

# Publication Summary



## Detect Cancer Early Staging Data

Year 2 (2012 and 2013 combined)

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### About this Release

Cancer is one of the major causes of death in Scotland. In 2012, nearly 15,800 people died of cancer in Scotland and almost 30,500 people were diagnosed with cancer. The most common causes of cancer death and diagnosis are [lung, colorectal and breast cancer](#).

This publication presents the numbers and percentages of patients diagnosed during 2012 and 2013 (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 2 (2012 and 2013 combined) are compared against the baseline (2010 and 2011 combined).

### Key Points

- In Scotland, for the two year period 2012 and 2013, the percentage of people diagnosed with breast, colorectal and lung cancer (combined) at the earliest stage (stage 1) was 24.3%.
- In Scotland, there was a 4.7% 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 2 (2012 and 2013 combined).

### Background

In February 2012 the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing 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 44% of all cancers diagnosed in Scotland in 2012.

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.

### Contact

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### Further Information

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

#### About ISD

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