Ovarian cancer (including fallopian tube & ligaments)

Number of cases per year (2012-2016)[1]			Number of deaths per year (2012-2016)		
Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
-	221	-	-	126	-
Five-year survival (2006-2010)			24-year prevalence (2016)		
Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
-	39.5%	-	-	1,624	-

[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 221 patients diagnosed with ovarian cancer each year in Northern Ireland. The probability of developing ovarian cancer before the age of 75 is approximately 1 in 64.
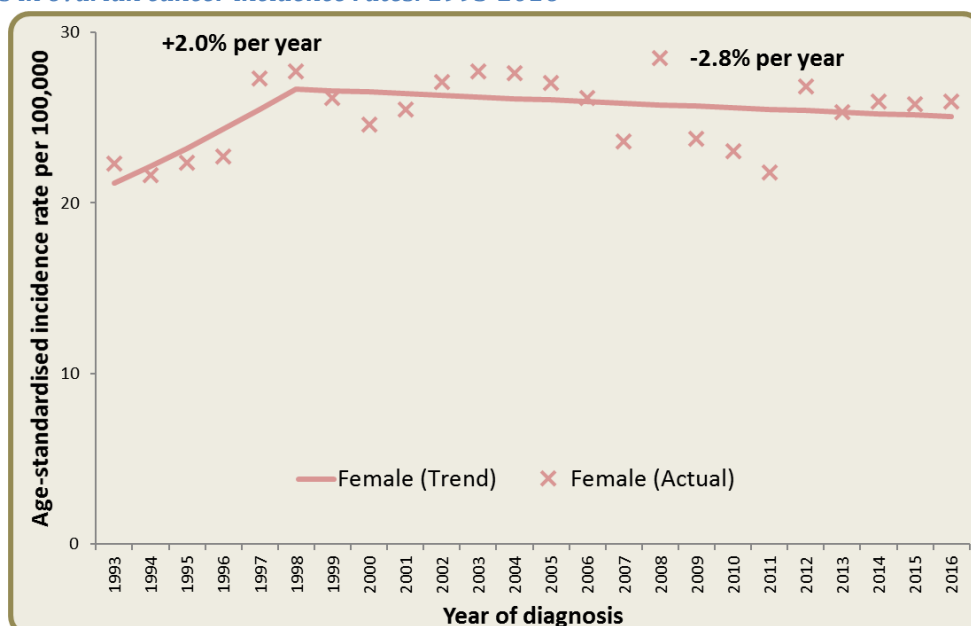
Incidence trends

Table 1: Incidence of ovarian cancer by year of diagnosis: 2007-2016

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Female	180	222	187	185	178	224	215	221	223	224

Over a ten-year period the number of ovarian cancer cases increased from 180 in 2007 to 224 in 2016. After accounting for population changes, ovarian cancer incidence increased by 2.0% annually between 1993 and 1998 before declining by 2.8% annually between 1998 and 2016.

Figure 1: Trends in ovarian cancer incidence rates: 1993-2016
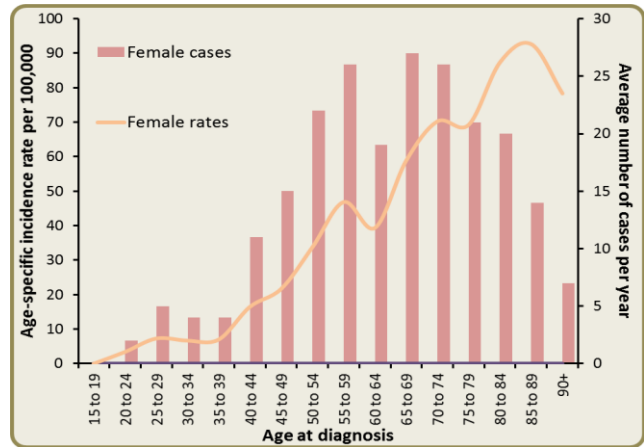
Incidence and age

Ovarian cancer risk is strongly related to age with over 80% of patients diagnosed over the age of 50 years. Incidence rates are highest among women aged 85-89.

