

# PANCREAS CANCER



| NUMBER OF CASES PER YEAR<br>(2011-2015) |        |            | NUMBER OF DEATHS PER YEAR<br>(2011-2015) |        |            |
|-----------------------------------------|--------|------------|------------------------------------------|--------|------------|
| Male                                    | Female | Both sexes | Male                                     | Female | Both sexes |
| 118                                     | 126    | 244        | 103                                      | 119    | 223        |
| FIVE-YEAR SURVIVAL<br>(2005-2009)       |        |            | 23-YEAR PREVALENCE<br>(2015)             |        |            |
| Male                                    | Female | Both sexes | Male                                     | Female | Both sexes |
| 5.2%                                    | 5.1%   | 5.2%       | 131                                      | 121    | 252        |

## INCIDENCE

Between 2011 and 2015 there were an average of 118 males and 126 females diagnosed with pancreatic cancer each year in Northern Ireland. The probability that a male will develop pancreatic cancer before the age of 75 is approximately 1 in 113 whilst the probability that a female will develop pancreatic cancer before the age of 75 is 1 in 144.

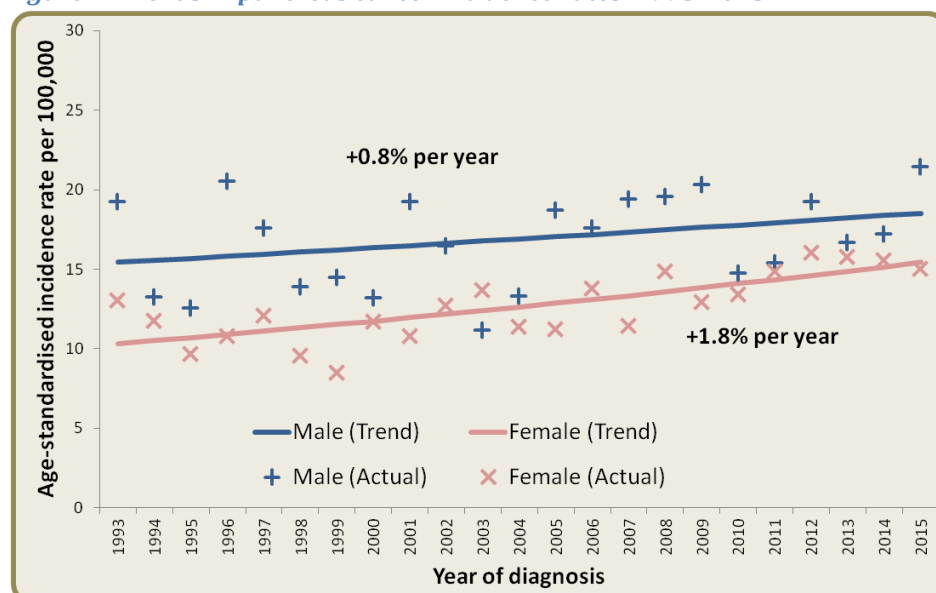
### Incidence trends

Table 1: Incidence of pancreas cancer by gender and year of diagnosis: 2006-2015

|         | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Males   | 104  | 108  | 112  | 112  | 89   | 96   | 125  | 110  | 114  | 146  |
| Females | 102  | 84   | 112  | 99   | 105  | 118  | 131  | 127  | 128  | 127  |
| Both    | 206  | 192  | 224  | 211  | 194  | 214  | 256  | 237  | 242  | 273  |

Over a ten-year period the number of pancreatic cancer cases has increased in males and females from 206 in 2006 to 273 in 2015. After accounting for population changes, cancer incidence rates in males have remained relatively stable during the previous twenty-year period whilst cancer incidence rates in females have increased by 1.8% each year.

