

Publication Summary



Detect Cancer Early Staging Data

Year 3 (2013 and 2014 combined)

Publication date – 18 August 2015

About this Release

Cancer is one of the major causes of death in Scotland. In 2013, nearly 15,800 people died of cancer in Scotland and approximately 31,000 people were diagnosed with cancer. The most common causes of cancer death and diagnosis are lung, breast and colorectal cancer.

This publication presents the numbers and percentages of patients diagnosed during 2013 and 2014 (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 Detect Cancer Early HEAT target, stage 1 figures for year 3 (2013 and 2014 combined) are compared against the baseline (2010 and 2011 combined).

Key Points

- In Scotland, for the two year period 2013 and 2014, the percentage of people diagnosed with breast, colorectal and lung cancer (combined) at the earliest stage (stage 1) was 24.7%.
- In Scotland, there was a relative 6.5% 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 3 (2013 and 2014 combined). This represents a 1.5 percentage point increase from the baseline.
- In interpreting these trends, it is important to consider the reduction in the proportion of cases for which stage is recorded as 'not known'. Part of the improvement in the percentage of cases diagnosed at stage 1 is due to this reduction.

Background

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 its 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.

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 44% of all cancers diagnosed in Scotland in 2013.

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Further Information

The Information Services Division published a wide range of cancer statistics. You can find all our cancer information at www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Cancer/.

Further information on Detect Cancer Early can be found in the [full publication report](#).

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