Reported cases of ovarian cancer in women under the age of 20 in 2012-2016 are low and incidence remains low until middle age.
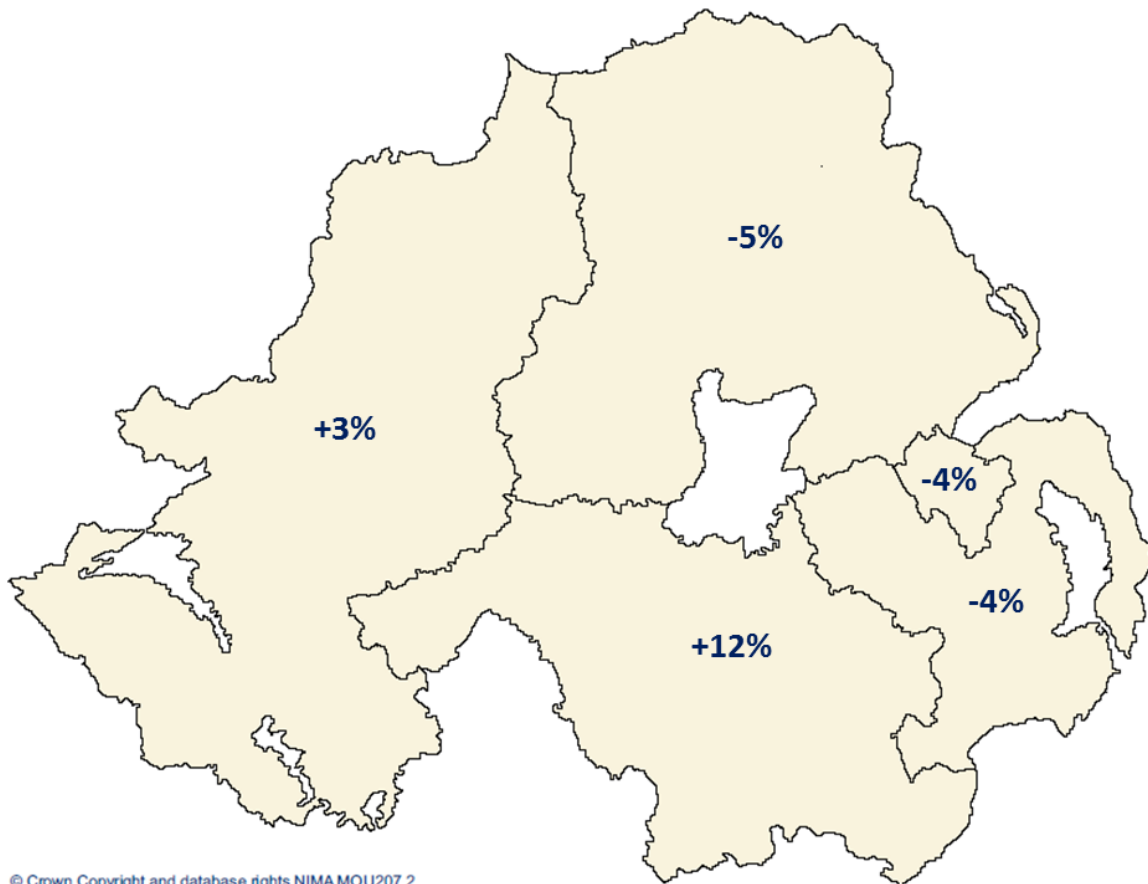
Incidence of ovarian cancer increases after the age of 50 but menopause is not considered to be a risk factor for developing ovarian cancer.

Figure 2: Incidence of ovarian cancer by age: 2012-2016

Incidence by Trust area

Ovarian cancer incidence rates in 2012-2016 seen no statistically significant differences in incidence rates of ovarian cancer in any of the trusts when compared with the NI average during this time period.

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

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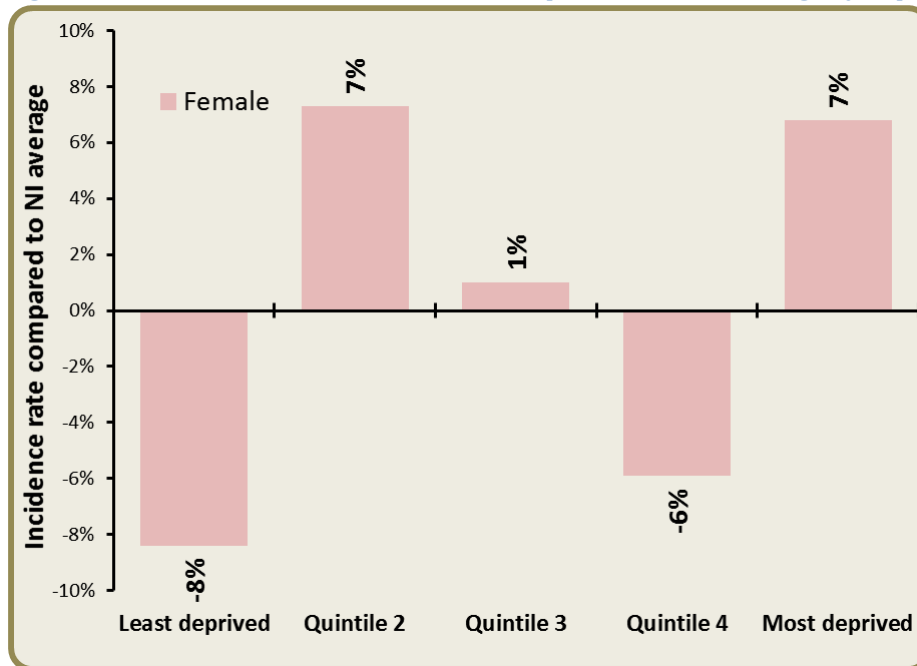
Significantly higher than average

