



CANCER IN NORTHERN IRELAND 1993-2001

A Comprehensive Report

May 2004

LOCAL FACTS

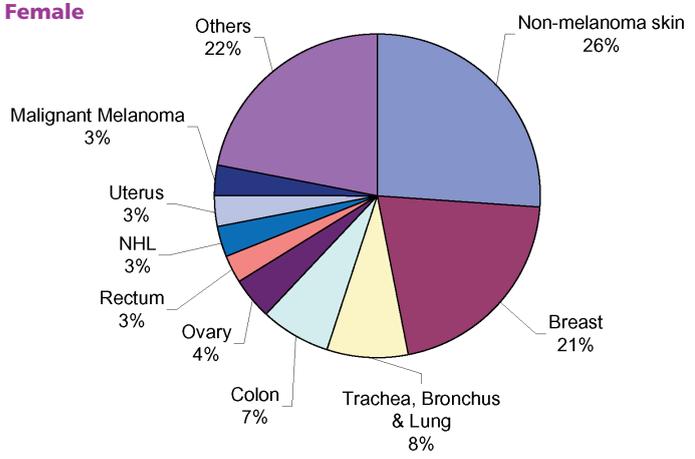
- 8,500 new cancers diagnosed annually
- 3,600 deaths each year
- Over 39,000 people living with a diagnosis of cancer
- Either sex have a 1 in 3 chance of developing some form of cancer by age 75, (1 in 4 if easily treated non-melanoma skin cancers are excluded)
- 41 fewer cancer cases and 29 fewer cancer deaths each year in males
- Deprived areas experience more cancers of the lung, cervix and stomach than average but less cancer of the breast or skin
- Increasing levels of breast cancer (12 per year) and cancer of the uterus (6 per year) in females
- Falling deaths from breast cancer (8 per year), lung cancer males (11 per year)

THIS REPORT

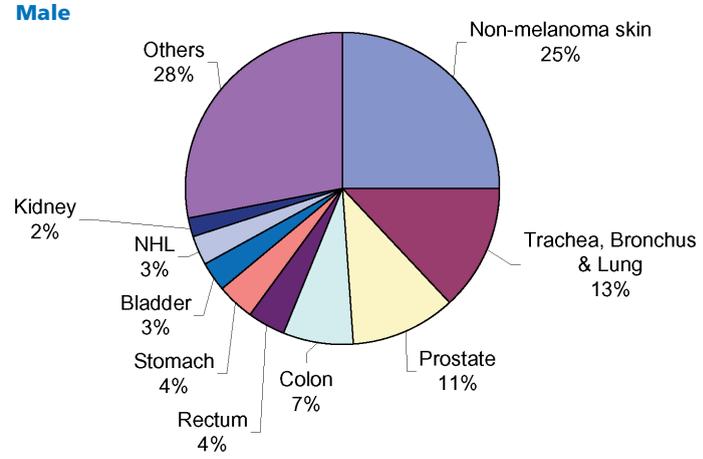
- A review of 9 years of cancer data for N. Ireland 1993-2001
- The fourth report from the N. Ireland Cancer Registry
- A full copy is available from our website at www.qub.ac.uk/nicr

MOST COMMON CANCERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND (1993-2001)

Female



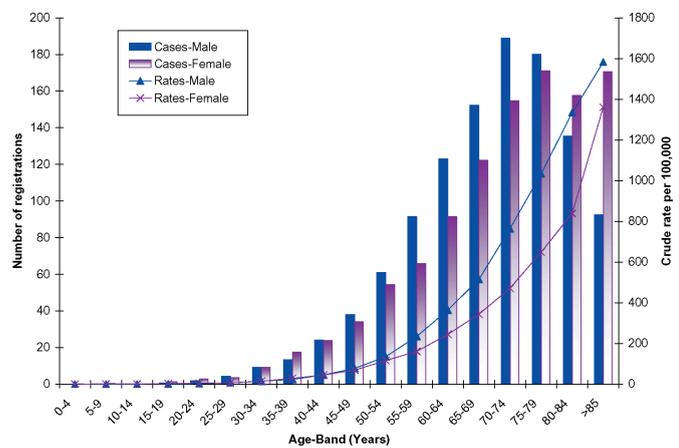
Male



Non Melanoma Skin Cancer, which is easily treated and rarely causes death, accounts for a quarter of all cancers diagnosed in N. Ireland. In males, the serious cancers of the trachea, bronchus and lung account for 1 in 8 of all cancers diagnosed, with an average of 556 cases diagnosed each year between 1993 and 2001. In females a fifth of all cancers diagnosed are breast cancer, with an average of 877 cases diagnosed each year between 1993 and 2001. Lung cancer in females accounts for 8% of all cases diagnosed.

