

OESOPHAGEAL CANCER



NUMBER OF CASES PER YEAR (2012-2016) ¹			NUMBER OF DEATHS PER YEAR (2012-2016)		
Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
143	71	215	129	57	186
FIVE-YEAR SURVIVAL (2006-2010)			24-YEAR PREVALENCE (2016)		
Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
19.2%	20.3%	19.1%	381	205	586

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 143 males and 71 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 88 whilst the probability that a female will develop oesophageal cancer before the age of 75 is 1 in 240.

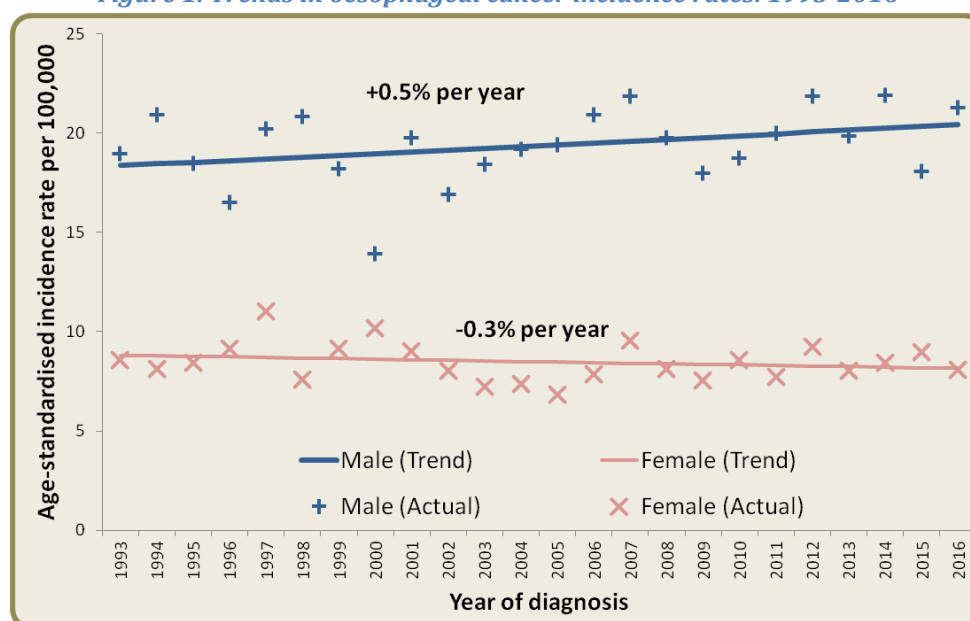
Incidence trends

Table 1: Incidence of oesophageal cancer by gender and year of diagnosis: 2007-2017

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Males	127	125	114	118	124	138	138	155	130	156
Females	72	62	59	66	61	74	66	70	77	70
Both	199	187	173	184	185	212	204	225	207	226

Over a ten-year period the number of oesophageal cancer cases has increased in males and females from 199 in 2007 to 226 in 2016. After accounting for population changes, the incidence of oesophageal cancer in males and females has remained stable.

