

NON-MELANOMA SKIN CANCER



This document provides information about non-melanoma skin cancer (squamous cell and basal cell skin cancers) in Northern Ireland. For information about malignant melanoma, please see the separate malignant melanoma fact sheet. Information about cancer stage and survival is not presented due to high survival rates associated with non-melanoma skin cancer.

NUMBER OF CASES PER YEAR (2012-2016) ¹			NUMBER OF DEATHS PER YEAR (2012-2016)		
Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
2,124	1,594	3,718	17	7	25
FIVE-YEAR SURVIVAL (2006-2010)			24-YEAR PREVALENCE (2016)		
Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
-	-	-	18,878	16,496	35,374

¹ Mean yearly incidence data for period 2012-2016 has been rounded to nearest integer, and thus some numbers in tables will not add to give the exact total.

INCIDENCE

Between 2012 and 2016 there were an average of 2,124 males and 1,594 females diagnosed with non-melanoma skin cancer each year in Northern Ireland. The probability that a male will develop skin cancer before the age of 75 is approximately 1 in 8 whilst the probability that a female will develop skin cancer before the age of 75 is 1 in 12.

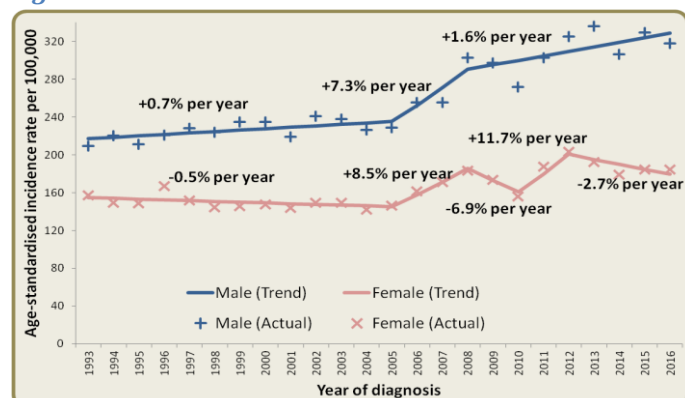
Incidence trends

Table 1: Incidence of skin cancer by gender and year of diagnosis: 2007-2016

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Males	1,435	1,700	1,733	1,615	1,846	2,060	2,139	2,038	2,191	2,191
Females	1,287	1,406	1,353	1,235	1,503	1,663	1,600	1,517	1,582	1,607
Both	2,722	3,106	3,086	2,850	3,349	3,723	3,739	3,555	3,773	3,798

Over a ten-year period the number of skin cancer cases has increased in males and females from 2,722 in 2007 to 3,798 in 2016. After accounting for our ageing population, cancer incidence rates have remained stable in males and females between 1993 and 2005. Thereafter, yearly incidence rates begin to rise.

Figure 1: Trends in skin cancer incidence rates: 1993-2016

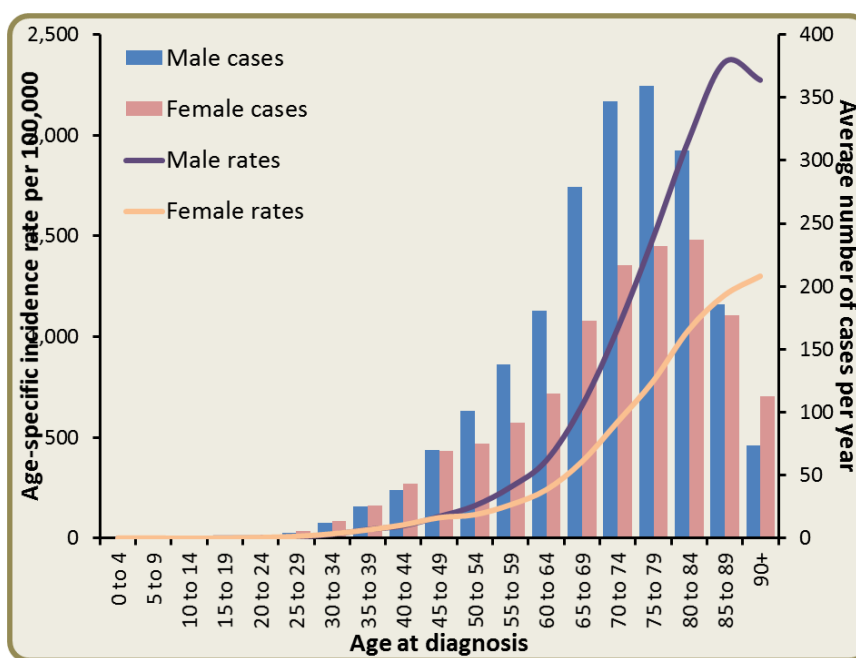


Skin cancer incidence rate in men has risen by 1.6% per year between 2008 and 2016. Incidence rates in women have risen by 8.5% between 2005 and 2008 before falling again over two years by 6.9%. This was followed by another rise and fall between 2010 and 2016 by +11.7% and -2.7%. This overall rise in skin cancer incidence rates is likely due to increased sun exposure in the population, something that is closely linked to increasing prosperity and more frequent overseas travel.

