Detect Cancer Early Staging Data

Year 7 (1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018)

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This is an Official Statistics Publication

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## Contents

Introduction ............................................................................................................................................. 3

Main Points ............................................................................................................................................... 5

Results and Commentary .......................................................................................................................... 6

NHS Board Boundary Changes 2014 ......................................................................................................... 6

Stage Distribution ..................................................................................................................................... 6

Local Delivery Plan Standard - Year 7 ......................................................................................................... 6

Revision of TNM Stage Grouping ........................................................................................................... 7

Breast, colorectal and lung cancer combined .......................................................................................... 8

  Stage Distribution .................................................................................................................................. 8
  Trend in cancer stage ............................................................................................................................... 9
  Relative percentage change by NHS Board of Residence ................................................................. 10
  Trend in relative percentage change from baseline ........................................................................... 11
  Cancer Stage by Deprivation ............................................................................................................... 13
  Trend in relative percentage change in stage 1 by deprivation ....................................................... 14

Breast cancer .......................................................................................................................................... 15

  Stage Distribution by NHS Board of Residence ............................................................................... 15
  Breast Cancer Stage by Deprivation ..................................................................................................... 16

Colorectal Cancer .................................................................................................................................. 17

  Stage Distribution by NHS Board of Residence ............................................................................... 17
  Colorectal Cancer Stage by Deprivation ............................................................................................. 18

Lung Cancer ........................................................................................................................................... 19

  Stage Distribution by NHS Board of Residence ............................................................................... 19
  Lung Cancer Stage by Deprivation ....................................................................................................... 20

Glossary .................................................................................................................................................. 21

List of Tables .......................................................................................................................................... 22

Contact .................................................................................................................................................. 23

Further Information ................................................................................................................................. 23

Appendices ............................................................................................................................................ 24

  Appendix 1 – Background Information ............................................................................................ 24
  Appendix 2 – Publication Metadata ................................................................................................... 26
  Appendix 3 – Early access details ....................................................................................................... 29
  Appendix 4 – ISD and Official Statistics ........................................................................................... 30
Introduction

Cancer is one of the major causes of death in Scotland. In 2017, 16,105 people died of cancer in Scotland and approximately 32,200 people were diagnosed with cancer, excluding non-melanoma skin cancer. The most common causes of cancer diagnosis are lung, breast and colorectal cancer.\(^1\)

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 with patients diagnosed with stage 4 disease.

The proportion 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 programme\(^2\). One aim of the Detect Cancer Early programme was to increase the proportion of people who were diagnosed early in the disease process (with stage 1 disease) by 25% by the end of 2015. A Local Delivery Plan standard (formerly a Health, Efficiency, Access and Treatment target) was developed to monitor performance in meeting this objective\(^3,4\). The standard concentrates on breast, colorectal and lung cancers, which collectively account for 42.9% of all cancers diagnosed in Scotland in 2017.\(^1\)

For reporting the performance towards the Local Delivery Plan standard, it was decided that a two-year time period would be more appropriate than using a single year, to account for variations between years. This is particularly applicable for smaller NHS Boards which may experience large percentage changes due to small numbers. This may also help mitigate the effects of fluctuations in the numbers seen in more rural NHS Boards where breast screening mobile units do not visit every year. The start of the Detect Cancer Early marketing campaign began in February 2012. The baseline year for the standard was chosen as 2010 and 2011 calendar years combined as these were the latest years before any impact of the marketing campaigns or social interventions arising from the programme could be seen.

This publication presents the numbers and percentages of patients diagnosed during the time period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2018 by stage at diagnosis for NHS Board of residence, Cancer Network and Scotland for breast, colorectal and lung cancers combined, as well as individually.

The cancer networks are regional collaborations working together across NHS Boards to improve patient care and cancer services:

\(^1\) [http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Cancer/Publications/2019-04-30/Cancer_in_Scotland_summary_m.pdf](http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Cancer/Publications/2019-04-30/Cancer_in_Scotland_summary_m.pdf)  
\(^2\) [www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/Services/Cancer/Detect-Cancer-Early](www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/Services/Cancer/Detect-Cancer-Early)  
\(^3\) [www.scotland.gov.uk/About/Performance/scotPerforms/partnerstories/NHSScotlandperformance](www.scotland.gov.uk/About/Performance/scotPerforms/partnerstories/NHSScotlandperformance)  
\(^4\) [www.scotland.gov.uk/About/Performance/scotPerforms/partnerstories/NHSScotlandperformance/DetectCancerEarly](www.scotland.gov.uk/About/Performance/scotPerforms/partnerstories/NHSScotlandperformance/DetectCancerEarly)

SCAN  South East of Scotland Cancer Network – NHS Borders, NHS Dumfries & Galloway, NHS Fife and NHS Lothian.


To help monitor performance towards the Local Delivery Plan standard, the stage 1 figures for year 7 of the standard (2017 and 2018 combined) are compared against the figures for the baseline (2010 and 2011 combined).

