

Cancer Incidence in Scotland (2015)



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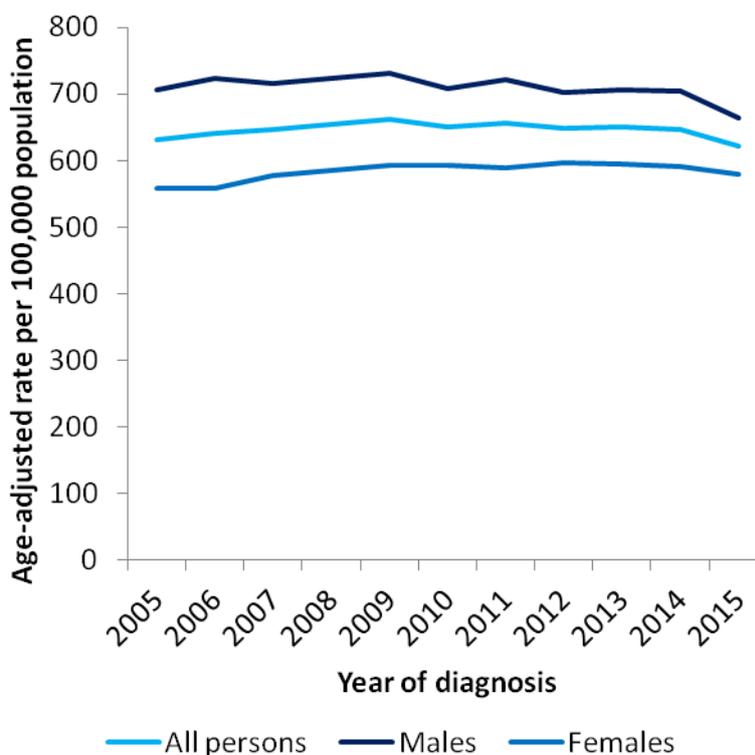
About this release

This release from the Information Services Division (ISD) provides an annual update of cancer incidence statistics in Scotland from 1991 to 2015. More than 50 cancer types are included.

Main Points

- In 2015, excluding non-melanoma skin cancer, there were 31,467 people diagnosed with cancer in Scotland (16,266 women and 15,201 men). Lung cancer remains the most common cancer in Scotland with 4,997 cases diagnosed in 2015.
- Over the last ten years, age-adjusted incidence rates of cancer in Scotland have decreased by 4% for men but increased by 5% for women. Across both sexes, there was a decrease of 0.1% over the last ten years.

Recent trends (2005-2015) in age-adjusted incidence rates for cancer in Scotland



- There is considerable variation in incidence trends between different types of cancer. For instance, the incidence rate of head and neck cancer in women has increased by almost 24% over the last ten years. In contrast, the rate for lung cancer in men has decreased by just over 15% during the same period.
- Currently, it is estimated that two in five people in Scotland will be diagnosed with some form of cancer during their lifetime, which is the same as the previous estimate. This includes some cancers that may have no detrimental impact on life expectancy, such as slow-growing prostate tumours.
- There are approximately 186,500 people in Scotland who have been diagnosed with cancer over the last 20 years and who are still alive.

Background

The [Scottish Cancer Registry](#) has been collecting information on cancer since 1958. Data collected by the Registry are published by ISD and are used for a wide variety of purposes.

Cancer registrations are believed to be essentially complete for the year 2015, but it is important to note that the cancer registration database is dynamic. In common with cancer registries in other countries, cancer incidence rates in Scotland can take up to five years after the end of a given calendar year to reach 100% completeness and stability, due to the continuing accrual of late registrations coming to light through death certification, for example.

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Further Information

ISD publish a wide range of cancer statistics. [You can find all our cancer information on our website](#) including [data visualisation](#).

Further information can be found in the [Cancer Incidence in Scotland \(2015\) report](#).

The next release of this publication will be in April 2018.

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](#).