1%
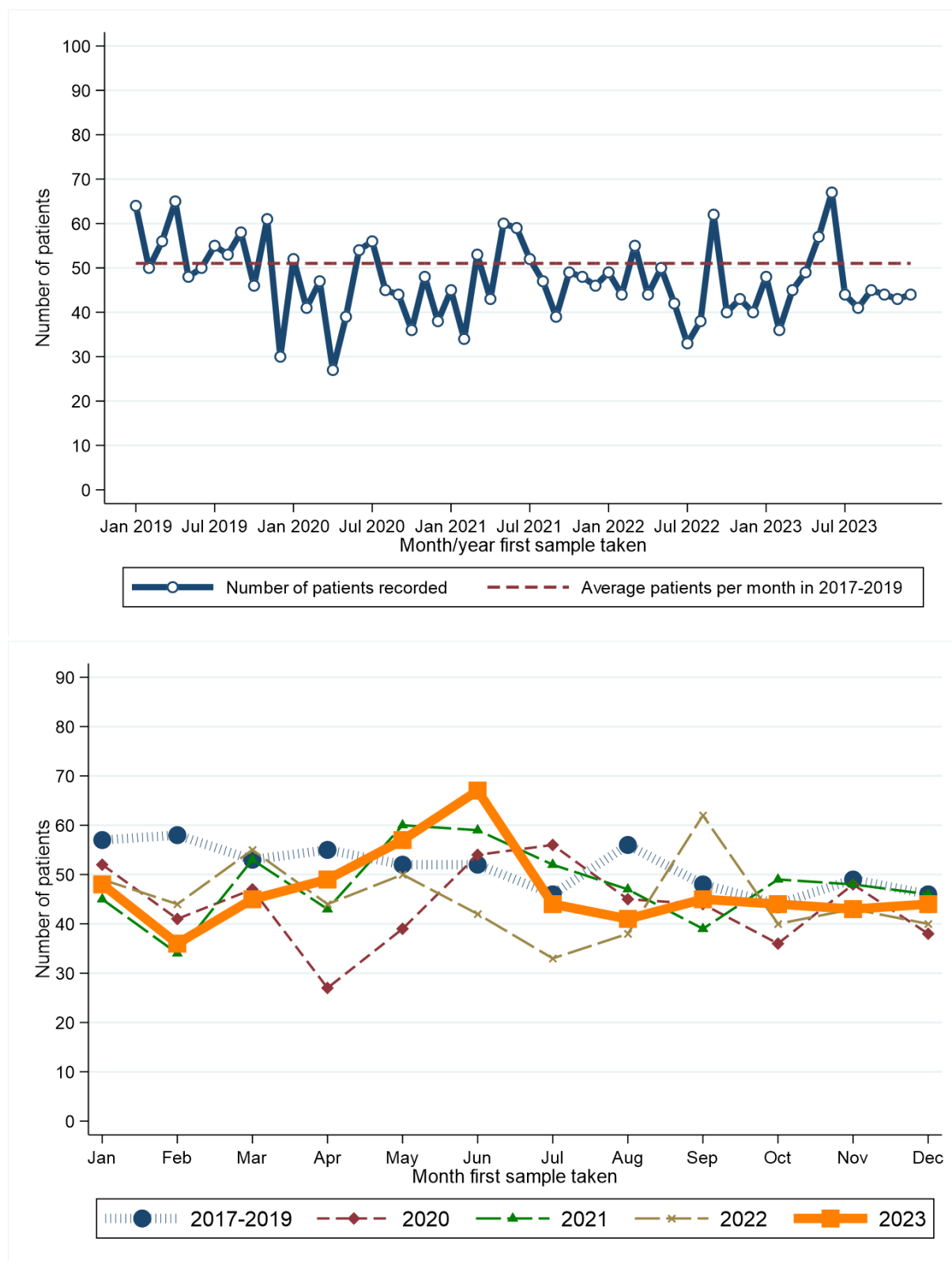
Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023	Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	57	52	45	49	48	Jul	46	56	52	33	44
Feb	58	41	34	44	36	Aug	56	45	47	38	41
Mar	53	47	53	55	45	Sep	48	44	39	62	45
Apr	55	27	43	44	49	Oct	44	36	49	40	44
May	52	39	60	50	57	Nov	49	48	48	43	43
Jun	52	54	59	42	67	Dec	46	38	46	40	44

Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+8.6%
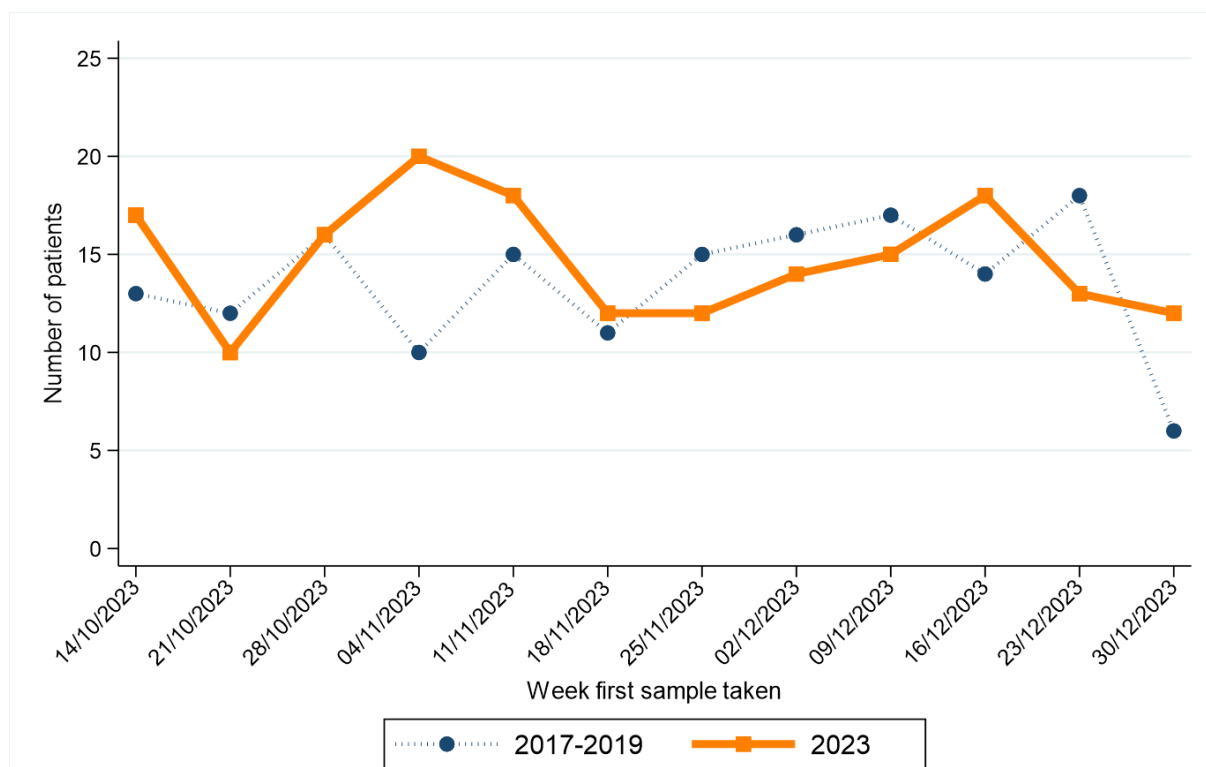
Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023	Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	13	17	25/11/2023	15	12
21/10/2023	12	10	02/12/2023	16	14
28/10/2023	16	16	09/12/2023	17	15
04/11/2023	10	20	16/12/2023	14	18
11/11/2023	15	18	23/12/2023	18	13
18/11/2023	11	12	30/12/2023	6	12

*Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.*

*** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.*

HAEMATOLOGICAL CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

**Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average**

+5.1%
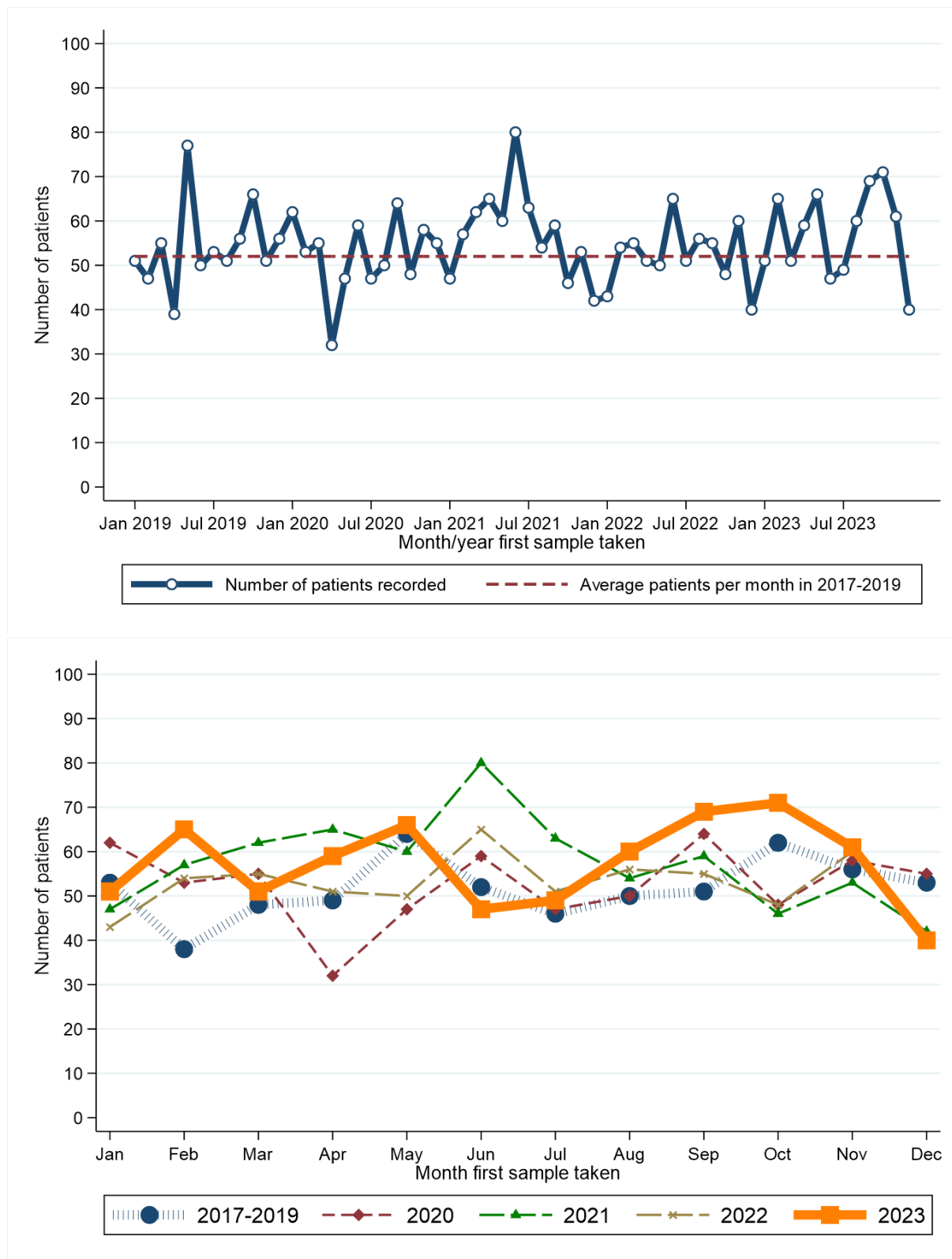
Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023		Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	53	62	47	43	51		Jul	46	47	63	51	49
Feb	38	53	57	54	65		Aug	50	50	54	56	60
Mar	48	55	62	55	51		Sep	51	64	59	55	69
Apr	49	32	65	51	59		Oct	62	48	46	48	71
May	64	47	60	50	66		Nov	56	58	53	60	61
Jun	52	59	80	65	47		Dec	53	55	42	40	40

Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 BY DETAILED CANCER TYPE - Excluding Altnagelvin
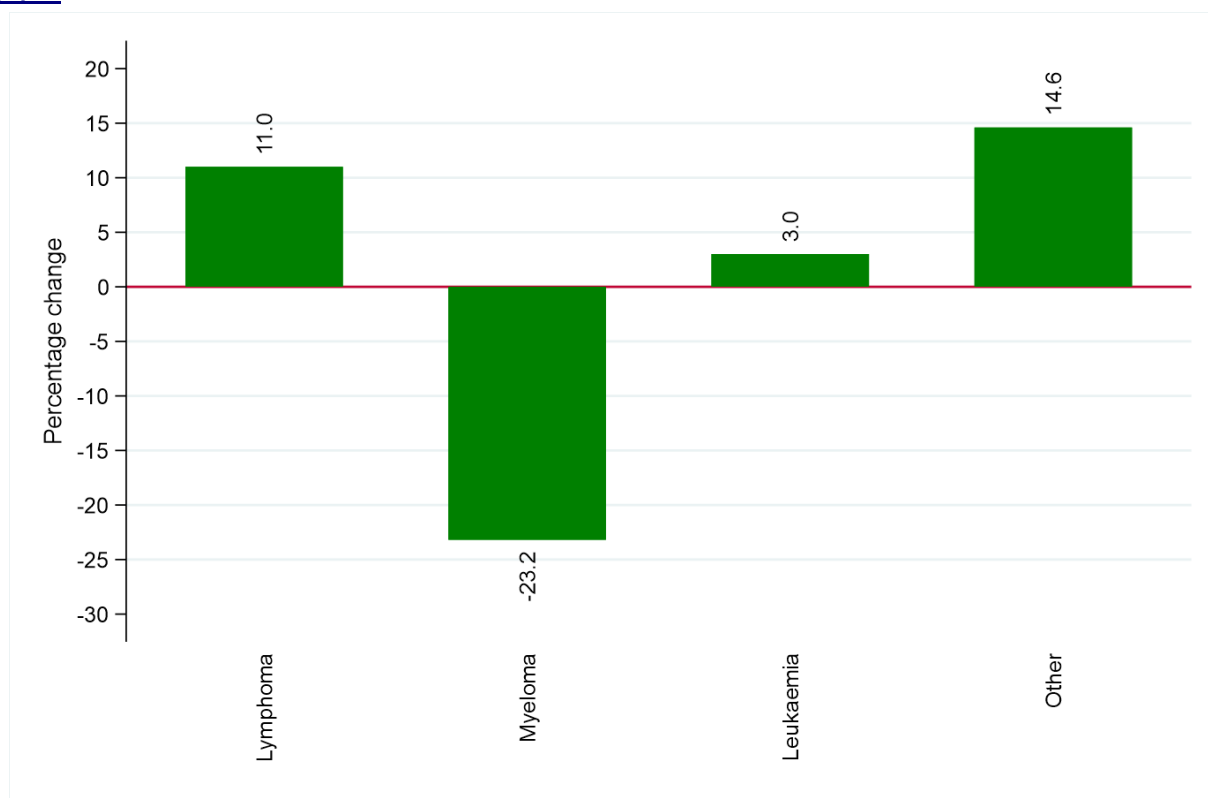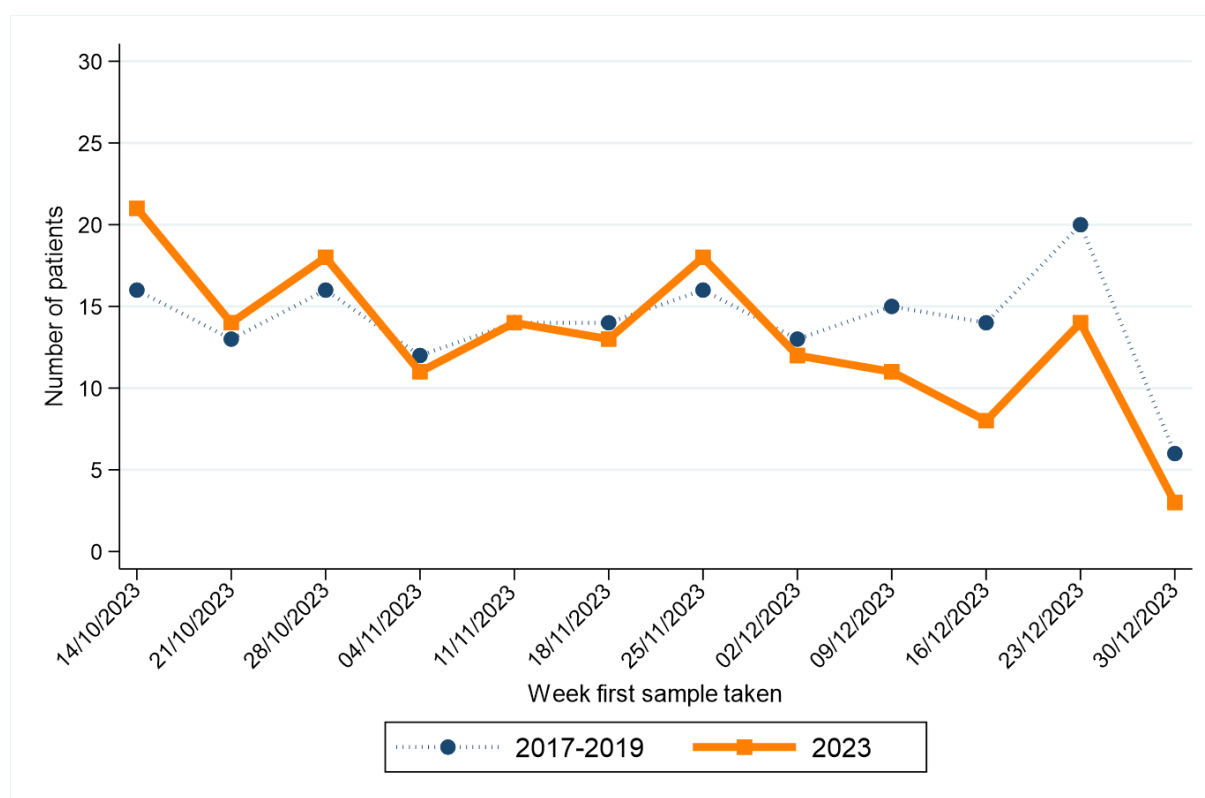