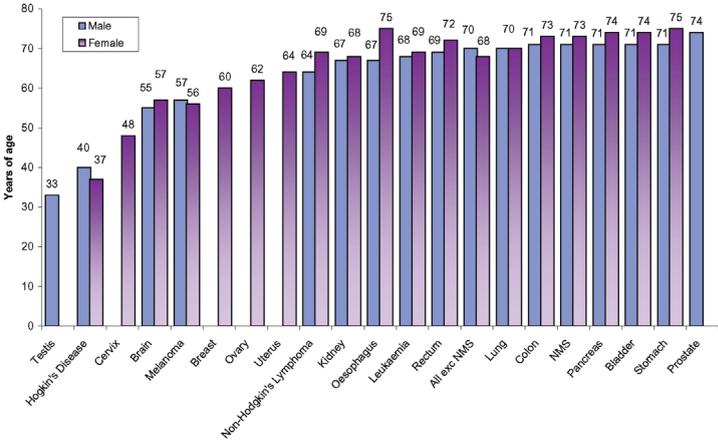
AGE & CANCER

Number of Registrations and Age-Specific Incidence Rates per 100,000 for All Cancers Excluding Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer (1993-2001) by Sex, for All Ages



Median Age at Diagnosis

(half of the cases diagnosed were above and below the age indicated)



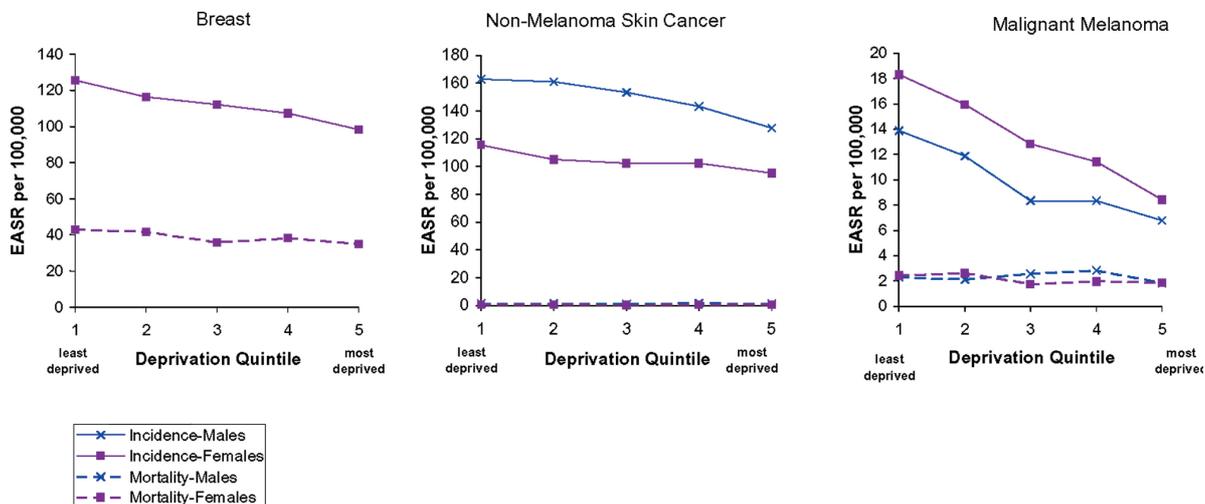
The risk of cancer increases with age and is higher overall in males than females. However, cancers are more common in younger females than younger males whilst male cancers occur mainly in older ages.

Some cancers occur more commonly in younger people while others occur more in older people, e.g. half of all cases of testicular cancer are diagnosed in men under the age of 33 while half of all cases of prostate cancer are diagnosed in males over the age of 74. In females, half of all cases of cervical cancer are diagnosed in females under 48 while half the cases of breast cancer are diagnosed in females under 60.

