

# OESOPHAGEAL CANCER



NUMBER OF CASES PER YEAR (2010-2014)			NUMBER OF DEATHS PER YEAR (2010-2014)		
Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
135	67	202	110	57	167
FIVE-YEAR SURVIVAL (2005-2009)			22-YEAR PREVALENCE (2014)		
Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
18.0%	16.8%	17.5%	366	178	544

## INCIDENCE

Between 2010 and 2014 there were an average of 135 males and 67 females diagnosed with cancer of the oesophagus (gullet) each year in Northern Ireland. The probability that a male will develop oesophageal cancer before the age of 75 is approximately 1 in 92 whilst the probability that a female will develop oesophageal cancer before the age of 75 is 1 in 257.

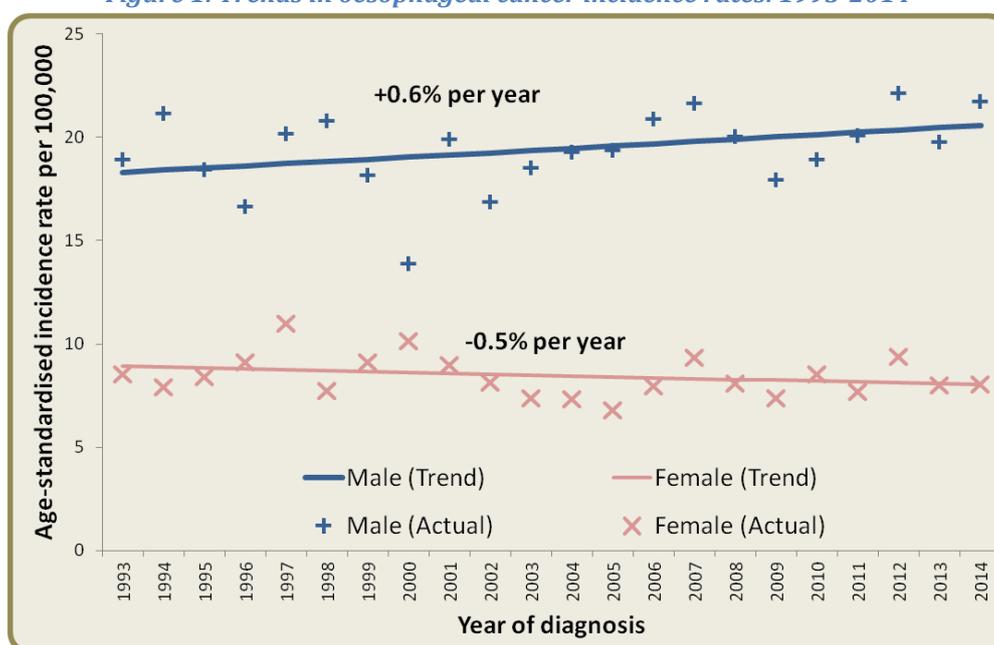
### Incidence trends

Table 1: Incidence of oesophageal cancer by gender and year of diagnosis: 2005-2014

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Males	112	121	126	127	114	119	125	140	138	154
Females	49	59	71	62	58	66	61	75	66	67
Both	161	180	197	189	172	185	186	215	204	221

Over a ten-year period the number of oesophageal cancer cases has increased in males and females from 161 in 2005 to 221 in 2014. After accounting for population changes, the incidence of oesophageal cancer in males and females has remained stable.