Cancer type	Number of patients (March 2020 to Dec 2023)	
	Expected number*	Recorded number
Lymphoma	1,820	2,021
Myeloma	358	275
Leukaemia	202	208
Other haematological cancer	41	47

Based upon average monthly number of patients from 2017-2019.

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-7.1%

Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023	Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	16	21	25/11/2023	16	18
21/10/2023	13	14	02/12/2023	13	12
28/10/2023	16	18	09/12/2023	15	11
04/11/2023	12	11	16/12/2023	14	8
11/11/2023	14	14	23/12/2023	20	14
18/11/2023	14	13	30/12/2023	6	3

*Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.*

*** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.*

MELANOMA

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

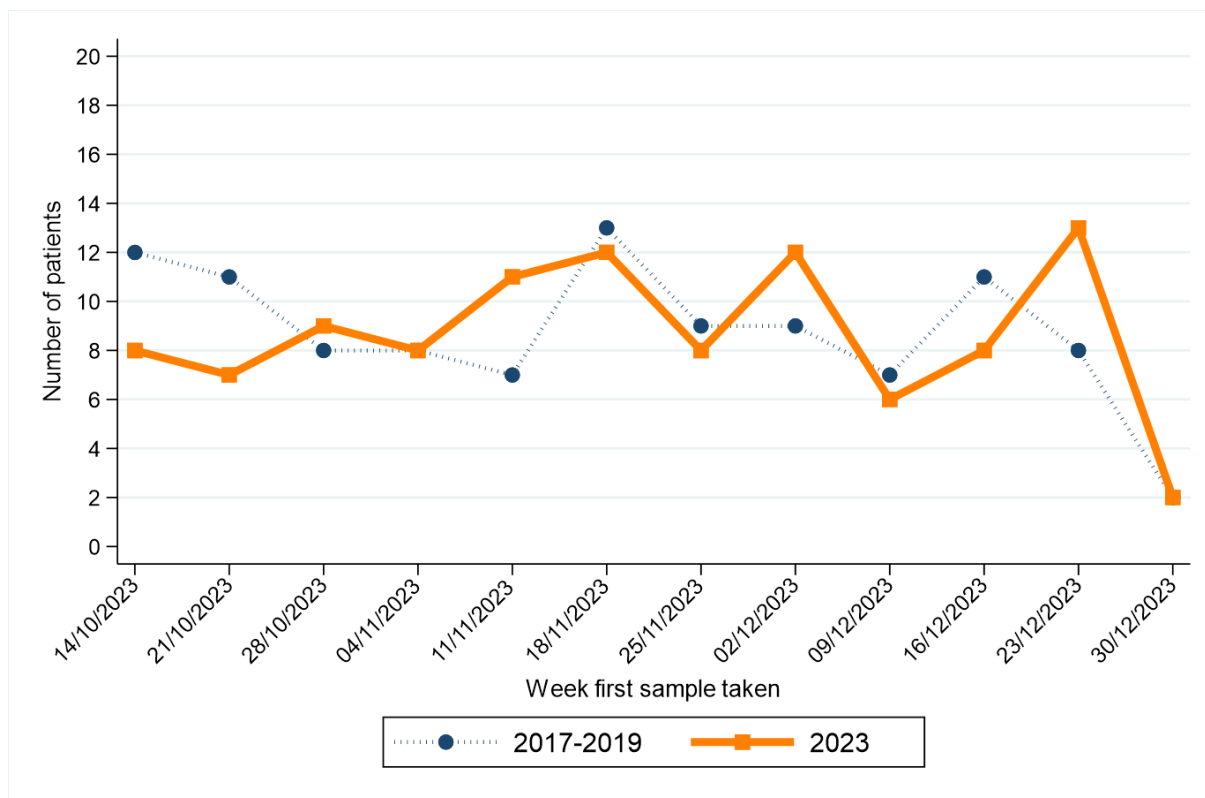### Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+8.4%
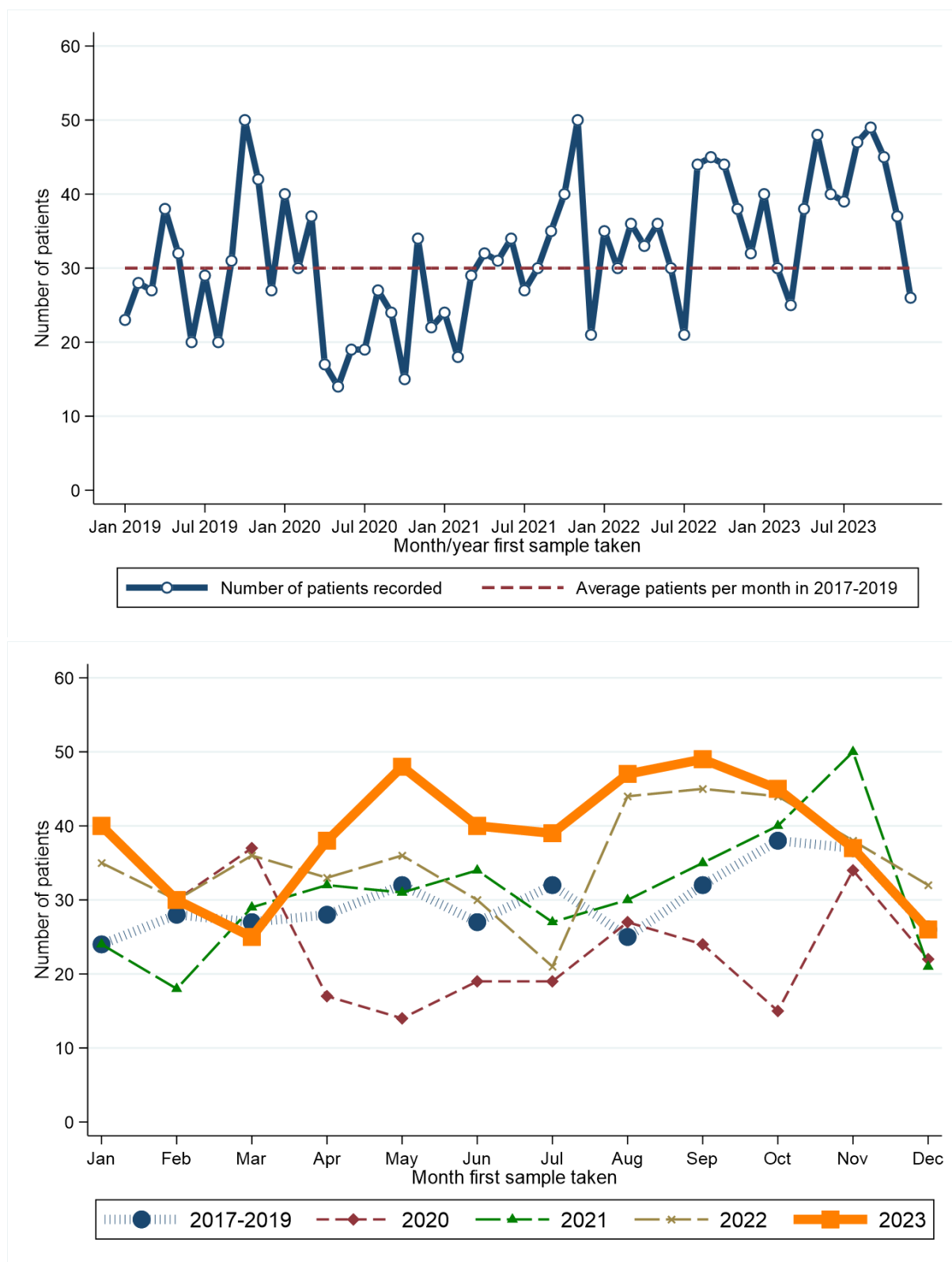
Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023	Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	24	40	24	35	40	Jul	32	19	27	21	39
Feb	28	30	18	30	30	Aug	25	27	30	44	47
Mar	27	37	29	36	25	Sep	32	24	35	45	49
Apr	28	17	32	33	38	Oct	38	15	40	44	45
May	32	14	31	36	48	Nov	37	34	50	38	37
Jun	27	19	34	30	40	Dec	26	22	21	32	26

Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-1.0%

Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023	Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	12	8	25/11/2023	9	8
21/10/2023	11	7	02/12/2023	9	12
28/10/2023	8	9	09/12/2023	7	6
04/11/2023	8	8	16/12/2023	11	8
11/11/2023	7	11	23/12/2023	8	13
18/11/2023	13	12	30/12/2023	2	2

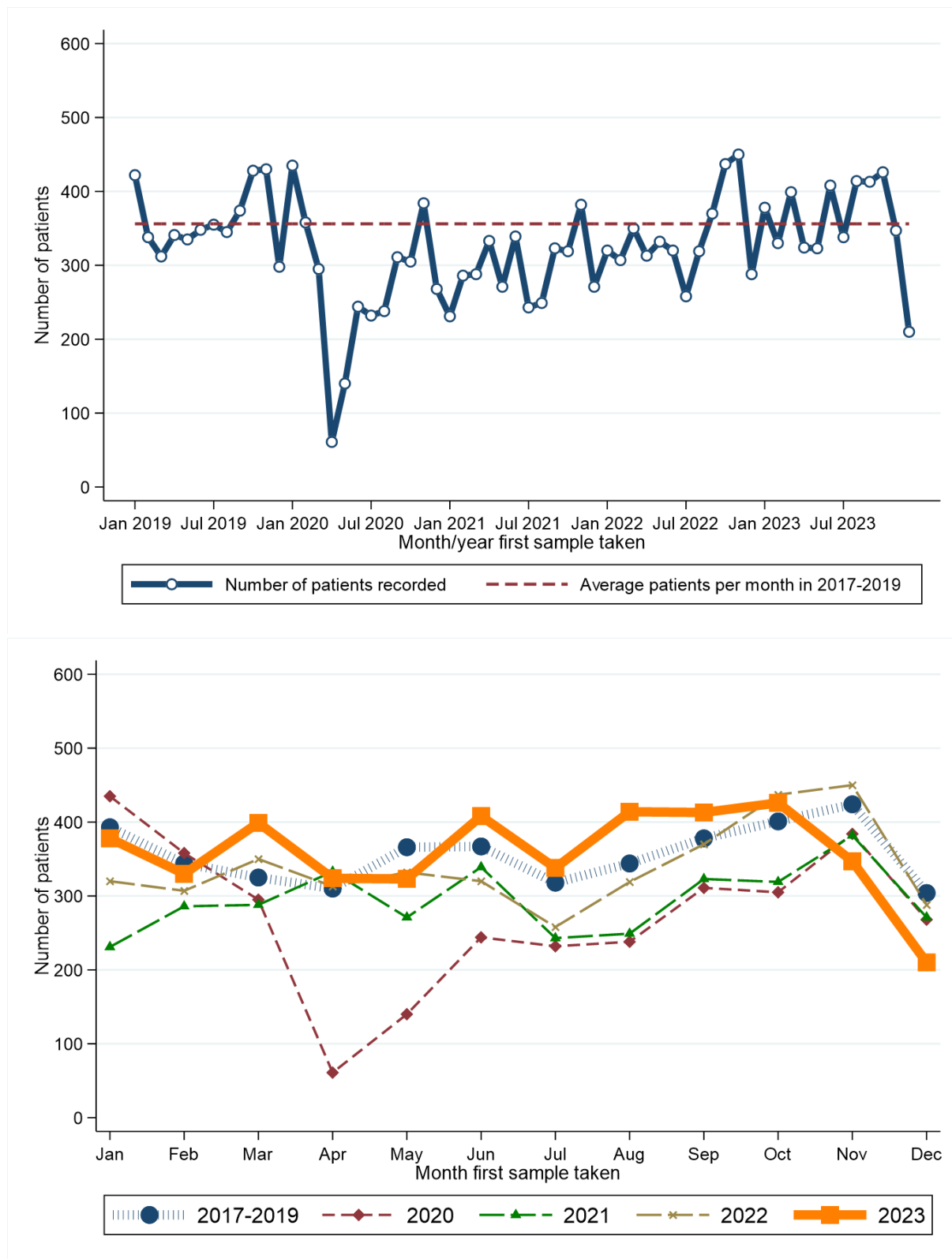*Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.*

