

Publication Summary



Cancer Mortality in Scotland (2012)

Publication date – 26 November 2013



About this Release

This release updates the number of deaths from cancer in Scotland from 1987 to 2011 and adds deaths for 2012. Approximately 45 cancer types are included, broken down by age group, sex, NHS Board and Regional Cancer Network. Summary tables and charts on cancer incidence and mortality by deprivation quintile are also updated.

Please note that the mortality rates in this publication for 2011 and 2012 are based on the 2011 census population. Mortality rates for 2002 to 2010 are based on population estimates that have been carried forward from the 2001 census. These are the most up to date population estimates available at time of publication. The 2002-2010 population estimates are due to be re-calculated based on the 2011 census and are scheduled to be published by National Records of Scotland in December 2013. These updated population estimates may result in slightly different rates for 2002-2010 and slightly altered estimates of 10-year percentage changes when they are re-calculated for future publications.

Key Points

- Over the last ten years, the overall age-standardised cancer (excluding non-melanoma skin cancers) mortality rate has fallen by 11.2%. The rate has fallen by 15.5% for males and 5% for females.
- There is considerable variation in trends for different types of cancer. For example, the rate of female deaths due to breast cancer has decreased by 17.7% over the last 10 years, while female death rates due to lung cancer have increased by 10.1% over the same time period. For males, the death rate due to lung cancer has decreased by 21.7% over the last ten years.
- Although the age-standardised *rate* of death due to cancer has decreased, the actual *number* of deaths due to cancer has increased: this largely reflects an increase in older age groups within the population, and the fact that cancer is a relatively common disease among the elderly.

- Significant patterns exist when examining incidence and mortality rates by deprivation in Scotland. The most deprived areas have higher incidence and mortality rates for all cancers combined (excluding non-melanoma skin cancers). There are variations in this pattern for specific types of cancer. For example, malignant melanoma of the skin has higher incidence and mortality in the less deprived areas of Scotland.
- Details of these statistics can be found by cancer site on the [Cancer website](#) and summarised in the [Cancer in Scotland Summary report](#).

Background

This publication uses death registration data supplied by [National Records of Scotland](#).

The cancer mortality statistics within this publication are based on the date of registration of the death rather than the date on which the death occurred. This is in order to be consistent with the information published by National Records of Scotland. By law, a death should be registered within 8 days of the date of death.

The publication also includes an update of cancer incidence and mortality rates by the 2009 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) quintiles for 28 major types of cancer. Detailed information on these types of cancer is provided on the [ISD Cancer Information website](#).

It may be misleading to focus too much attention on any apparent changes in mortality between 2011 and 2012; it is more informative to examine trends in mortality observed over a number of years. Striking changes from one year to the next may occur in the case of rare cancers, but these are likely to reflect random fluctuation caused by small numbers of deaths. In such cases it is even more important to examine mortality rates for a number of years aggregated together, rather than focussing on a single year of mortality.

Contact

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#)

About ISD

Scotland has some of the best health service data in the world combining high quality, consistency, national coverage and the ability to link data to allow patient based analysis and follow up. Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland - and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government Health Department and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

Official Statistics

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of 'Official Statistics'. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The Code of Practice is produced and monitored by the UK Statistics Authority which is independent of Government. Under the Code of Practice, the format, content and timing of statistics publications are the responsibility of professional staff working within ISD.

Further information on ISD's statistics, including compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and on the UK Statistics Authority, is available on the [ISD website](#) www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/