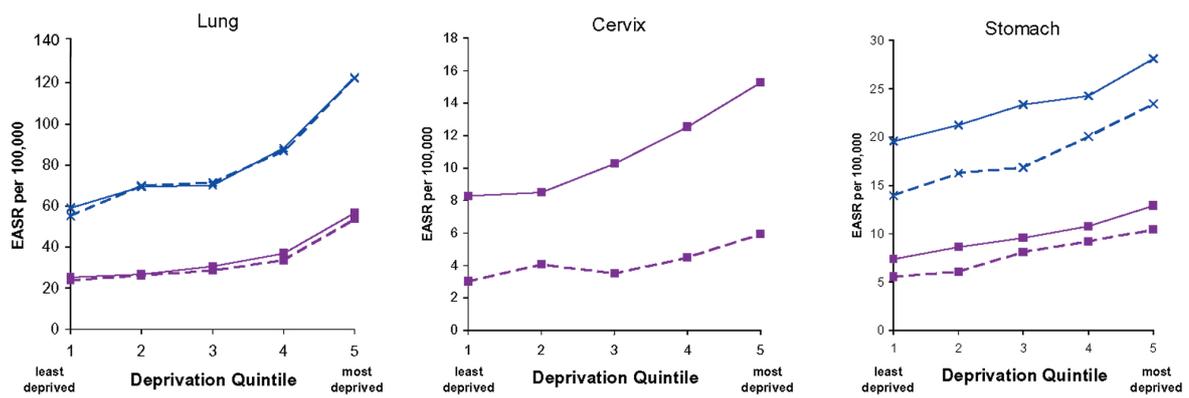
CANCER PATTERNS

Deprivation and Cancer

European Age-Standardised Incidence and Mortality Rates for various Cancers in Northern Ireland, by Deprivation Quintile and by Sex (1993-2001)

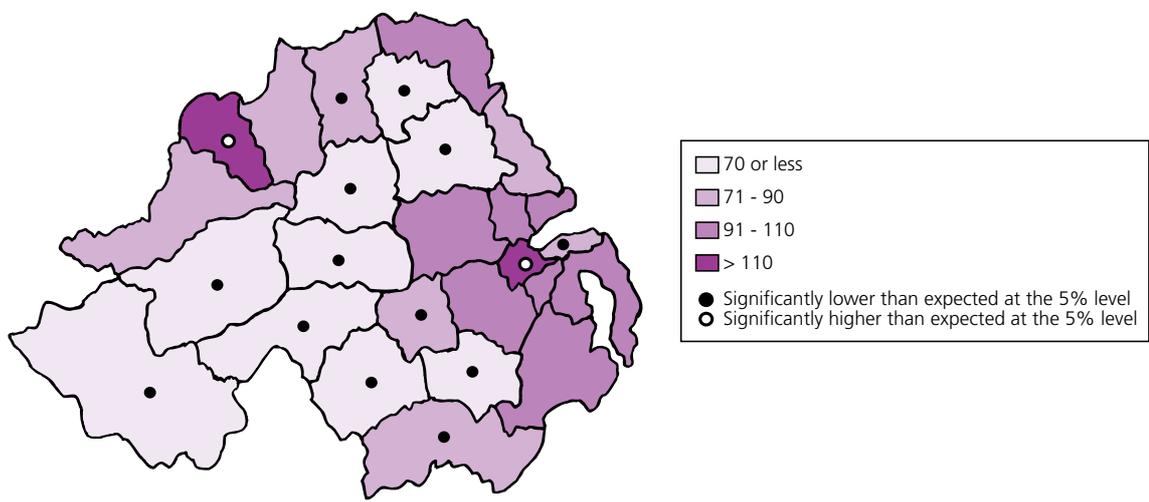


COMMENT:
 Lower levels of breast, skin and melanoma with increased deprivation



COMMENT:
 Higher levels of lung, cervix and stomach cancer with increased deprivation

Age-Standardised Incidence Ratios by District Council (1993-2001), Cancer of the Trachea, Bronchus & Lung for All Ages in Females



COMMENT:
 Belfast and Derry district council areas have higher levels of lung cancer than the Northern Ireland average in males and females. This finding is consistent with other reports and indicates pockets of deprivation where there are high levels of tobacco use.