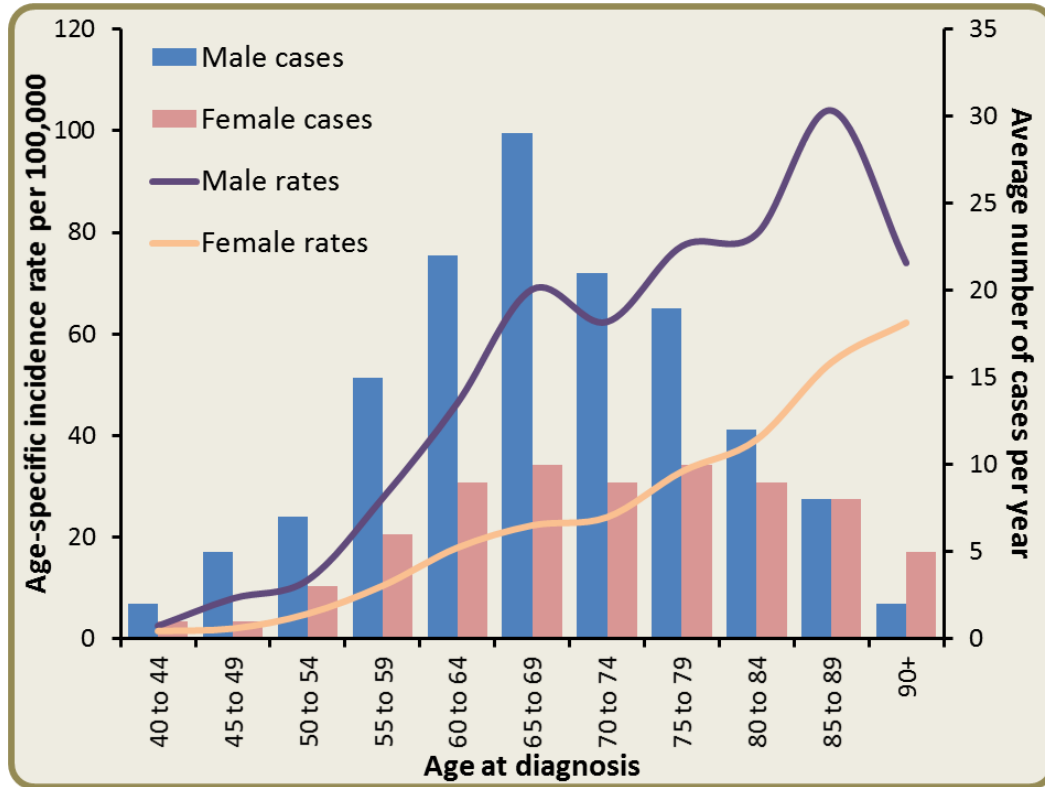
Figure 1: Trends in oesophageal cancer incidence rates: 1993-2016



Incidence and age

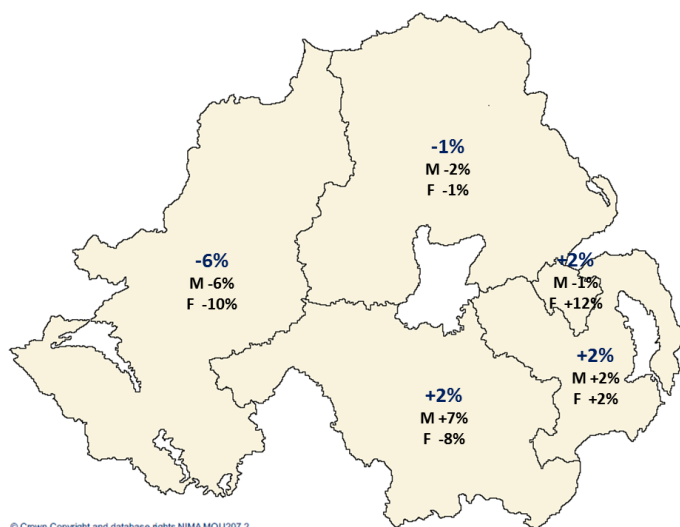
Oesophageal cancer incidence is associated with increasing age. 80% of patients diagnosed were over the age of 60. Incidence rates are highest among men and women aged 85 and over. There is an increase in the incidence of oesophageal cancer in men after the age of 50 whereas women experience a steady increase in incidence of oesophageal cancer, as they grow older.

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



Incidence by Trust area


Figure 3: Oesophageal cancer incidence rates compared to the NI average by HSC Trust of residence: 2012-2016 comparison




There were no statistically significant differences in incidence of oesophageal cancer between health and social care trusts in 2012-2016.

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.

