

Cancer Mortality in Scotland (2015)

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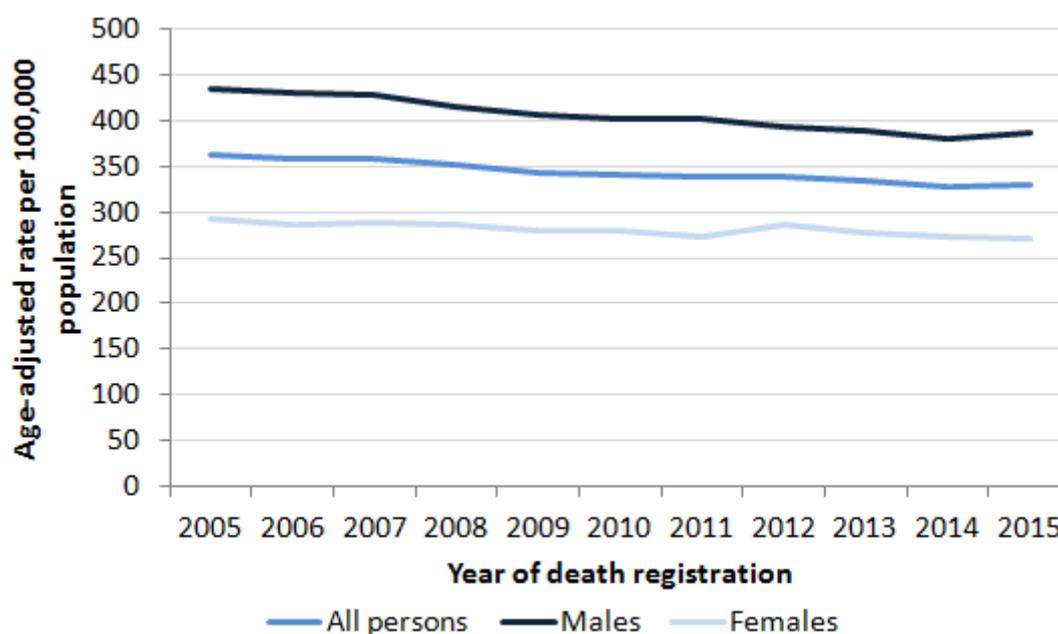
About this release

This release from the Information Services Division provides an annual update of cancer mortality statistics in Scotland from 1990 to 2015.

Main Points

- Over the last ten years, the overall age-adjusted cancer mortality rate has fallen by 11%. Although the rate of deaths 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 age-adjusted cancer mortality rate has fallen by 14% for males and 6% for females.

Trends in age-adjusted mortality rates for cancer in Scotland (2005-2015)



Source: National Records of Scotland.

- Lung cancer is the most common cause of death from cancer in Scotland. The number of deaths are more than double that of colorectal cancer, the next most common cause of death from cancer.
- 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 almost a third higher than the least deprived areas. Mortality rates are almost two-thirds higher in the most deprived compared with the least deprived areas.
- 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 21% over the last ten years. For males, the mortality rate due to stomach cancer has decreased by 36% over the last ten years. The mortality rate for cancer of the liver has increased by 46% for males and 69% for females over the same time.

Background

This publication uses death registration data supplied by [National Records of Scotland](#). This release includes information broken down by age group, sex, NHS Board and regional cancer network. Summary tables and charts on cancer incidence and mortality by deprivation category are also updated for 28 types of cancer.

When using this publication, it is more informative to examine trends in mortality over a number of years, rather than focussing on a single year of mortality. In the case of rare cancers, striking changes from one year to the next are likely to reflect random fluctuation caused by small numbers of deaths and may be misleading.

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Further Information

The Information Services Division publish a wide range of cancer statistics. [You can find all our cancer information on our website](#).

Further information can be found in the [Cancer Mortality in Scotland \(2015\) report](#).

The next release of this publication will be 31 October 2017.

We also publish information on cancer [incidence](#) and [survival](#) on our website.

ISD and 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. [Further information about our statistics](#).