

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 (2009-2013)			NUMBER OF DEATHS PER YEAR (2009-2013)		
Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
1,885	1,474	3,359	11	7	18
FIVE-YEAR SURVIVAL (2004-2008)			21-YEAR PREVALENCE (2013)		
Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
-	-	-	16,736	15,144	31,880

INCIDENCE

Between 2009 and 2013 there were an average of 1,885 males and 1,474 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.

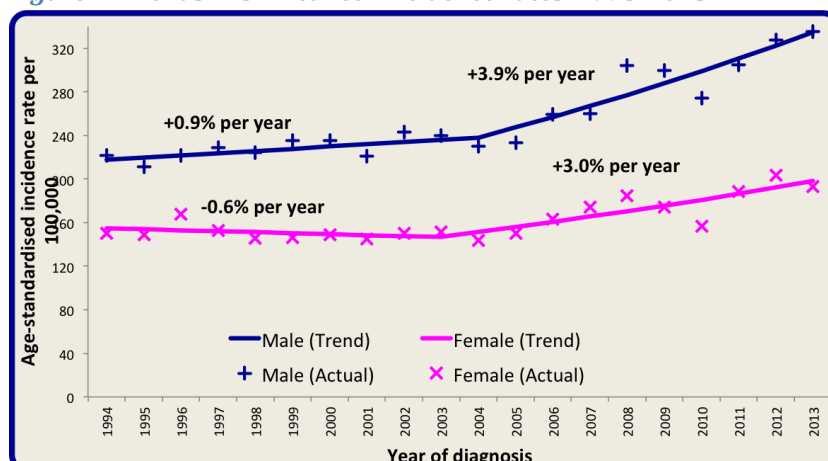
Incidence trends

Table 1: Incidence of skin cancer by gender and year of diagnosis: 2004-2013

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Males	1190	1263	1416	1452	1707	1745	1619	1855	2074	2134
Females	1044	1100	1211	1308	1415	1358	1238	1507	1663	1602
Both	2234	2363	2627	2760	3122	3103	2857	3362	3737	3736

Over a ten-year period the number of skin cancer cases has increased in males and females from 2234 in 2004 to 3736 in 2013. After accounting for our ageing population, cancer incidence rates have remained stable in males and females between 1994 and 2003. Thereafter, yearly incidence rates begin to rise.

