

Publication Report



Place of Death from Cancer (2011)

Publication date – 30th April 2013



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Introduction

The Scottish Government's [*Living and Dying Well Action Plan*](#), in conjunction with [*Better Cancer Care*](#) and the [*Better Health, Better Care Action Plan*](#), addresses palliative and end of life care for patients with life limiting conditions such as organ failure, cancer and dementia.

This report examines where deaths from cancer occur in Scotland, taking into account demographic characteristics. Information provided by this report will assist the NHS in Scotland in ensuring that palliative and end of life care needs are recognised in all care settings.

Information is presented for all malignancies combined, and for the four main cancers (breast, colorectal, prostate and lung), for all of Scotland.

Key points

- In the five year period, 2007-2011, half of the deaths in Scotland from cancer occurred in NHS hospitals (38,157 out of 76,510). A quarter of deaths from cancer were at home (19,457), while 18% were in hospices (13,894).
- The overall pattern described above has also been consistent over the 10 year period 2002-2011, with only a small decrease in the percentage of deaths occurring in hospital and a small increase in the percentage of deaths occurring at home.

Results and Commentary

Detailed breakdowns of deaths from cancer for the five year period 2007-2011 by place of death, cancer type and age, sex, marital status, urban-rural classification and Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2009 (SIMD 2009) quintile are available in [Table 1](#).

There were approximately 76,500 deaths from cancer in Scotland in the period 2007-2011, including non-melanoma skin cancer. Of these, 50% occurred in NHS hospitals, while 25% were at home/private address and 18% were in hospices. The remainder were in other institutions such as care homes. The pattern is likely to reflect the fact that people in the terminal stages of illness may be admitted to hospital for medical reasons such as investigations, treatment or symptom control and for social reasons, such as providing respite to a carer.

Age Group

Table 1. Deaths from cancer by place of death, Scotland, 2007-2011

Age at Death	All Places of Death	NHS Hospital (%)	Home / Private Address (%)	Hospice (%)	Care Home Service / Other Institution (%)
All Ages	76,510	49.9	25.4	18.2	6.3
Under 15	98	46.9	42.9	10.2	0.0
15-44	1,712	43.1	28.3	27.9	0.6
45-64	16,339	45.7	28.7	24.1	1.3
65+	58,361	51.2	24.4	16.2	7.9

Source: Death data from National Records of Scotland (NRS); data from ISD SMR01 (hospital inpatient and day case) records were used to obtain further details of place of death.

Some age groups show variation from the pattern described above. In the period 2007-2011, 43% of people aged under 15 died at home (42 out of 98). This is greater than within the other broad age groups where between 24-29% of people died at home.

The oldest age group, 65 and over, is the most likely to die in other types of institutions (8% of deaths within that age group). Other types of institutions include private care homes and care homes for the elderly, among others.

Gender

There is a higher proportion of females dying of cancer in the 'other institutions' category. Of approximately 4,800 deaths, 59% were females compared to 41% males. Because the older age group has a higher proportion of females, this is likely to be an effect of the presence of care homes for the elderly in the 'other institutions' category.

Deprivation

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is an area-based measurement of multiple deprivation which combined information on income, employment, education, housing, health, crime and geographical access (see the glossary for further information). For this publication areas in Scotland were divided into five (quintiles) groups with decreasing levels of deprivation.

When comparing the most and least deprived SIMD quintiles by place of death, there appear to be only small differences. Forty-nine percent of deaths from cancer in the most deprived quintile occurred in NHS hospitals compared to 46% in the least deprived quintile. Nineteen percent of deaths from cancer in the most deprived quintile occurred in hospices compared to 23% in the least deprived quintile.

Urban/Rural Classification

The majority of people dying from cancer (82%) were resident in an urban area, based on their residence at the time of death. This most likely reflects the distribution of the Scottish population between urban and rural areas. The proportion of people who died in hospital was similar for people who resided in urban and rural areas (49% and 52% respectively). For those resident in an urban area, approximately 20% of people died in a hospice and around 24% at home or a private address, compared to 11% and 31% respectively for people who were resident in rural areas. This may reflect differences in hospice availability between urban and rural areas as well as patient preferences.