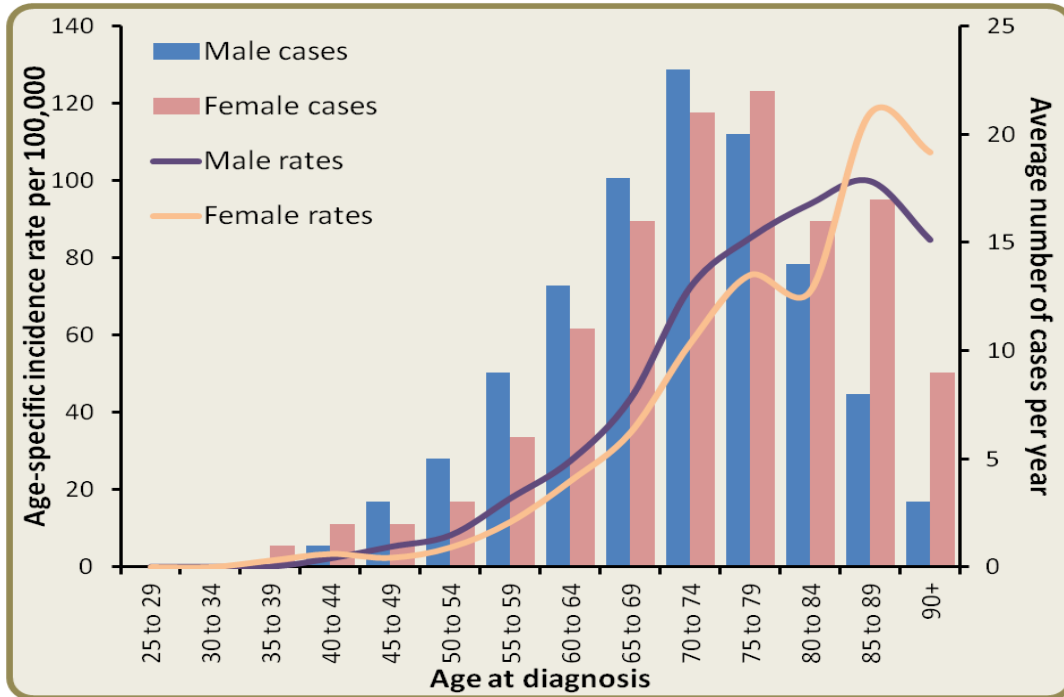
Figure 1: Trends in pancreas cancer incidence rates: 1993-2015



### Incidence and age

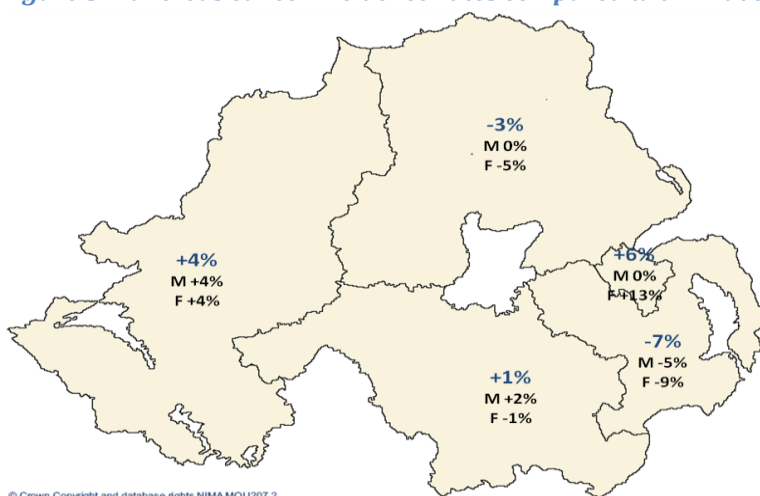
Pancreatic cancer incidence is associated with increasing age. Almost 87% of patients diagnosed were over the age of 60. Incidence rates are highest among men and women aged 80-89. There is a sharp increase in the incidence of pancreatic cancer in men after the age of 70. Women experience a steady increase in incidence of pancreatic cancer slightly later (after the age of 80). There were no patients diagnosed under the age of 35.

Figure 2: Incidence of pancreas cancer by age and gender: 2011-2015



### Incidence by Trust area

Figure 3: Pancreas cancer incidence rates compared with NI average by sex and HSC trust of residence 2011-2015