Significantly lower than average

Incidence by deprivation

Ovarian cancer incidence is highest among communities within quintile 2 who experience a 7% greater incidence of cancer compared to the NI average. However, no strong relationship between ovarian cancer incidence and socioeconomic status in Northern Ireland was observed.

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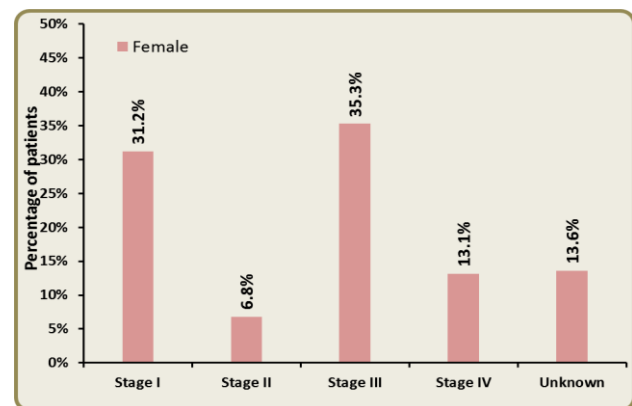

Incidence by stage

Cancer stage is a way of describing the size of a cancer and how far it has grown and spread. This information is important in helping decide what treatments are needed and stage of disease at diagnosis is strongly associated with survival.

Over 86% of ovarian cancer patients were assigned a stage at diagnosis in 2012-2016.

Figure 5: Ovarian cancer stage distribution: 2012-2016

The majority of ovarian cancer patients were diagnosed at stage III (35%). The next most common stage to be diagnosed at was stage I (31%). Almost one in seven women were diagnosed with stage IV ovarian cancer between 2012-2016, which confers a poor prognosis

SURVIVAL

Almost 74% of all ovarian cancer patients survive at least six months after diagnosis. Two thirds of patients survive for one year after diagnosis and over two fifths are alive five years after diagnosis.

Table 2: Five-year ovarian cancer survival by survival time: patients diagnosed 2006-2010

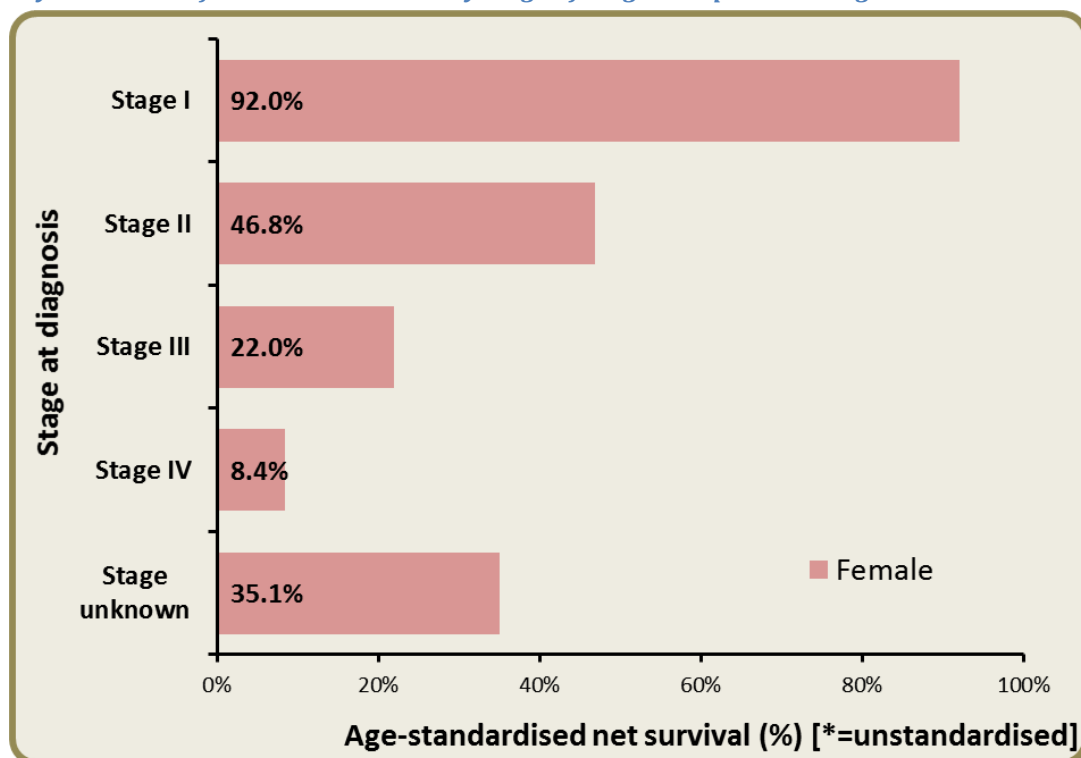| Time since diagnosis	Diagnosed 2006-2010
	Female
6 months	73.9%
1 year	67.4%
5 years	40.8%

