

Publication Summary



Cancer Incidence in Scotland (2013)

Publication date – 28 April 2015



About this Release

This is the annual publication cancer incidence statistics for Scotland. This release updates the number of cancer registrations in Scotland from 1989 to 2012 and adds registrations for 2013. Approximately 45 types of cancer are included, broken down by age group, sex, NHS Board and Cancer Regional Network.

Key Points

- Over the last ten years, age-standardised incidence rates of cancer in Scotland have fallen by 4% in males but increased by 7% in females.
- For both males and females in Scotland combined, lung cancer is still the most common cancer overall, with 5,124 cases diagnosed in 2013 (17% of all cancers), compared to 4,697 cases (15%) of breast cancer and 3,812 cases of colorectal cancer (12%). The ranks of the three most common cancers are unchanged from 2012.
- Cancer incidence rates and trends in incidence rates show considerable variation between different types of cancer. For instance, the incidence rate of malignant melanoma of the skin for all people has increased by 30% over the last ten years. In contrast, the incidence rate of cancer of the oesophagus has decreased by 8% over the same period.
- Excluding non-melanoma skin cancer, the actual number of cancers diagnosed in Scotland has increased over the last 10 years from 27,095 cases in 2003 to 31,013 in 2013. This is likely to be largely due to an ageing population.
- It is estimated that two in five people in Scotland will be diagnosed with some form of cancer during their lifetime. This includes cancers that will have no detrimental impact on life expectancy, such as indolent prostate tumours.
- It is estimated that there are 176,000 people in Scotland who have been diagnosed with cancer over the last 20 years and who are still alive. This is approximately 3% of the population of Scotland.

Background

This publication provides information on cancer incidence in Scotland, covering the years 1989-2013 for each main type of cancer. The information presented here replaces information previously available on the ISD website.

The [Scottish Cancer Registry](#) has been collecting information on cancer since 1958. Data collected by the Registry are published by ISD and are used for a wide variety of purposes. Cancer registrations are believed to be essentially complete for the year 2013, but it is important to note that the cancer registration database is dynamic. In common with cancer registries in other countries, cancer incidence rates in Scotland can take up to five years after the end of a given calendar year to reach 100% completeness and stability, due to the continuing accrual of late registrations coming to light through death certification, for example.

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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/