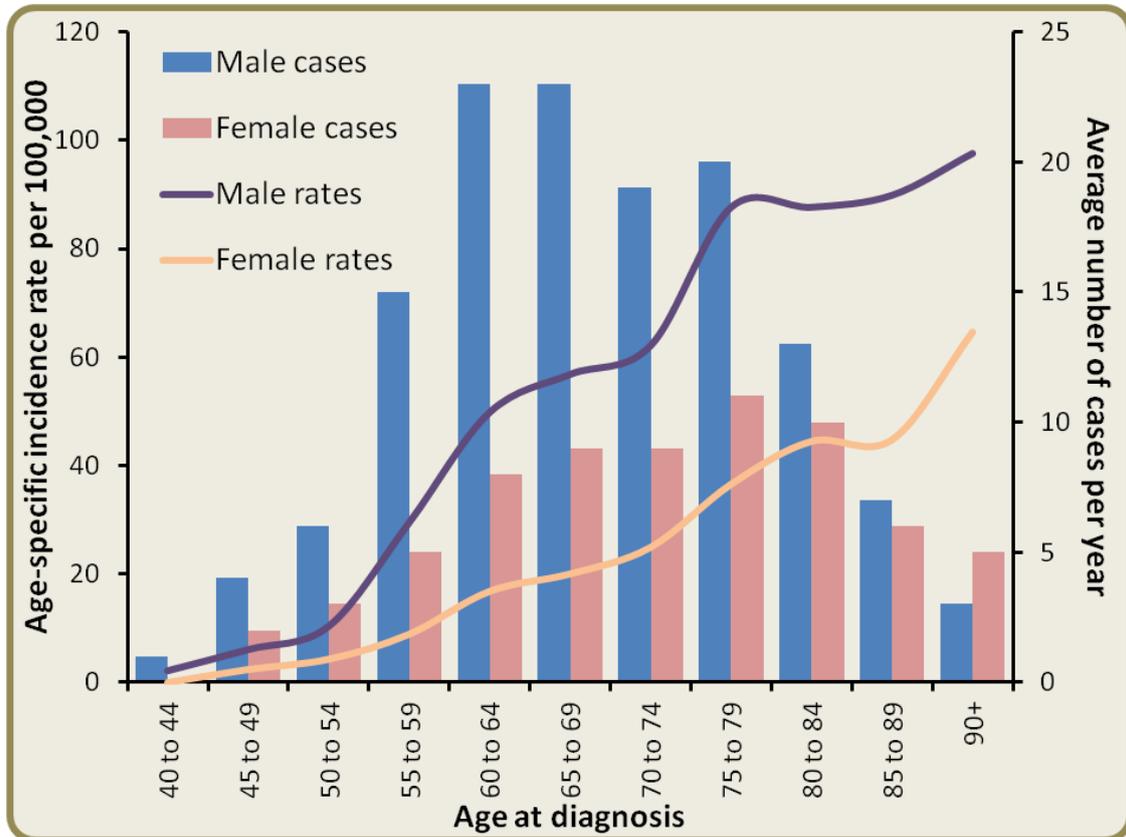
Figure 1: Trends in oesophageal cancer incidence rates: 1993-2014



### Incidence and age

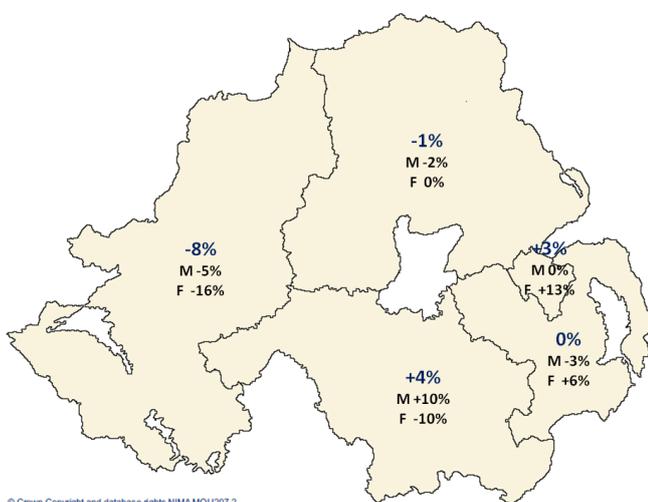
Oesophageal cancer incidence is associated with increasing age. Over 80% of patients diagnosed were over the age of 60. Incidence rates are highest among men and women aged 90 and over. There is an increase in the incidence of oesophageal cancer in men after the age of 50 whereas women experience a steady increase in incidence of oesophageal cancer, as they grow older.