TREATMENT AND OUTCOMES

Percentage of Cancer by Stage 2001

	Early Stage Dukes A	Dukes B	Dukes C	Later Stage Dukes D	Unstaged	
Cancer of the Colon Cancer of the Rectum, Rectosigmoid Junction & Anus	5%	30%	28%	15%	22%	
	Clark's 2	Clark's 3	Clark's 4	Clark's 5	Unstaged	
Malignant Melanoma	10%	19%	44%	6%	21%	
	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Unstaged	
Cancer of the Breast	34%	40%	6%	4%	16%	
	Microinvasive	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Unstaged
Cancer of the Cervix Uteri	31%	24%	18%	16%	7%	4%
	Borderline	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Unstaged
Cancer of the Ovary	22%	17%	5%	18%	14%	24%

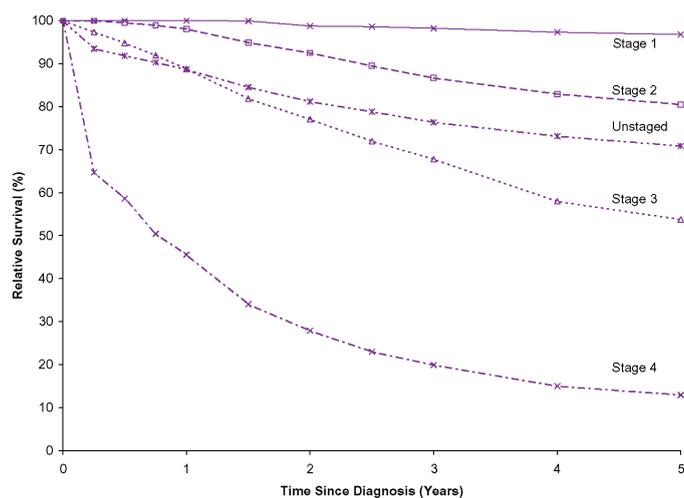
COMMENT: Staging information available from hospital records is shown above for the major cancer sites. Staging information is important for planning treatment, informing the patient regarding prognosis and in monitoring outcomes.

Percentage of Patients Receiving Treatment by Site 2001

Site	Surgery	Radiotherapy	Chemotherapy
Oesophagus	25	18	24
Stomach	38	4	21
Colon	79	2	32
Rectum	74	29	32
Lung	11	39	16
Breast	88	74	38
Cervix	74	47	40
Ovary	83	5	48

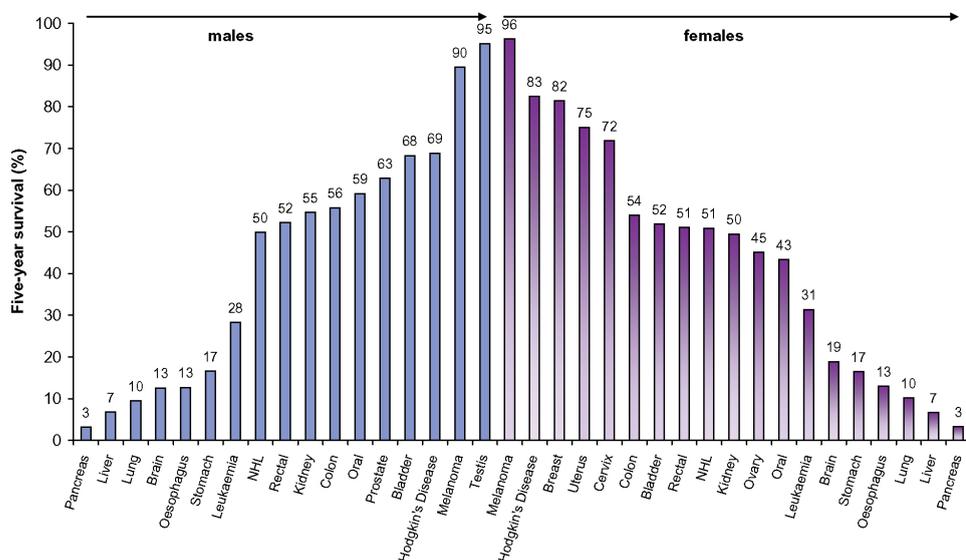
COMMENT: Information on treatment was available for the major cancers and varied by site as shown. Males and females received similar levels of treatment.

5 Year Relative Survival (%) for Breast Cancer in Females



COMMENT: Survival is very dependent on the stage of disease at presentation. The earlier a diagnosis is made the better the patient's prognosis. For example, patients with stage 1 breast cancer have a relative survival almost the same as females without the disease.

5 Year Relative Survival 1996 - 1999 by Site



COMMENT: Data on stage is very important and every effort should be made to improve staging information from current levels.

COMMENT: Five year survival is highest for melanoma at 96%. This contrasts with 3% for pancreatic cancer and only 10% for lung cancer.