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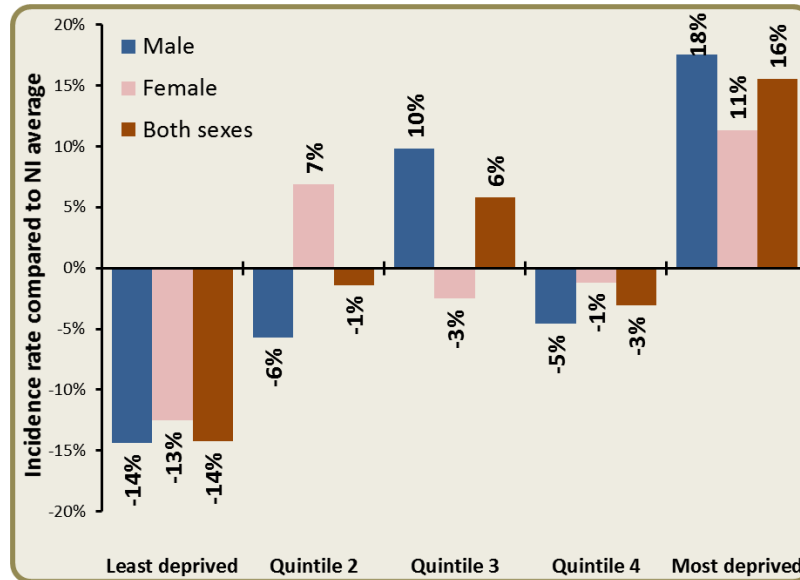
 Significantly higher than average

 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 (14% 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).

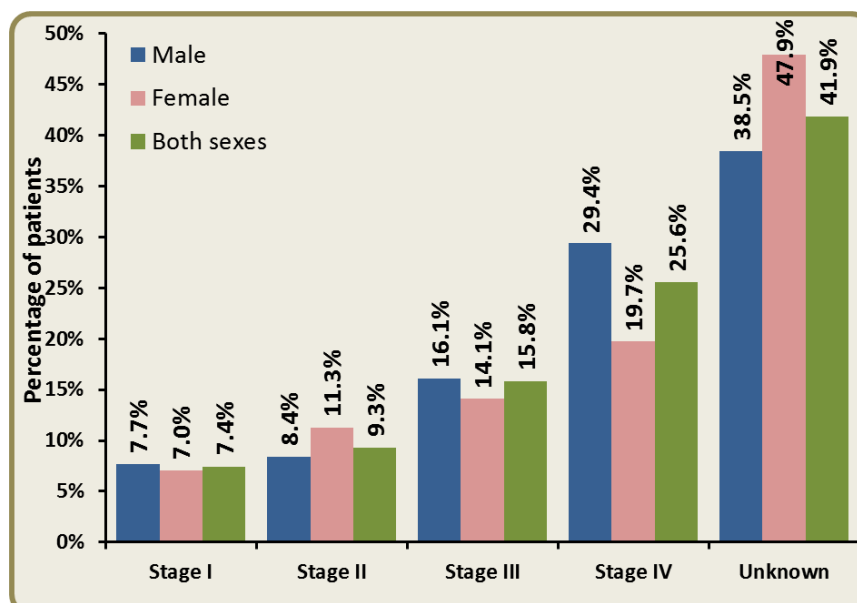
Figure 4: Oesophageal cancer incidence rates compared to the NI average by deprivation quintile: 2012-2016



Incidence by stage

Approximately 58% of patients in Northern Ireland were assigned a stage at diagnosis. The majority of patients (42%) 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: 2012-2016



SURVIVAL

The age-standardised survival for men diagnosed with oesophageal cancer between 2006-2010 was 19.2% at five years. The age-standardised 5-year survival for women during the same time period was 20.3%. 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 2006-2010		
	Male	Female	Both sexes
6 months	65.1%	68.3%	65.6%
1 year	44.5%	44.5%	44.3%
5 years	19.2%	20.3%	19.1%