Incidence and age

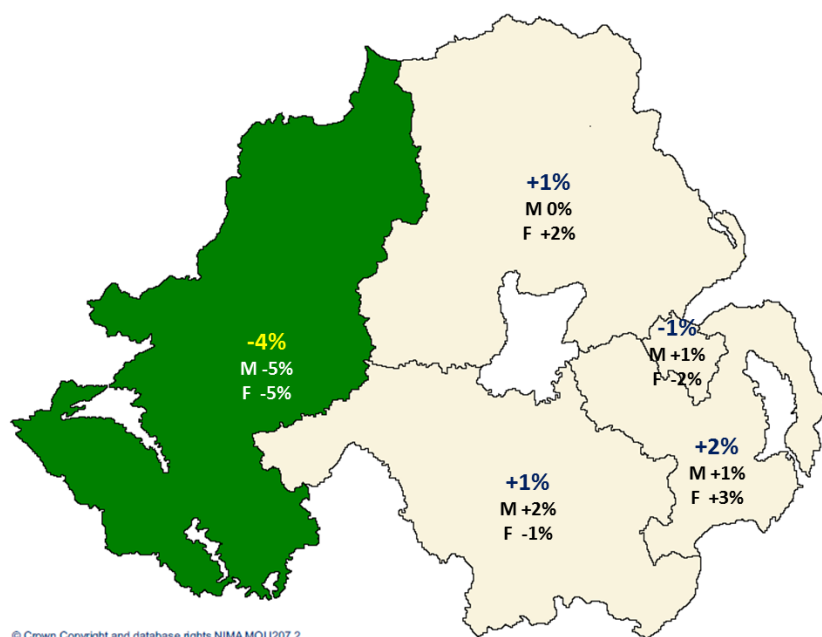
Skin cancer incidence is associated with increasing age. Over 60% of patients diagnosed were over the age of 70. Incidence rates are highest among males and females aged 85 and over. There is a sharp increase in the incidence of skin cancer in men after the age of 60 whereas women experience a more steady increase in incidence of skin cancer, as they grow older. Skin cancer affects persons of all ages but there are very few cases diagnosed in those under the age of 30.

Figure 2: Incidence of skin cancer by age and gender: 2012-2016



Incidence by Trust area

Figure 3: Skin cancer incidence rates compared to the NI average by sex and HSC trust of residence 2012-2016



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Significantly higher than average

Significantly lower than average

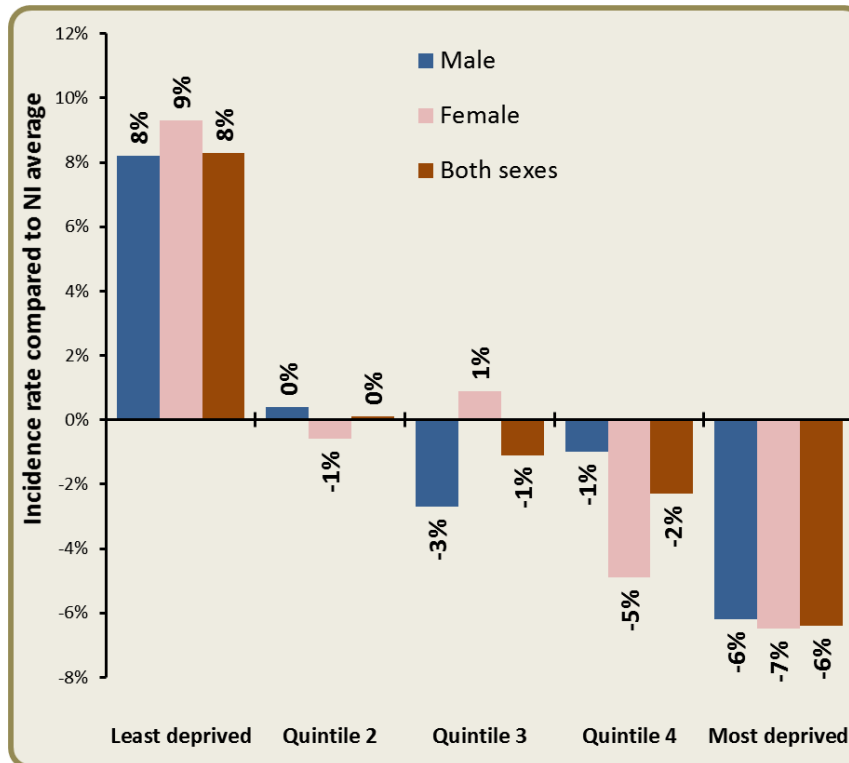
Skin cancer incidence rates within the Western Health and Social Care Trust seen the only statistically significant decrease in incidence rates between 2012 and 2016.