Figure 2: Incidence of oesophageal cancer by age and gender: 2009-2014



### Incidence by Trust area

Figure 3: Oesophageal cancer incidence rates compared to the NI average by HSC Trust of residence: 2010-2014 comparison



There were no statistically significant differences in incidence of oesophageal cancer between health and social care trusts in 2010-2014.

No statistically significant difference in incidence of oesophageal cancer was observed in males or females in any of the five Health and Social Care Trusts in NI.

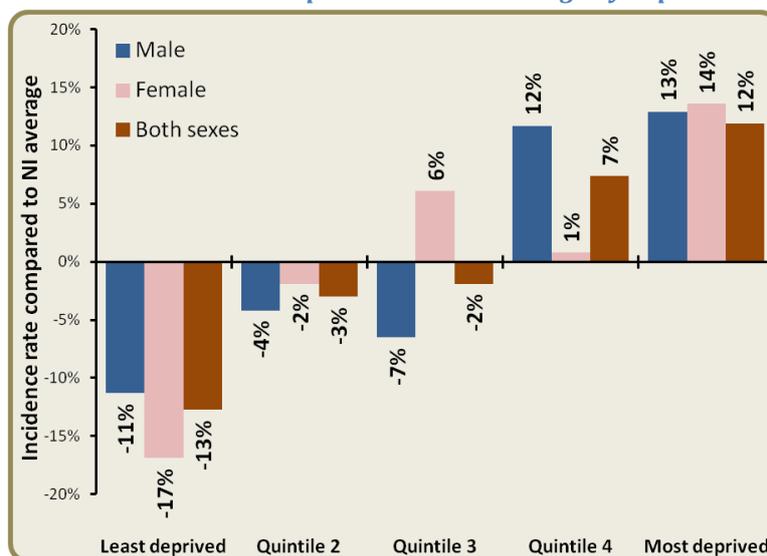
Significantly higher than average

Significantly lower than average

### Incidence by deprivation

Cancer incidence rates are consistently lower than NI average among males and females within the least deprived communities (13% lower). This is likely due to reduced incidence of cigarette smoking and obesity within the least deprived communities (both identified as risk factors for oesophageal cancer).

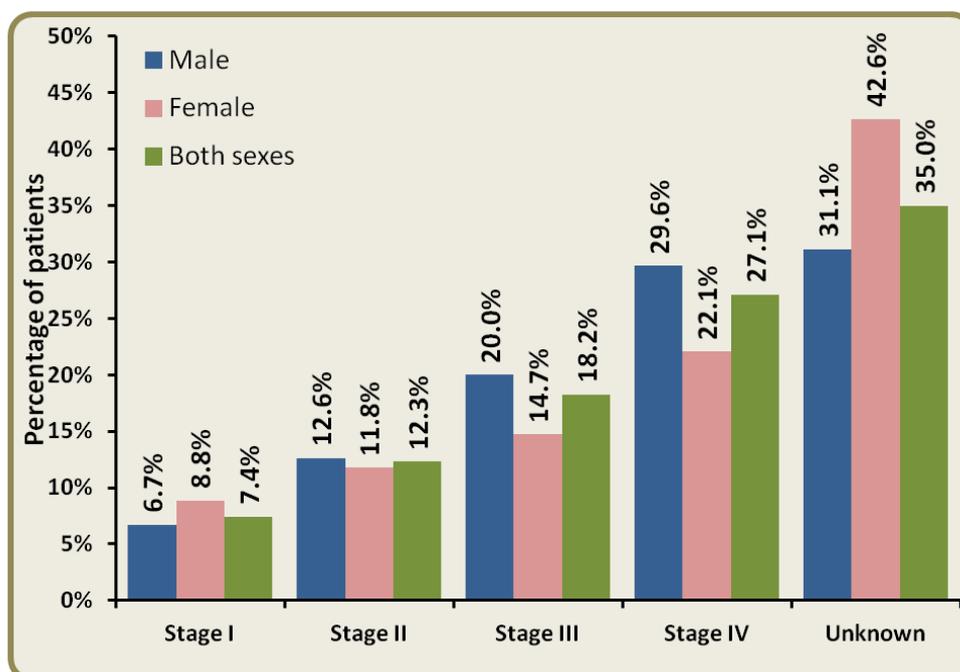
Figure 4: Oesophageal cancer incidence rates compared to the NI average by deprivation quintile: 2010-2014