Figure 1: Trends in skin cancer incidence rates: 1993-2013

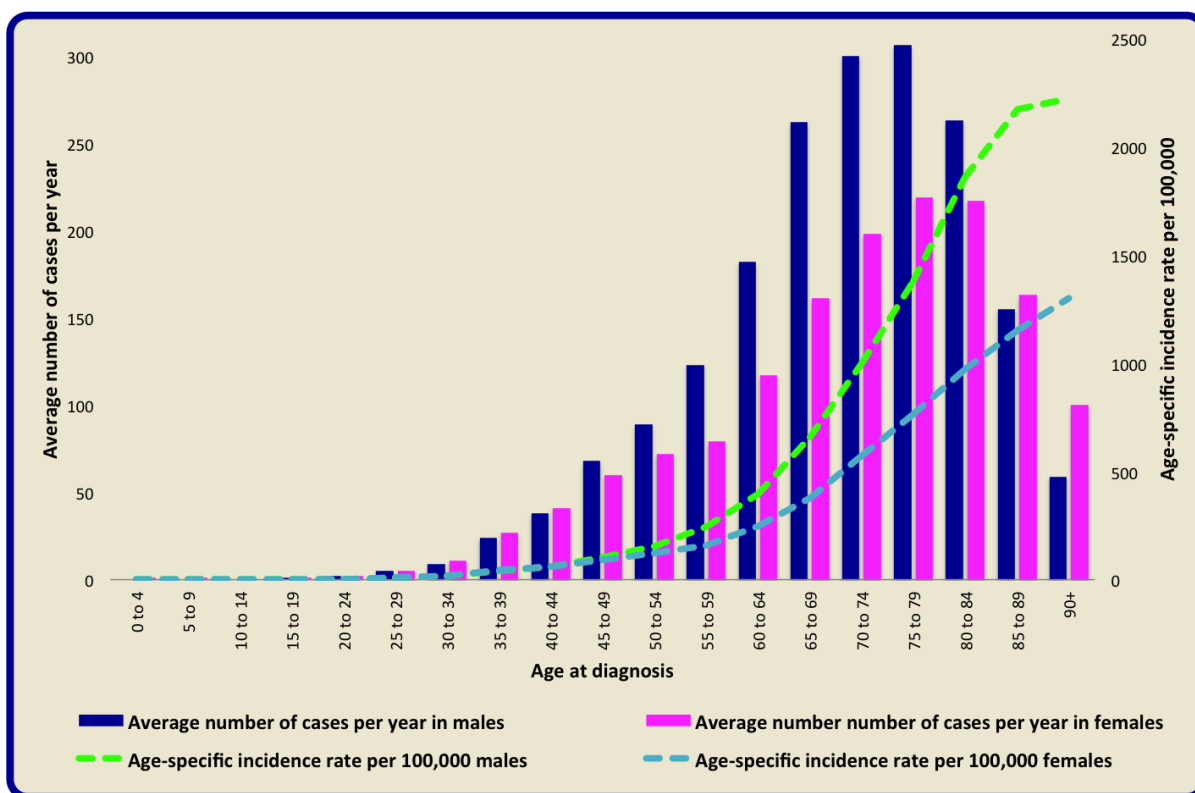


Skin cancer incidence rate in men has risen by 3.9% per year whilst incidence rate has risen by 3.0% each year in women (between 2004 and 2013). This is likely due to increased sun exposure in the population, something that is closely linked to increasing prosperity and more frequent overseas travel.

Incidence and age

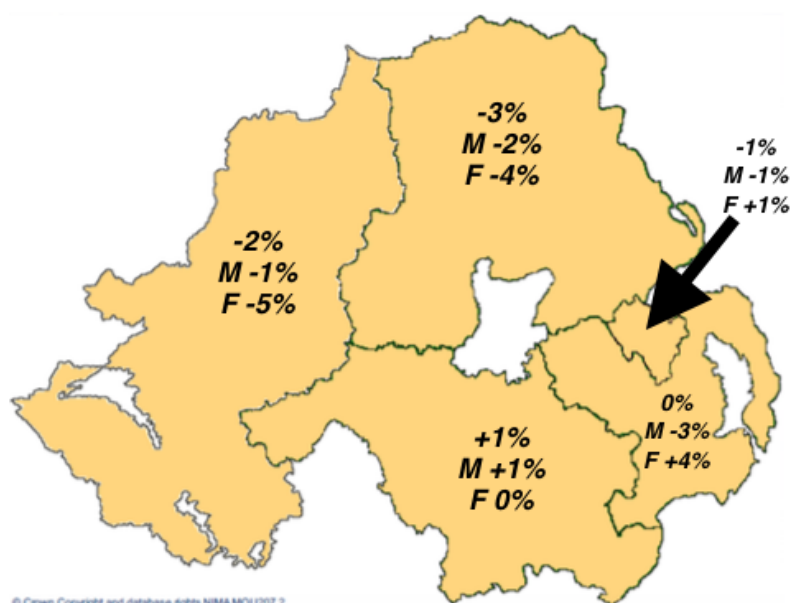
Skin cancer incidence is associated with increasing age. Almost 60% of patients diagnosed were over the age of 70. Incidence rates are highest among males and female’s aged 90 and over. There is a sharp increase in the incidence of skin cancer in men after the age of 60 whereas women experience a more 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: 2009-2013



Incidence by Trust area

Figure 3: Skin cancer incidence rates compared to the NI average by sex and HSC trust of residence 2009-2013



There were no statistically significant differences in skin cancer incidence rates between health and social care trusts between 2009 and 2013.

No statistically significant differences in non-melanoma skin cancer were observed in either males or females between Health and Social Care Trusts.

