

# Publication Summary



## Cancer Incidence in Scotland (2009)

Publication date – 30 August 2011



### About this Release

This release updates the number of cancer registrations in Scotland from 1985 to 2008 and adds registrations for 2009. Approximately 45 cancer types are included, broken down by age group, sex, NHS Board and Cancer Regional Network. Estimates of risk of developing cancer and of cancer prevalence (number of cancer survivors) are also updated.

### Key Points

- In recent years, the overall age-standardised incidence rates have fallen slightly for males and increased significantly for females.
- Incidence rates show considerable variation between cancers, with substantial increases in melanoma of the skin and kidney cancers (both sexes), and decreases in stomach (both sexes) and lung cancers (males only).
- Actual numbers of cases of cancer have risen over the last decade, likely to be largely due to an ageing population.
- Based on current trends, more than one in three people in Scotland will develop cancer in their lifetime.
- As at 31 December 2009, there were approximately 153,000 people in Scotland who were living with a cancer that had been diagnosed within the previous 20 years.
- Details of these statistics can be found by cancer site on the [Cancer website](#) and summarised in the [Cancer in Scotland Summary report](#).

### Background

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

including: public health surveillance; health needs assessment, planning and commissioning of cancer services; evaluation of the impact of interventions on incidence and survival; clinical audit and health services research; epidemiological studies; and providing information to support genetic counselling and health promotion.

The updated figures show cancer incidence (1985-2009) for each major cancer, and replace information previously available on the ISD Scotland website. Cancer registrations are believed to be essentially complete (>98% at time of analysis) for the year 2009, 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.

Note that cancer registrations differ from recorded hospital admissions for cancer, the statistics for which can be found on the [Hospital Care](#) pages on the [ISD Website](#).

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