### Incidence by stage

Approximately 65% of patients in Northern Ireland were assigned a stage at diagnosis. The majority of patients (35%) were diagnosed with a cancer that could not be staged. The next most common stage to receive a diagnosis of oesophageal cancer at was stage IV, which confers a poor prognosis. Only 7.4% of all oesophageal cancer patients were diagnosed at stage I disease.

Figure 5: Oesophageal cancer stage distribution: 2010-2014



## SURVIVAL

The age-standardised survival for men diagnosed with oesophageal cancer between 2005-2009 was 18.0% at five years. The age-standardised 5-year survival for women during the same time period was 16.8%. Cancer of the oesophagus is amongst the least survivable cancers in Northern Ireland.

Table 2: Five-year oesophageal cancer survival by survival time and gender

Time since diagnosis	Diagnosed 2005-2009		
	Male	Female	Both sexes
6 months	62.4%	67.5%	63.6%
1 year	42.5%	42.6%	42.5%
5 years	18.0%	16.8%	17.5%

## Survival Trends

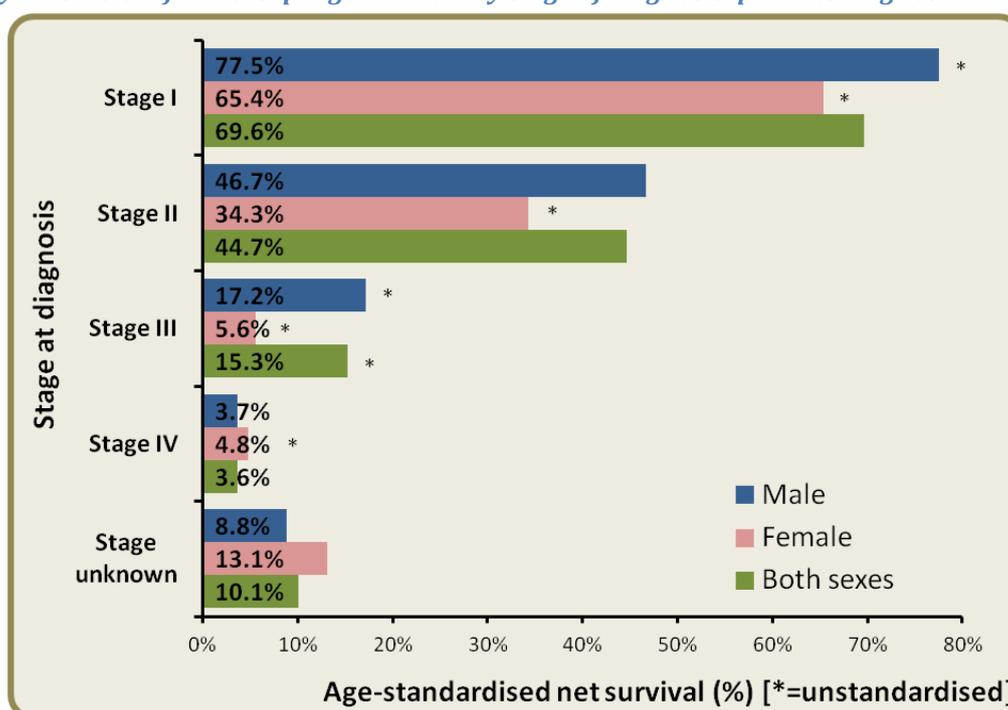
Five-year survival for oesophageal cancer in Northern Ireland has increased from the 1993-1999 diagnosis period to the 2005-2009 diagnosis period in males but has remained steady in females. Five-year survival in men between 1993-1999 was 8.9% and 18.0% between 2005-2009. Five-year survival in women between 1993-1999 was 16.8% which stayed the same between 2005-2009.