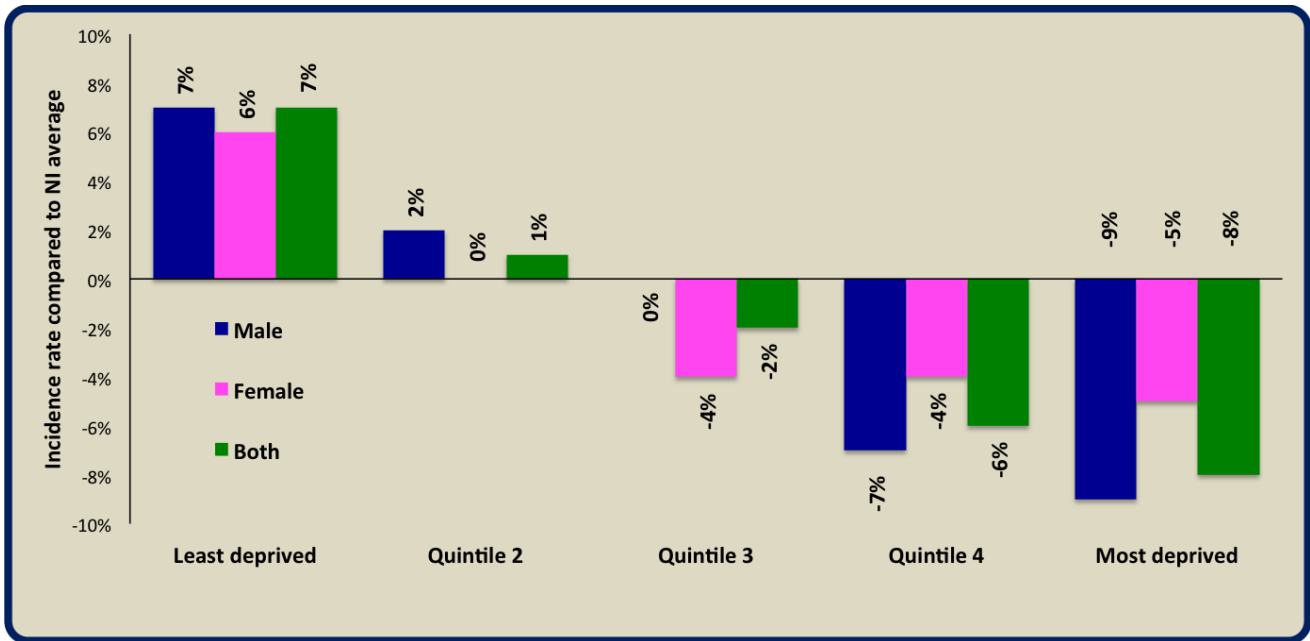
Significantly higher than average

Significantly lower than average

Incidence by deprivation

Non-melanoma skin cancer incidence rates are 7% higher than the NI average in the least deprived communities and 8% 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: 2009-2013