▶ Survival for Breast, Ovary and Colon Cancer Improved Between 1993-1995 and 1996-1999 ◀

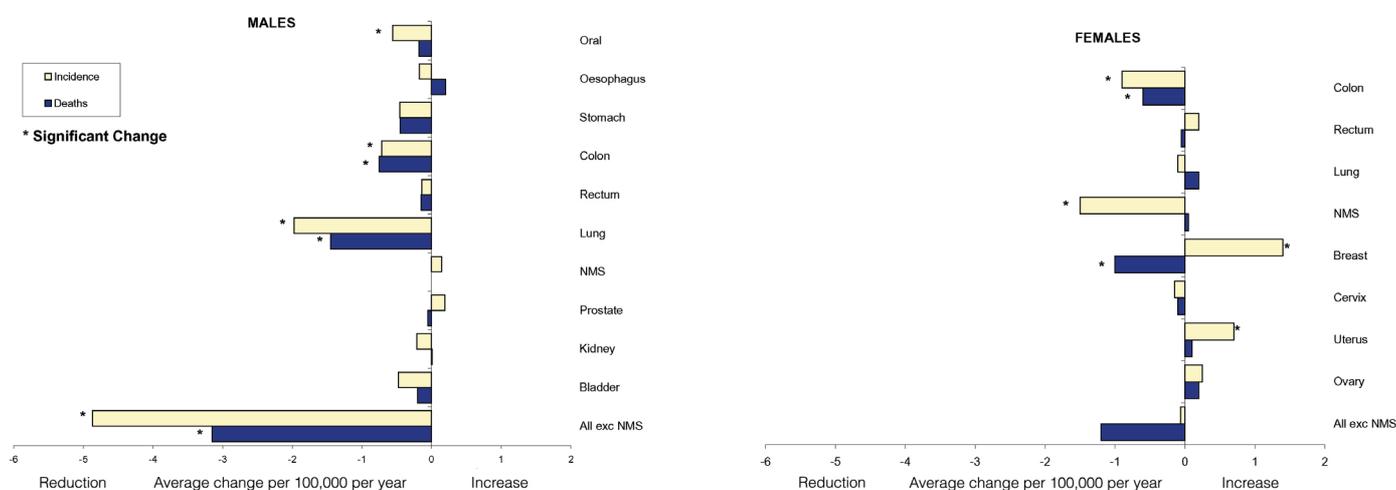
CANCER IN NORTHERN IRELAND 1993-2001 CASES, DEATHS AND PREVALENCE

MALES				Cancer Site (ICD10)	FEMALES			
Prevalence ¹	5-yr Relative Survival (%)	Annual Average Deaths/yr 1993-2001	Annual Average New Cases/yr 1993-2001		Annual Average New Cases/yr 1993-2001	Annual Average Deaths/yr 1993-2001	5-yr Relative Survival (%)	Prevalence ¹
17,625		1,871	4,211	All	4,350	1,742		21,527
9,853		1,864	3,095	All (exc. NMS)	3,269	1,736		13,935
128	13	88	93	Oesophagus	61	57	13	96
260	17	113	157	Stomach	101	76	17	171
1,194	56	155	301	Colon	312	162	54	1,249
728	52	63	178	Rectum	139	51	51	600
611	10	504	556	Lung	326	285	10	394
484	90	13	69	Malignant Melanoma	113	8	95	857
7,772	99.9	7	1,116	Non-Melanoma Skin (NMS)	1,081	5	99.9	7,592
				Breast	877	306	82	5,752
				Cervix Uteri	83	32	72	496
				Corpus Uteri	113	14	75	700
				Ovary	168	99	45	701
2,176	63	209	492	Prostate				
437	95	3	52	Testis				
411	55	43	99	Kidney	65	28	50	274
648	68	56	146	Bladder	62	34	52	207
121	13	44	60	Brain	45	31	19	117
155	-	6	23	Hodgkin's Disease	14	6	83	10
515	50	63	123	Non Hodgkin's Lymphoma	124	57	51	542
294	28	53	92	Leukaemia	65	40	31	208

¹ Prevalence is based on the number of patients diagnosed between 1993 and 2001 who were still alive on 31st December 2001.

CANCER TRENDS

Cancers linked with tobacco including bladder cancer, kidney cancer, lung cancer and oral cancers have all reduced in males as has cancer of the colon. There has been a significant reduction in deaths from lung cancer and colon cancer in males while in females there has been a significant increase in cancer of the breast and uterus and a reduction in deaths from breast cancer and colon cancer.



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