

Cancer Mortality in Scotland (2016)



Publication Date – 31 October 2017

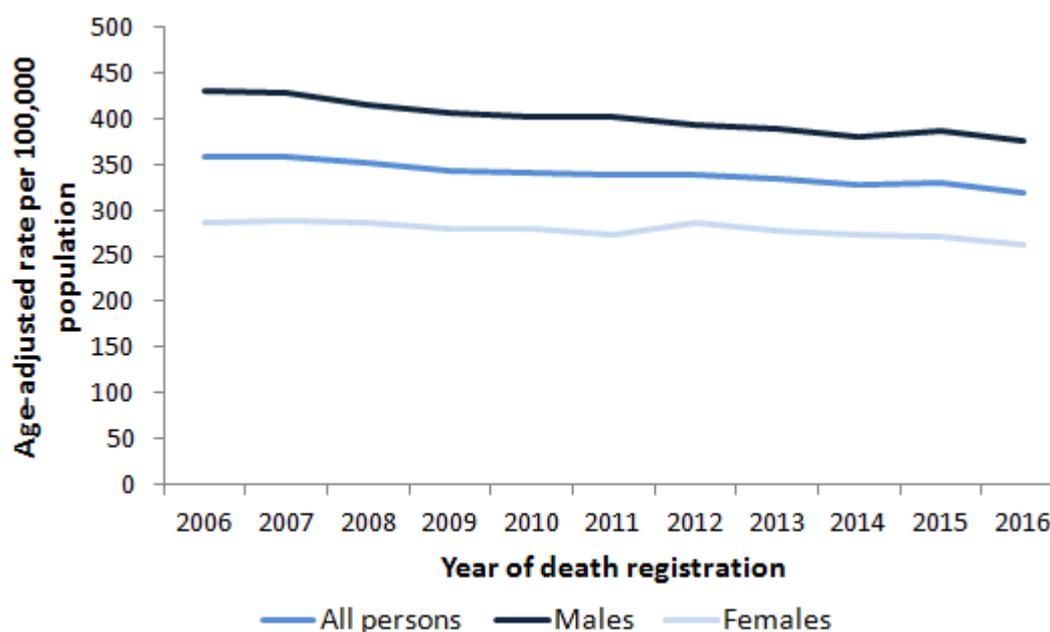
About this release

This release from the Information Services Division (ISD) provides an annual update of cancer mortality statistics in Scotland to 2016.

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 13% for males and 7% for females over the past decade.

Trends in age-adjusted mortality rates for cancer in Scotland (2006-2016)



Source: National Records of Scotland.

- Lung cancer is the most common cause of death from cancer in Scotland (4,035 deaths). A quarter of all deaths from cancer in Scotland are attributed to lung cancer. The number of deaths due to lung cancer is more than double that of colorectal cancer, the next most common cause of death from cancer.
- There is considerable variation in trends for different types of cancer. For example, the mortality rate for females due to breast cancer has decreased by 17% over the last ten years. The mortality rate for males due to stomach cancer has decreased by 35% over the same time.
- The mortality rate for cancer of the liver has increased by 46% for males and 76% for females over the last ten years. The mortality rate for cancer of the corpus uteri has increased by 71% over the same time.
- 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 27% higher than the least deprived areas. Mortality rates for all cancers combined are 61% higher in the most deprived compared with the least deprived areas.

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

ISD 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 \(2016\) report](#).

The next release of this publication will be October 2018.

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](#).