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

NON-MELANOMA SKIN CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-12.1%

Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023	Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	393	435	231	320	378	Jul	318	232	243	258	338
Feb	344	358	286	307	330	Aug	344	238	249	319	414
Mar	325	295	288	350	399	Sep	378	311	323	370	413
Apr	310	61	333	313	324	Oct	401	305	319	437	426
May	366	140	271	332	323	Nov	424	384	382	450	347
Jun	367	244	339	320	408	Dec	304	268	271	288	210

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

-18.7%

Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023	Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	110	94	25/11/2023	120	83
21/10/2023	111	101	02/12/2023	115	93
28/10/2023	103	135	09/12/2023	109	73
04/11/2023	102	81	16/12/2023	118	83
11/11/2023	127	102	23/12/2023	100	61
18/11/2023	103	94	30/12/2023	20	7

** Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.*

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

OTHER CANCER

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to Dec 2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+6.6%
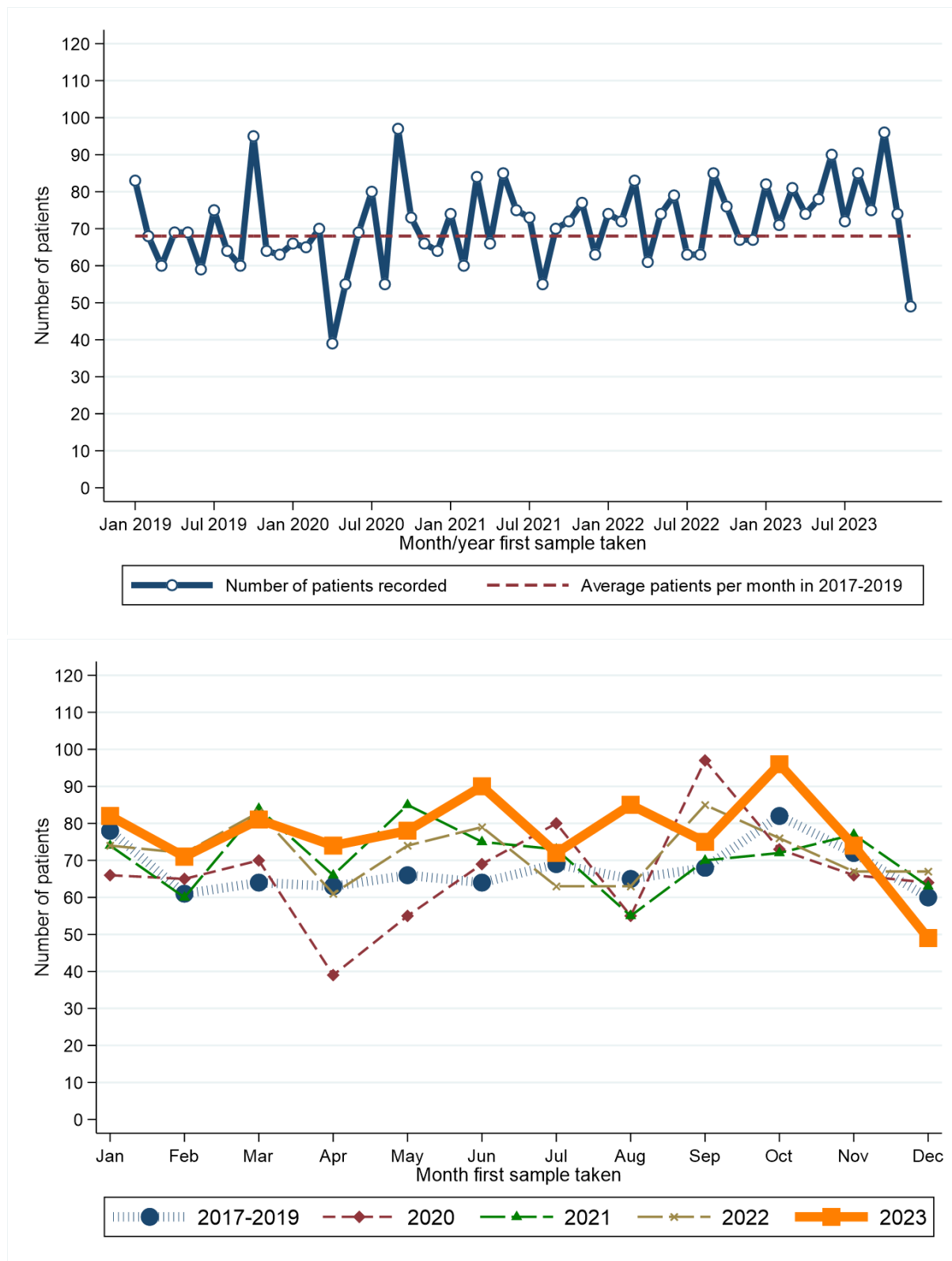
Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023	Month first sample taken	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	78	66	74	74	82	Jul	69	80	73	63	72
Feb	61	65	60	72	71	Aug	65	55	55	63	85
Mar	64	70	84	83	81	Sep	68	97	70	85	75
Apr	63	39	66	61	74	Oct	82	73	72	76	96
May	66	55	85	74	78	Nov	72	66	77	67	74
Jun	64	69	75	79	90	Dec	60	64	63	67	49

