

Publication Summary



Detect Cancer Early Staging Data

Year 1 (2011 and 2012 combined)

Publication date – 25 February 2014

About this Release

This publication presents the numbers and percentages of patients diagnosed during 2011 and 2012 (combined) by stage at diagnosis for NHS Board of residence, Cancer Network and Scotland for breast, colorectal and lung cancers combined and individually. To help monitor performance towards the DCE HEAT target, stage 1 figures for year 1 (2011 and 2012 combined) are compared against the baseline (2010 and 2011 combined).

Key Points

- In Scotland, for the two year period 2011 and 2012, the percentage of people diagnosed with the earliest stage (stage 1) of breast, colorectal and lung cancer (combined) was 24.0%.
- The equivalent National figures for the individual cancers are: breast 39.0%, colorectal 17.9% and lung 14.8%.
- The two cancers with the highest percentage of stage 1 cancers (breast and colorectal) have national screening programmes in place.
- The variation in the percentage of stage 1 cancers diagnosed may reflect, at least in part, variation in the percentage of not known stage both at cancer type and Health Board level. The national percentage of not known stage for the three cancers combined is 7.5%.
- The equivalent National figures of not known stage in the individual cancers are: breast 5.3%, colorectal 12.9% and lung 5.3%.
- In Scotland, there was a 3.4%^R increase in the percentage of people diagnosed at stage 1 for breast, colorectal and lung cancer (combined) between the baseline (2010 and 2011 combined) and year 1 (2011 and 2012 combined).

R - Revised July 2014. The percentage increase of people diagnosed at stage 1 for breast, colorectal and lung cancer (combined) between the baseline (2010 and 2011 combined) and year 1 (2011 and 2012 combined) has changed from 4.3% to 3.4%. This is a result of NHS Dumfries and Galloway resubmitting their colorectal cancer data for 2010 as the original file contained incorrect staging data. This change impacts on Table 5 and Figure 5 in this publication. The figures affected are the:

- baseline (2010 and 2011 combined) number and percentage
- the percentage change from the baseline to year 1

for NHS Scotland, South East Scotland Cancer Network (SCAN) and NHS Dumfries and Galloway. All other NHS Boards are not affected.

Background

Cancer is one of the major causes of death in Scotland. In 2012, over 15,700 people died of cancer in Scotland and 30,000 people were diagnosed with cancer. The most common causes of cancer death and diagnosis are [lung, colorectal and breast cancer](#).

In February 2012 the Cabinet Secretary formally launched the [Detect Cancer Early](#) (DCE) programme. One aim of the DCE programme is to increase the percentage of people who are diagnosed early in the disease process (with stage 1 disease) by 25% by the end of 2015. A [HEAT \(Health, Efficiency, Access and Treatment\) target](#) has been developed to monitor performance in meeting this objective. The target will concentrate on [breast, colorectal and lung cancers](#), which collectively account for over 45% of all cancers diagnosed in Scotland in 2011.

Cancer staging is the process of determining the extent to which a cancer has developed and spread. For the majority of patients with cancer it is common practice to assign a number from 1 to 4 to a cancer, with 1 indicating the cancer is confined to the original organ in which it occurred and 4 being a cancer which has spread beyond the original organ and local lymph glands (regional lymph nodes). Patients diagnosed with stage 1 disease tend to have better outcomes and longer survival compared to patients diagnosed with stage 4 disease.

The percentage of patients with cancer diagnosed with stage 1 disease can vary because of a number of factors including the presence and uptake of national screening programmes.

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#)

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