Survival Trends

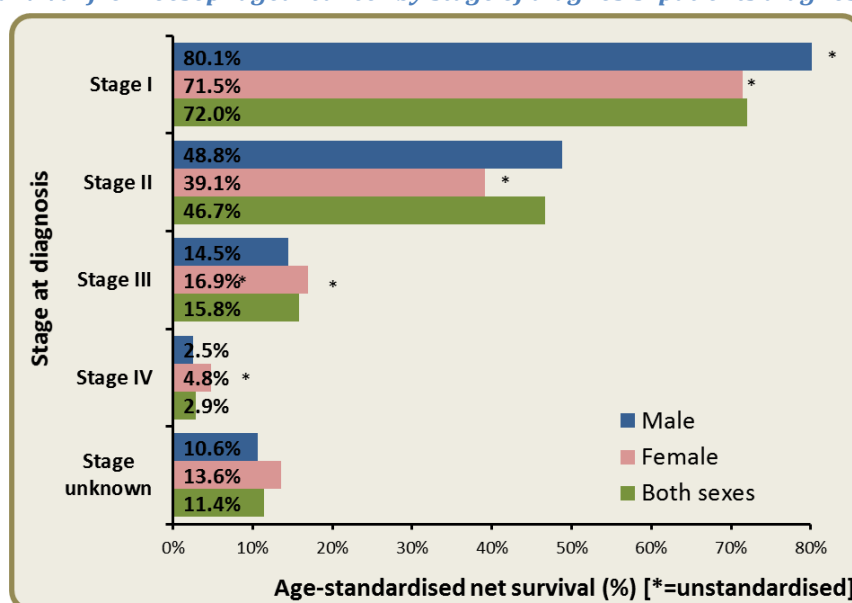
Five-year survival for oesophageal cancer in Northern Ireland has increased from the 1993-2000 diagnosis period to the 2006-2010 diagnosis period in males but has remained steady in females. Five-year survival in men between 1993-2000 was 8.9% and 19.2% between 2006-2010. Five-year survival in women between 1993-2000 was 15.8% which then improved to 20.3% between 2006-2010.

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

Period of diagnosis	Male	Female	Both sexes
1993-2000	8.9%	15.8%	10.8%
2001-2005	11.4%	15.2%	12.8%
2006-2010	19.2%	20.3%	19.1%

Survival and stage

Figure 6: Five-year survival from oesophageal cancer by stage of diagnosis: patients diagnosed 2004-2011



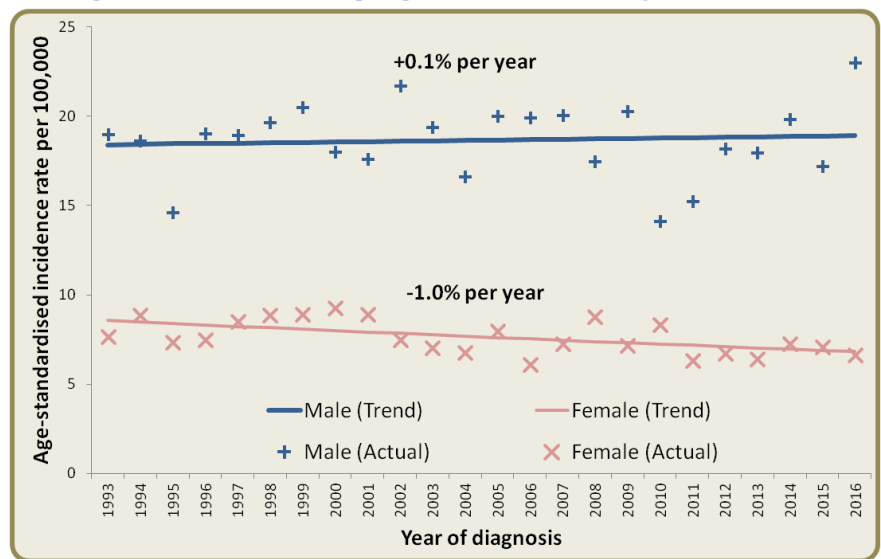
Stage at diagnosis is one of the most important factors in oesophageal cancer survival with five-year survival decreasing as stage at diagnosis increases (72.0% for stage I compared to 2.9% for stage IV).

MORTALITY

Mortality trends

In 2012-2016 there were an average of 186 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 four-year period.

Figure 7: Trends in oesophageal cancer mortality rates: 1993-2016



PREVALENCE

At the end of 2016 there were a total of 586 people living with a diagnosis of oesophageal cancer of which 65% were male, 26% had been diagnosed in the previous year, and 85% 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 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	0-59	26	23	9	3	61
	60+	81	107	71	61	320
	All ages	107	130	80	64	381
Female	0-59	12	12	5	0	29
	60+	36	58	36	46	176
	All ages	48	70	41	46	205
Both	0-59	38	35	14	3	90
	60+	117	165	107	107	496
	All ages	155	200	121	110	586

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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