

N. Ireland Cancer Registry

Implications of Research for Services

<div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;"> NICR Lead Author <i>(Office use only)</i> </div> <div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;"> Paper ID <i>(Office use only)</i> </div> <div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;"> Date Submitted to NICR Steering Group Click here to enter a date. <i>(Office use only)</i> </div>	
Paper Title	Collecting long-term outcomes in population-based cancer registry data: the case of breast cancer recurrence
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Conclusion	This study looks at how well cancer registries around the world track the return (recurrence) of breast cancer in women who were initially diagnosed without it having spread. Tracking cancer that comes back and spreads (metastatic recurrence) is important, but it's not commonly recorded in population-based cancer registries. This review considered 23 studies across 11 registries in eight countries to see what information is available. Most of these studies collected data only for specific research projects and not as part of regular registry practice. There were big differences in how recurrence was defined and followed-up.
What this means for the service	The study found that long-term cancer outcomes like recurrence are not consistently tracked and recommend that more resources and funding are given for cancer registries to routinely collect this information. Doing so would improve understanding of how breast cancer progresses and help guide care and research for women with both early and advanced disease.