Table 3: Five-year oesophageal cancer survival by period of diagnosis and gender

Period of diagnosis	Male	Female	Both sexes
1993-1999	8.9%	16.8%	10.7%
2000-2004	10.9%	15.5%	12.8%
2005-2009	18.0%	16.8%	17.5%

## Survival and stage

Figure 6: Five-year survival from oesophageal cancer by stage of diagnosis: patients diagnosed 2002-2009



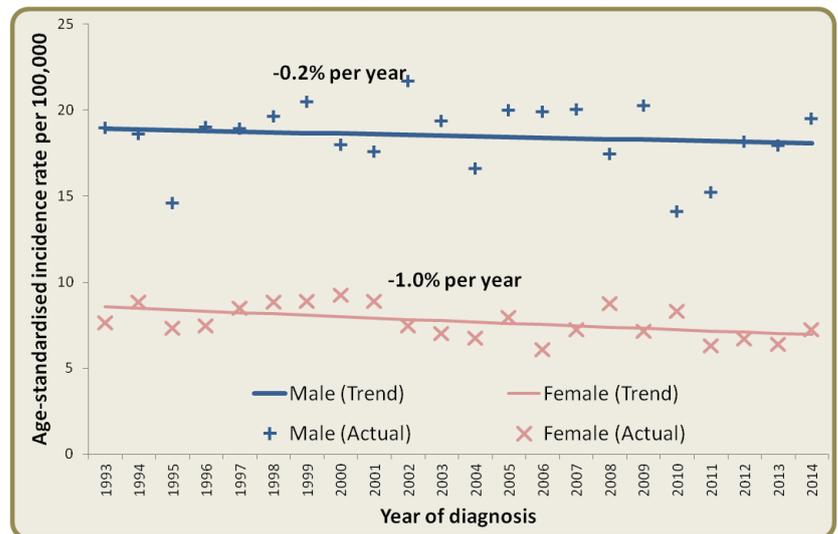
Stage at diagnosis is one of the most important factors in oesophageal cancer survival with five-year survival decreasing as stage at diagnosis increases (69.6% for stage I compared to 3.6% for stage IV).

## MORTALITY

### Mortality trends

In 2010-2014 there were an average of 167 deaths from oesophagus cancer each year. When adjusted for age and population change, the male cancer mortality rate has remained stable whilst female mortality rates have significantly decreased by approximately 1.0% during the previous twenty-two year period.

Figure 7: Trends in oesophageal cancer mortality rates: 1993-2014



## PREVALENCE

At the end of 2014 there were a total of 544 people living with a diagnosis of oesophageal cancer of which 67% were male, 28% had been diagnosed in the previous year, and 83% were over 60. The largest group of people living with cancer of the oesophagus are males over the age of 60.

Table 4: Number of people living with oesophageal cancer at the end of 2013 who were diagnosed from 1993-2014 by time since diagnosis and gender

Sex	Age	Time since diagnosis				22-year Prevalence
		0-1 year	1-5 years	5-10 years	10-22 years	
Male	0-59	25	24	14	2	65
	60+	83	100	67	51	301
	All ages	108	124	81	53	366
Female	0-59	9	11	4	2	26
	60+	38	54	23	37	152
	All ages	47	65	27	39	178
Both	0-59	34	35	18	4	91
	60+	121	154	90	88	453
	All ages	155	189	108	92	544

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Further data is available from the Northern Ireland Cancer Registry web site: [www.qub.ac.uk/nicr](http://www.qub.ac.uk/nicr)

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