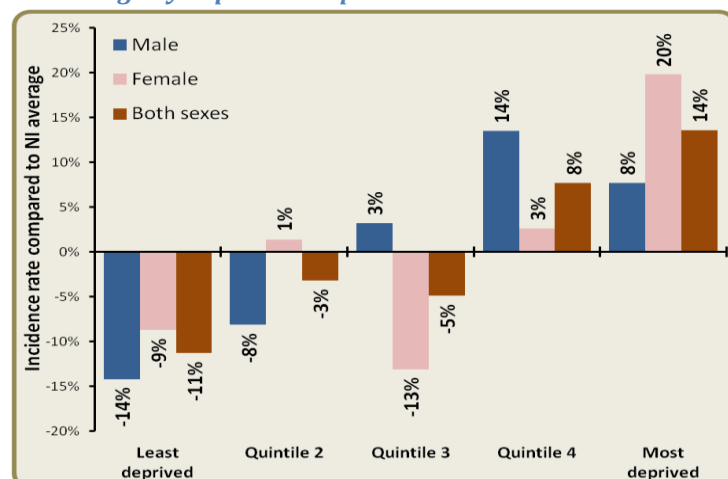


There were no statistically significant differences in pancreatic cancer incidence rates between health and social care trusts between 2011 and 2015. Incidence of pancreatic cancer was higher than the NI average in females living within the area served by the Belfast HSCT but when both sets of gender data were combined it was no longer statistically significant.

Significantly higher than average

Significantly lower than average

Figure 4: Pancreas cancer incidence rates compared to the NI average by deprivation quintile: 2011-2015



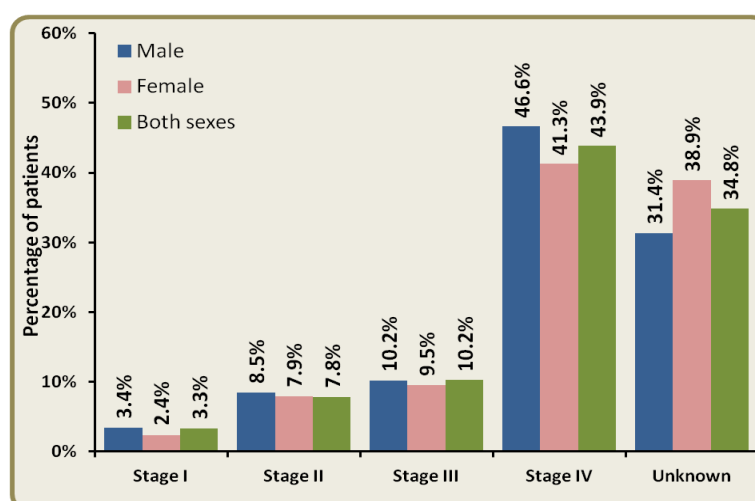
## Incidence by deprivation

Incidence rates of pancreatic cancer are associated with socioeconomic deprivation. Cancer incidence rates are 14% higher than the NI average in the most deprived communities and 11% lower than the NI average amongst those living in the least deprived communities compared to NI as a whole.

## Incidence by stage

Almost two thirds of patients were assigned a stage at diagnosis. The majority of patients who received a stage at diagnosis were diagnosed with stage IV pancreatic cancer (67% of staged cases or 44% of total cases diagnosed). Only 3% of all pancreatic cancer was diagnosed at stage I in Northern Ireland.

Figure 5: Pancreas cancer stage distribution: 2011-2015



## SURVIVAL

The age-standardised survival for men diagnosed with pancreatic cancer between 2005-2009 was 5.2% at five years. The age-standardised survival for women during the same time period was 5.1%. This makes pancreatic cancer the least survivable cancer in Northern Ireland.

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

| Time since diagnosis | Diagnosed 2005-2009 |        |            |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------|------------|
|                      | Male                | Female | Both sexes |
| 6 months             | 32.5%               | 30.1%  | 31.3%      |
| 1 year               | 18.3%               | 15.3%  | 17.1%      |
| 5 years              | 5.2%                | 5.1%   | 5.2%       |

### Survival Trends

Five-year survival for pancreatic cancer in Northern Ireland has improved slightly from the 1993-1999 diagnosis period to the 2005-2009 diagnosis period; increasing from 2.5% to 5.2%

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

| Period of diagnosis | Male | Female | Both sexes |
|---------------------|------|--------|------------|
| 1993-1999           | 2.2% | 2.8%   | 2.5%       |
| 2000-2004           | 1.4% | 3.1%   | 2.2%       |
| 2005-2009           | 5.2% | 5.1%   | 5.2%       |