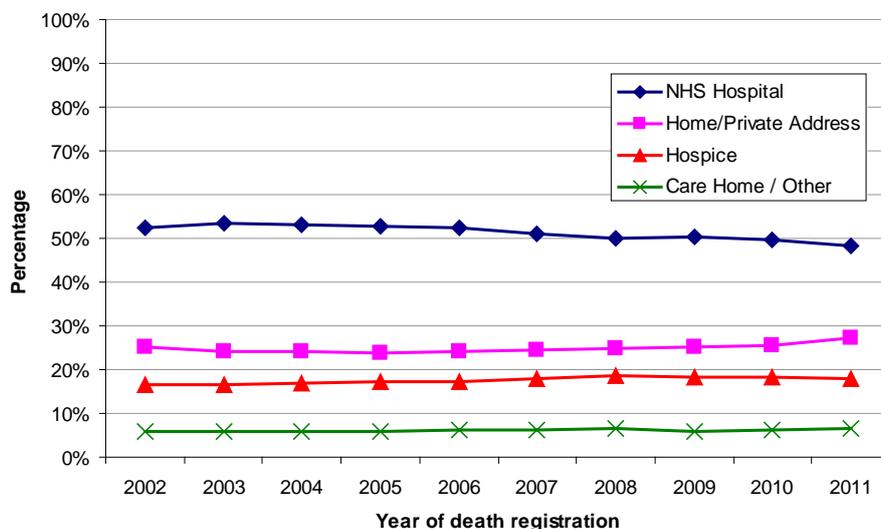
Marital Status

Approximately half of the people who died from cancer were married. The place of death for nearly one third of married people (31%) was at home. This compares to 21% for people who were not married. A larger proportion of people who were not married died in the 'other institution' category compared to married people (10% compared to 3%). Please note that the term 'married' indicates a legal partnership. As a result, there are likely to be a large number of long-term partnerships included within the 'not married' category.

Ten Year Trends, 2002-2011

Detailed trends for the ten year period 2002-2011 by place of death, cancer type, age, sex, marital status, urban-rural classification and deprivation quintile are available in [Table 2](#).

Figure 1. Trends in place of death from cancer by year of death registration, Scotland, 2002-2011



Source: Death data from National Records of Scotland (NRS); data from ISD SMR01 (hospital inpatient and day case) records were used to obtain further details of place of death.

Glossary

Datazone	A small geographical area with a population between 500-1,000 household residents. They are based on groups of 2001 census output areas,
Deprivation quintile	Deprivation quintiles each contain 20% of the population in Scotland. Deprivation quintile 1 contains the most deprived 20% of the population, while quintile 5 contains the least deprived 20%.
SIMD	Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. Deprivation for individuals is estimated from data derived from the census and other routine sources. These are used to estimate the deprivation of individuals in small geographical areas. The SIMD has seven domains (income, employment, education, housing, health, crime and geographical access). These are combined into an overall index to pick out areas with concentrations of multiple deprivation. SIMD 2009 is the version that was published in 2009.
Urban-rural classification	Classification system maintained by the Scottish Government that defines areas as being urban (settlements of over 3,000 people) or rural (settlements of under 3,000 people).

List of Tables

Table No.	Name	Time period	File & size
1	Place of death by cancer type and demographics, 2007-2011	2007-2011	Excel [256kb]
2	Ten year trends in place of death by cancer type and demographics, 2002-2011	2002-2011	Excel [562kb]

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Further Information

Further information can be found on the [ISD website](#)

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Appendix

A1 – Background Information

The Place of Death from Cancer report uses death registration data from the National Records of Scotland (NRS). ISD SMR01 (hospital inpatient and daycase) database was also used to obtain further details on place of death information.

Definitions of the location types:

NHS Hospitals includes location codes H (acute hospitals), J (contractual hospitals pre-1990) and K (joint-user hospitals) and excludes locations defined as hospices (see below). Specialist palliative care units within hospitals are included in the hospice category.

Home/private address is defined as location code D201N, and may not necessarily be the patient's own home.

Hospice is defined as those organisations recognised by the Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care, including NHS specialist palliative care units provided within, for example, NHS Hospitals.