In the rest of Health and Social Care Trusts there were no statistically significant incidence rates in non-melanoma skin cancer compared to the NI average.

Incidence by deprivation

Non-melanoma skin cancer incidence rates are 8% higher than the NI average in the least deprived communities and 6% lower than the NI average in the most deprived communities. This is likely due to differences in skin cancer risk factor exposure (radiation from sunlight), which is in turn strongly linked to number and duration of overseas holidays taken each year.

Figure 4: Skin cancer incidence rates compared to the NI average by deprivation quintile: 2012-2016



MORTALITY

In 2012-2016 there were an average of 17 male and 7 female deaths from non-melanoma skin cancer each year (average of 25 each year in total).

Mortality trends

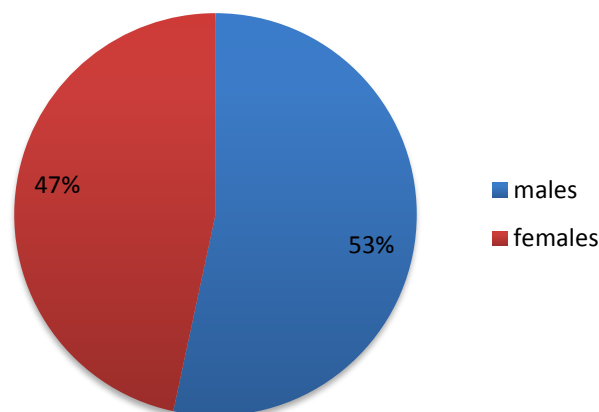
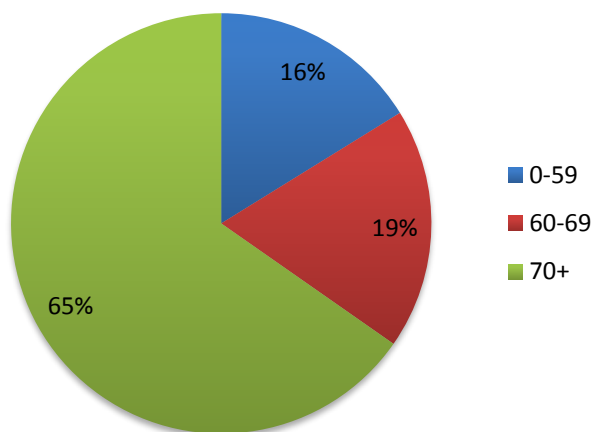
Non-melanoma skin cancer has the lowest mortality rate of all cancers with age-adjusted mortality rates of 3.2 and 0.8 per 100,000 each year in males and females, respectively.

PREVALENCE

At the end of 2016 there were a total of 35,374 people living with a diagnosis of non-melanoma skin cancer making it the most prevalent form of cancer in Northern Ireland. There is a relatively even gender split (53% of non-melanoma skin cancer cases affect males whilst 47% of non-melanoma skin cancer cases affect females), 10% of people had been diagnosed in the previous year, and over 65% were over the age of 70.

Table 4: Number of people living with skin cancer at the end of 2016 who were diagnosed from 1993-2016 by time since diagnosis and gender

Sex	Age	Time since diagnosis				24-year Prevalence
		0-1 year	1-5 years	5-10 years	10-24 years	
Male	0-69	799	2,473	1,800	1,642	6,714
	70+	1,080	3,854	3,263	3,967	12,164
	All ages	1,879	6,327	5,063	5,609	18,878
Female	0-69	558	1,927	1,500	1,579	5,564
	70+	908	3,170	2,939	3,915	10,932
	All ages	1,466	5,097	4,439	5,494	16,496
Both	0-69	1,357	4,400	3,300	3,221	12,278
	70+	1,988	7,024	6,202	7,882	23,096
	All ages	3,345	11,424	9,502	11,103	35,374



FURTHER INFORMATION

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

NI Cancer Registry
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