Survival Trends

Five-year survival for ovarian cancer has failed to significantly improve in Northern Ireland from the 1993-2000 diagnosis period to the 2006-2010 diagnosis period. Five-year survival between 1993-2000 was 36.9% and 40.8% between 2006-2010 representing a small increase in survival.

Table 3: Five-year ovarian cancer survival by period of diagnosis

Period of diagnosis	Female
1993-2000	36.9%
2001-2005	36.8%
2006-2010	40.8%

Survival and stage

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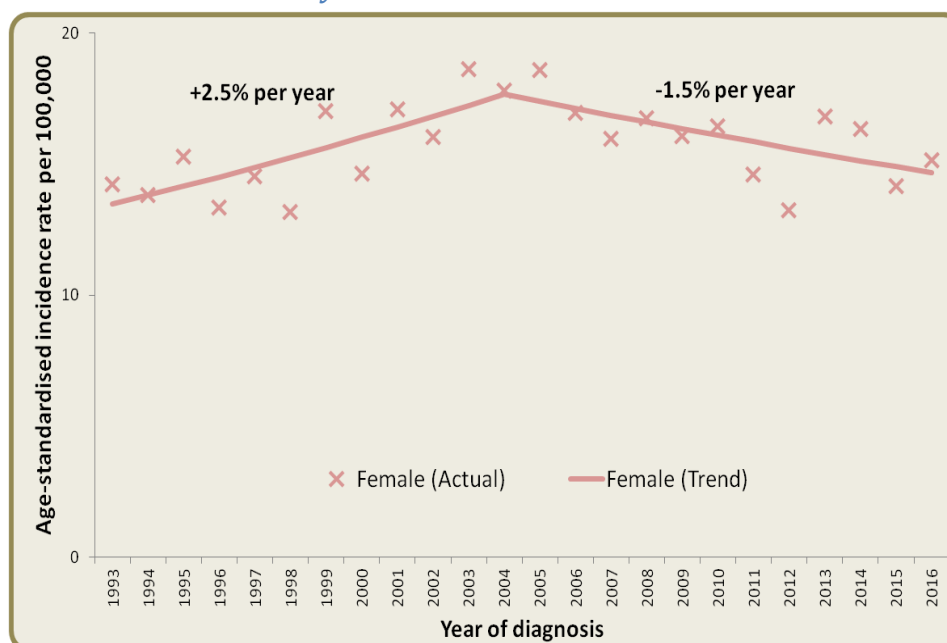

Stage at diagnosis is one of the most important factors in ovarian cancer survival with five-year survival decreasing as stage at diagnosis increases. Five-year survival ranged from 92.0% for early (stage I) disease to 8.4% for late (stage IV) disease highlighting the importance of an early diagnosis.

MORTALITY

In 2010-2014 there were an average of 126 deaths from ovarian cancer each year.

Mortality trends

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

Over the last ten years the number of ovarian cancer deaths has increased from 124 in 2004 to 131 in 2014. When adjusted for age and population change, ovarian cancer mortality rates increased by approximately +2.5% each year from 1993 to 2004, before decreasing by -1.5% each year until 2016.

PREVALENCE

At the end of 2016 there were 1,624 women living in Northern Ireland who had been diagnosed with ovarian cancer from 1993-2016 (Table 4). Of these, 11% had been diagnosed in the previous year.

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

Sex	Age	Time since diagnosis				24-year Prevalence
		0-1 year	1-5 years	5-10 years	10-24 years	
Female	0-69	114	349	256	375	1,094
	70+	62	113	107	248	530
	All ages	176	462	363	623	1,624

FURTHER INFORMATION

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

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