

# Publication Summary



## Cancer Mortality in Scotland (2013)

Publication date – 28 October 2014



### About this Release

This release updates the number of deaths from cancer in Scotland from 1988 to 2012 and adds deaths for 2013. 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.

### Key Points

- Over the last ten years, the overall age-standardised cancer (excluding non-melanoma skin cancers) mortality rate has fallen by 11.4%. Although the *rate* of death due to cancer has decreased over this period, the actual *number* of deaths due to cancer has not: 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.
- The mortality rate has fallen by 15.0% for males and 5.8 for females over the last ten years. There is also considerable variation in trends for different types of cancer. For example, the rate of female deaths due to breast cancer has decreased by 19.2% over the last 10 years, while female mortality rates due to lung cancer have increased by 6.8% over the same time period. For males, the mortality rate due to lung cancer has decreased by 20.8% over the last ten years while the mortality rate for cancer of the liver has increased by 40.7%.
- Significant patterns exist when examining incidence and mortality rates by deprivation in Scotland. For all cancers combined, the most deprived areas have incidence rates that are 34% higher than the least deprived areas. Mortality rates are 71% higher in the most deprived areas compared with the least deprived.

## 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 2012 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 2012 and 2013; 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.

The 2013 European Standard Population (ESP2013) has been used to calculate the European Age Standardised Rates (EASRs) within this publication. The European Standard Population (ESP), which was first used in 1976, was revised in 2013. Previous reports used ESP1976 to calculate EASRs. Figures using ESP1976 and ESP2013 are not comparable. Therefore, findings from this publication are not comparable with previous ISD reports.

## Contact

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## Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) .

### 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](http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/) [www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/](http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/)