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 30/12/2023 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

+4.6%
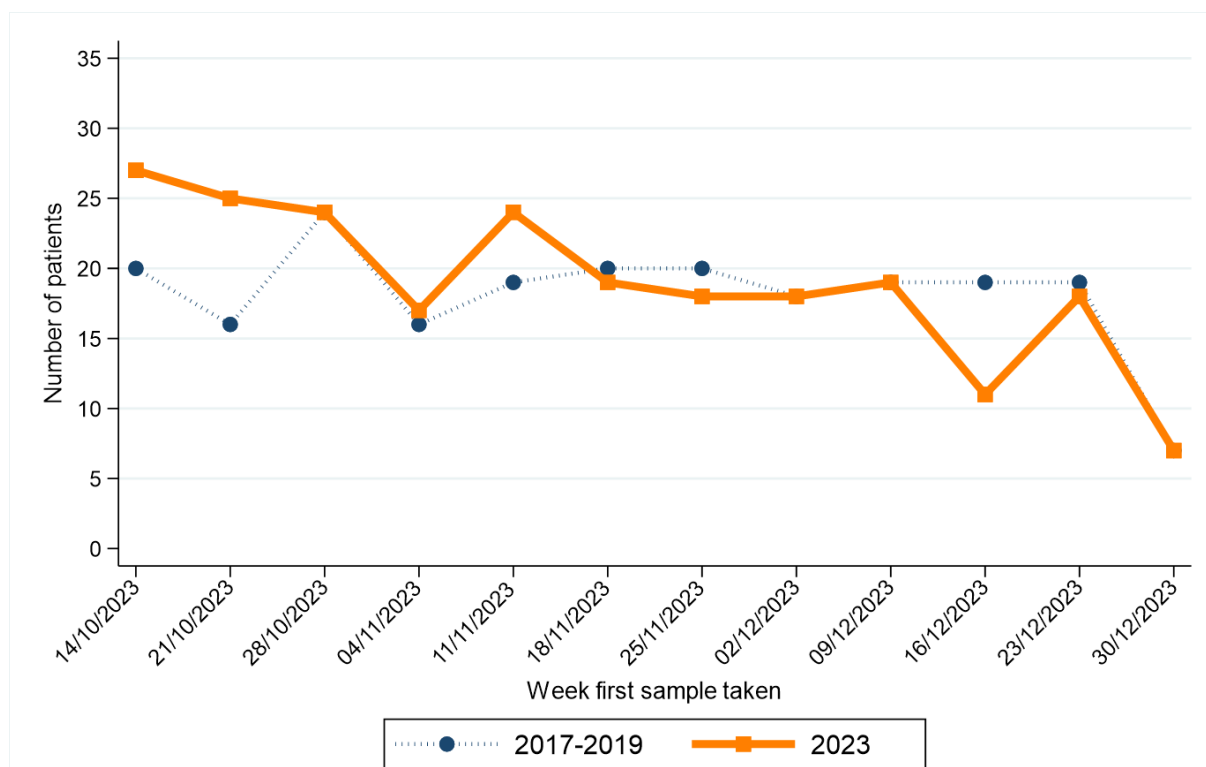
Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023	Week first sample taken**	2017-2019*	2023
14/10/2023	20	27	25/11/2023	20	18
21/10/2023	16	25	02/12/2023	18	18
28/10/2023	24	24	09/12/2023	19	19
04/11/2023	16	17	16/12/2023	19	11
11/11/2023	19	24	23/12/2023	19	18
18/11/2023	20	19	30/12/2023	7	7

* Average patients per year rounded to the nearest integer.

** Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2023. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sun-Sat week in those years.

1. NMSC: Non-melanoma skin cancer

2. Data is sourced from the four NHS pathology laboratories in Northern Ireland (Altnagelvin, 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 Dec 2023. Due to potential reporting delays, pathology data from the month following Dec 2023 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 2023. 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, pancreas, 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.