Care home service/other institutions include locations such as care homes, private care homes, homes for the elderly and private hospitals.

A2 – Publication Metadata (including revisions details)

Metadata Indicator	Description
Publication title	Place of Death from Cancer (2011)
Description	Distribution of the places of death among patients dying from cancer in Scotland, from all malignancies combined and from the four major cancers (breast, colorectal, prostate and lung), broken down by demographic characteristics of the patients.
Theme	Health and Social Care
Topic	Conditions and Diseases
Format	Excel workbooks
Data source(s)	National Records of Scotland (NRS) for deaths, linked to SMR01 to identify ambiguous location codes.
Date that data are acquired	March 2013
Release date	30 April 2013
Frequency	Triennial
Timeframe of data and timeliness	Data up to 31 December 2011. Produced within a few months of cancer mortality statistics, to allow for processing time including linkage to SMR01.
Continuity of data	Trends report data since 2002. National Records of Scotland coded deaths using ICD-10 from 2000 onward.
Revisions statement	Deaths data tend to be static over time. The SMR01 data is dynamic; the numbers within each place of death category may vary slightly when refreshed at a later date.
Revisions relevant to this publication	Non-melanoma skin cancer is now included in the publication.
Concepts and definitions	Cancer Information FAQs
Relevance and key uses of the statistics	Understanding the distribution of cancer deaths allows planning for provision of cancer treatment and palliative care services. Examination of underlying demographic differences may help to highlight inequalities.
Accuracy	For coding of deaths see the website of the National Records of Scotland . Data are cross-checked where possible with Cancer Mortality publication, and Deaths statistics published by National Records of Scotland.
Completeness	At time of extraction, data for the most recent year are estimated to be complete. See above note on Revisions.
Comparability	We are unaware of equivalent statistics routinely produced elsewhere for comparison.
Accessibility	It is the policy of ISD Scotland to make its web sites and products accessible according to published guidelines .
Coherence and clarity	All Cancer tables are accessible via the Cancer section of the ISD website . Selections for type of cancer are presented using drop down menus.
Value type and unit of measurement	Number of deaths from cancer as count; rates of deaths from cancer as percentages. Number, eg 1.1
Disclosure	The ISD protocol on Statistical Disclosure Protocol is

	followed.
Official Statistics designation	National Statistics
UK Statistics Authority Assessment	May 2010.
Last published	27 th April 2010
Next published	26 th April 2016
Date of first publication	April 2009
Help email	nss.isdcancerstats@nhs.net
Date form completed	10 th April 2013

A3 – Early Access details (including Pre-Release Access)

Pre-Release Access

Under terms of the "Pre-Release Access to Official Statistics (Scotland) Order 2008", ISD are obliged to publish information on those receiving Pre-Release Access ("Pre-Release Access" refers to statistics in their final form prior to publication). The standard maximum Pre-Release Access is five working days. Shown below are details of those receiving standard Pre-Release Access and, separately, those receiving extended Pre-Release Access.

Standard Pre-Release Access:

Scottish Government Health Department
NHS Board Chief Executives
NHS Board Communication leads

Extended Pre-Release Access

Extended Pre-Release Access of 8 working days is given to a small number of named individuals in the Scottish Government Health Department (Analytical Services Division). This Pre-Release Access is for the sole purpose of enabling that department to gain an understanding of the statistics prior to briefing others in Scottish Government (during the period of standard Pre-Release Access).

Scottish Government Health Department (Analytical Services Division)

A4 – ISD and Official Statistics

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 and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

Purpose: To deliver effective national and specialist intelligence services to improve the health and wellbeing of people in Scotland.

Mission: Better Information, Better Decisions, Better Health

Vision: To be a valued partner in improving health and wellbeing in Scotland by providing a world class intelligence service.

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.

ISD's statistical publications are currently classified as one of the following:

- National Statistics (ie assessed by the UK Statistics Authority as complying with the Code of Practice)
- National Statistics (ie legacy, still to be assessed by the UK Statistics Authority)
- Official Statistics (ie still to be assessed by the UK Statistics Authority)
- other (not Official Statistics)

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](#).

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.