

Publication Summary



Cancer Mortality in Scotland (2014)

Publication date – 17 November 2015



About this Release

This release from the Information Services Division provides an annual update on the number of deaths from cancer in Scotland from 1989 to 2014. Approximately 45 cancer types are included.

Key Points

- Over the last ten years, the overall age-standardised cancer (excluding non-melanoma skin cancers) mortality rate has fallen by 11%. Although the *rate* of death due to cancer has decreased over this period, the actual *number* of deaths due to cancer has not. This largely reflects an increase in older age groups within the population, and the fact that cancer is a relatively common disease among the elderly.
- Over the last ten years, the cancer mortality rate has fallen by 15% for males and 6% for females.
- Lung cancer is the most common cause of death from cancer in Scotland. The number of deaths are more than double that of colorectal cancer, the next most common cause of death from cancer.
- Significant patterns exist when examining incidence and mortality rates by deprivation in Scotland. For all cancers combined, the most deprived areas have incidence rates that are almost a third higher than the least deprived areas. Mortality rates are over two-thirds higher in the most deprived compared with the least deprived areas.
- There is also considerable variation in trends for different types of cancer. For example, the rate of female deaths due to breast cancer has decreased by 20% over the last ten years. For males, the mortality rate due to stomach cancer has decreased by 36% over the last ten years. The mortality rate for cancer of the liver has increased by over 40% for both males and females.

Background

This release includes information broken down by age group, sex, NHS Board and Regional Cancer Network. Summary tables and charts on cancer incidence and mortality by deprivation quintile are also updated. This publication uses death registration data supplied by [National Records of Scotland](#).

The publication also includes an update of cancer incidence and mortality rates by the 2012 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) quintiles for 28 major types of cancer. Detailed information on these types of cancer is provided on the [ISD Cancer Information website](#).

When using this publication, it is more informative to examine trends in mortality over a number of years, rather than focussing on a single year of mortality. In the case of rare cancers, striking changes from one year to the next are likely to reflect random fluctuation caused by small numbers of deaths and may be misleading.

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Further Information

The Information Services Division publish a wide range of cancer statistics. [You can find all our cancer information on our website](#).

Further information can be found in the [Cancer Mortality in Scotland \(2014\) report](#).

ISD and 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.

Further information [about our statistics](#).