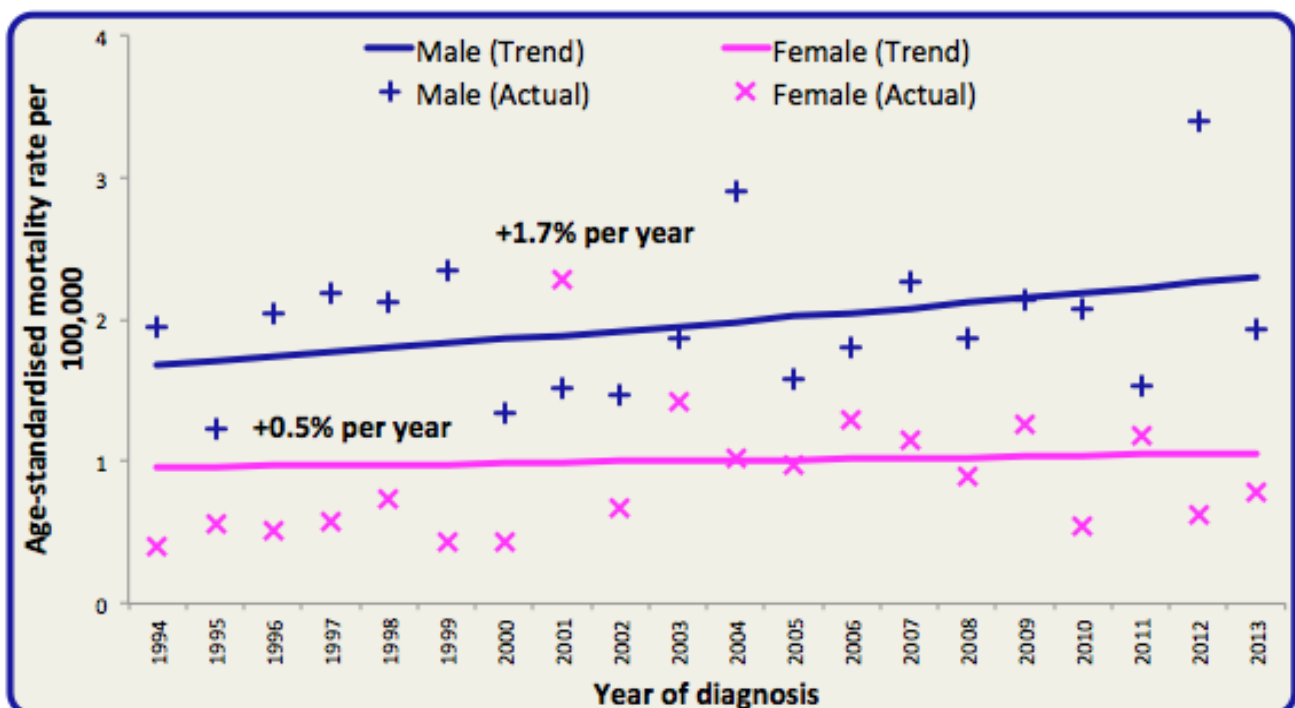


MORTALITY

In 2009-2013 there were an average of 11 male and 7 female deaths from non-melanoma skin cancer each year (average of 18 each year in total).

Mortality trends

Figure 5: Trends in skin cancer mortality rates: 1993-2013



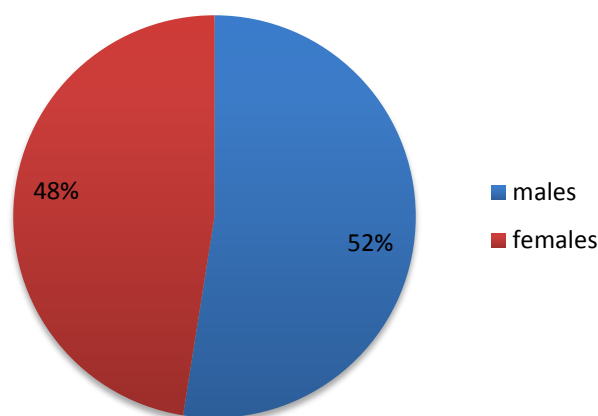
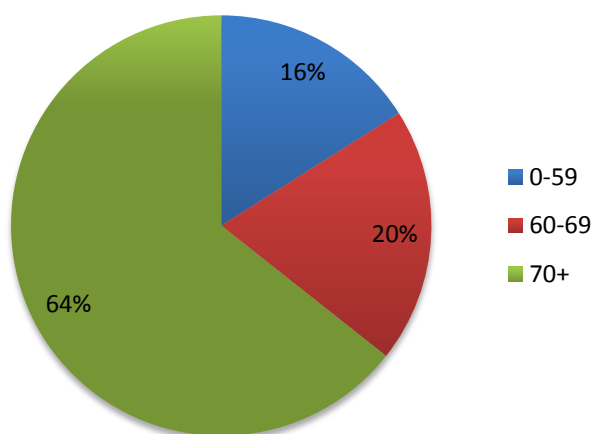
Skin cancer has the lowest mortality rate of all cancers. After adjusting for our ageing population, mortality rates from non-melanoma skin cancer have remained stable during the previous twenty year period in males and females.

PREVALENCE

At the end of 2013 there were a total of 31880 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 (52% of non-melanoma skin cancer cases affect males whilst 48% of non-melanoma skin cancer cases affect females), 10% of people had been diagnosed in the previous year, and almost 65% were over the age of 70.

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

Sex	Age	Time since diagnosis				21-year Prevalence
		0-1 year	1-5 years	5-10 years	10-21 years	
Male	0-69	779	2347	1628	1431	6185
	70+	1028	3282	2874	3367	10551
	All ages	1807	5629	4502	4798	16736
Female	0-69	595	1788	1431	1367	5181
	70+	844	2993	2677	3449	9963
	All ages	1439	4781	4108	4816	15144
Both	0-69	1374	4135	3059	2798	11366
	70+	1872	6275	5551	6816	20514
	All ages	3246	10410	8610	9614	31880



FURTHER INFORMATION

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

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