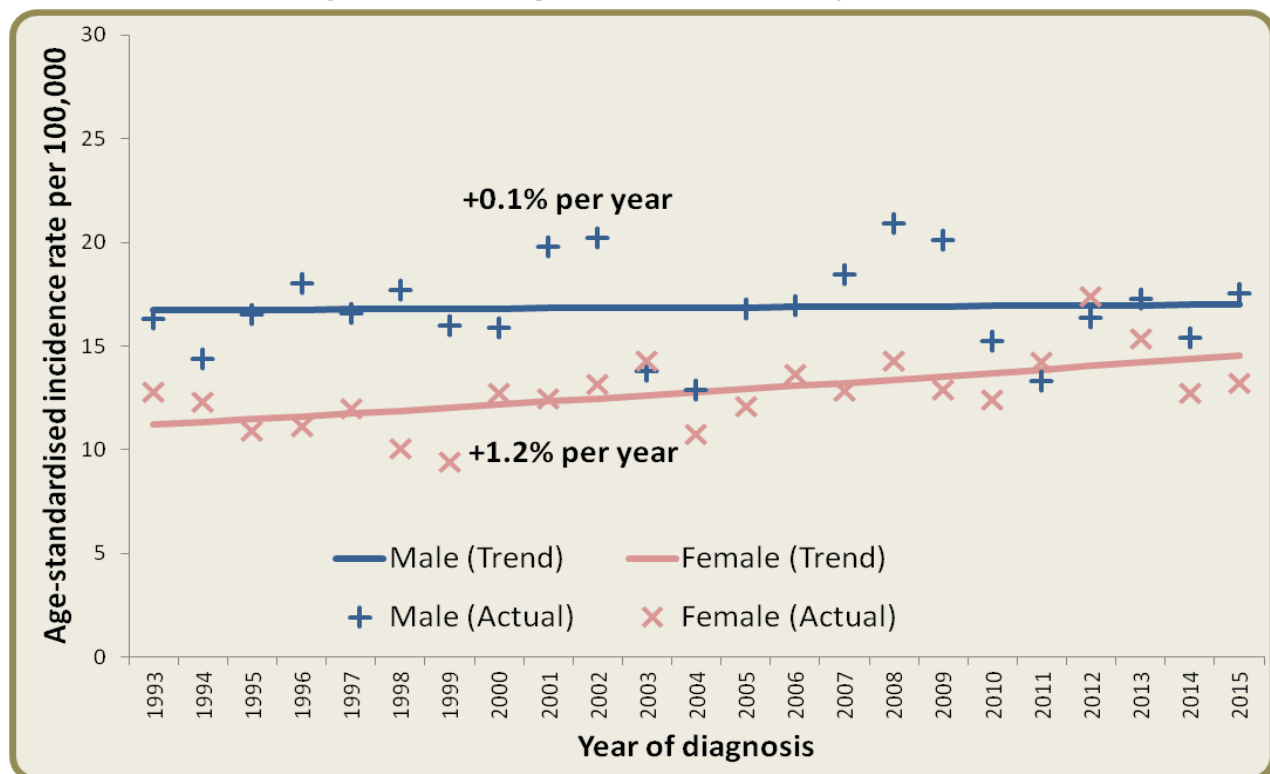
## MORTALITY

In 2011-2015 there was an average of 223 deaths from pancreatic cancer each year.

### Mortality trends

The male pancreatic cancer mortality rate has remained unchanged during the previous twenty two-year period. In contrast, female mortality rates have steadily increased by approximately 1.2% during the previous twenty two-year period. The reasons for differences in mortality rates between genders are not known.

Figure 6: Trends in pancreas cancer mortality rates: 1993-2015



## PREVALENCE

At the end of 2015 there were a total of 252 people living with a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer of which 48% were female, 50% had been diagnosed in the previous year, and 49% were over the age of 70.

| Sex    | Age      | 23-year Prevalence |
|--------|----------|--------------------|
| Male   | 0-69     | 73                 |
|        | 70+      | 58                 |
|        | All ages | 131                |
| Female | 0-69     | 55                 |
|        | 70+      | 66                 |
|        | All ages | 121                |
| Both   | 0-69     | 128                |
|        | 70+      | 124                |
|        | All ages | 252                |

## 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)

## NI Cancer Registry

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