When making comparisons across Scotland for the breast cancer data, it should be noted that the breast screening mobile unit only visits the island NHS Boards once every three years. In other more rural NHS Boards, especially those without a screening centre such as NHS Borders and NHS Dumfries and Galloway, the breast screening mobile unit may not visit every year. This may cause some variability in the staging figures, as well as the total figures and percentages. This will also affect the combined breast, colorectal and lung cancer data but to a lesser degree.

The variability in the percentages may also be exaggerated in some NHS Boards due to small numbers involved in the calculations. This can be seen in many cases with the island NHS Boards. For this reason only the mainland NHS boards are used when quoting the range of the percentage staging figures.

The DCE figures provided use the Quality Performance Indicator (QPI) audit information, rather than the Scottish Cancer Registry. Therefore, these figures are not directly comparable to ISD’s cancer incidence publication and are subject to change in future publications, as submissions may be updated to reflect a more accurate and complete set of data from NHS Boards.
Main Points

In Scotland, for the two-year period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018 (known here as year 7):

- There were 24,786 patients diagnosed with breast, colorectal or lung cancer.
- For people with breast, colorectal or lung cancer, one in four (25.5%) were diagnosed at the earliest stage (stage 1). This is a 9.4% relative increase from the baseline percentage of 23.3%.
- The Local Delivery Plan standard is a 25% relative increase from baseline, which would mean the percentage diagnosed at stage 1 would need to increase to 29.2% to meet the standard.
- People living in the most deprived areas are less likely to be diagnosed at an earlier stage than those from least deprived areas. For people with breast, colorectal or lung cancer in the most deprived areas, 22.6% were diagnosed at the earliest stage (stage 1) compared with 29.1% in the least deprived areas.
- Patients diagnosed at stage 1 with breast cancer increased over the time period but have seen small decreases each year since 2014 and 2015. The percentage of patients diagnosed at stage 1 for colorectal cancer has deceased over the time period although there have been increases since 2015 and 2016. Lung cancer has seen an increase in patients diagnosed at stage 1 although the increases have flattened over the last few years.
Results and Commentary

NHS Board Boundary Changes 2014

On 1 April 2014 NHS Board boundaries were changed to align with those of local authorities with the purpose of helping closer working in the provision of care in the local community. There were various small changes across NHS Boards affecting only a very small number of patients. The most significant change resulted in the transfer of patients from NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde to NHS Lanarkshire. Patients diagnosed from 1 April 2014 onwards will be in the new 2014 NHS Board structure. Patients diagnosed before this date will be in the previous 2006 NHS Board structure. This should be taken into account when comparing NHS Board figures between different time periods before and after the 2014 boundary change; for example, when comparing the baseline (2010 & 2011 combined) to Year 7 (2017 & 2018 combined). This will not affect the Scotland figures and the effect on most NHS boards will be negligible. However, it will have a small effect on NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde and NHS Lanarkshire figures (see Appendix A1).

Stage Distribution

The variation between NHS Boards and Cancer Networks in the proportion of patients diagnosed at stage 1 (and any other stage), may reflect, at least in part, variation in the proportion recorded with a ‘not known’ stage. Care should be taken when comparing stages between NHS Boards; large differences in the ‘not known’ stage are likely to make such comparisons unreliable. It should also be noted that it is not always possible to assign a stage of disease for every cancer patient. There will, therefore, always be a proportion of patients where their stage of disease remains unknown.

Local Delivery Plan Standard - Year 7

The Local Delivery Plan standard for Detect Cancer Early is to increase the proportion of people diagnosed and treated in the first stage of breast, colorectal and lung cancer by 25 percent. The latest two-year period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018 is the seventh year of the Local Delivery Plan standard.

To monitor performance towards the Local Delivery Plan standard, the stage 1 percentage for year 7 (1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018) is compared with the baseline (1 January 2010 to 31 December 2011). The measure used is the percentage change (% change) and is calculated as the difference between the baseline and year 7 figures, relative to the baseline and expressed as a percentage:

5https://news.gov.scot/News/Health-board-boundaries
\[
\text{% change (Year 7)} = \left( \frac{\text{Year 7} \% - \text{Baseline} \%}{\text{Baseline} \%} \right) \times 100
\]

The numbers and percentages of patients diagnosed with stage 1 disease for breast, colorectal and lung cancers combined are presented for the baseline and subsequent years in the staging tables. The percentage change (% change) in stage 1 from the baseline is also shown. The figures are provided for Scotland, Cancer Network and NHS Board of residence.

**Revision of TNM Stage Grouping**

The approach to cancer staging for DCE is to use Quality Performance Indicator (QPI) audit information, rather than the Scottish Cancer Registry. This revised guidance replaces the previous UICC TNM7 stage groups with TNM8.

The TNM8 stage mappings have been derived following advice from the head of the lung TNM8 staging committee. The application of the data definitions are in line with the guidance contained in the national lung cancer audit data set definitions. The colorectal mappings were clearly subsets of existing staging codes, so no guidance was needed. There were no revisions to the TNM breast mappings. The rules for the two algorithms have not changed but the final staging was updated to include the new TNM8 codes i.e. T1mi & T1c added to Lung Clinical T.

On 1 January 2018 the TNM staging to lung was revised to the 8th edition.

On 1 April 2018 the TNM staging to colorectal was revised to the 8th edition.
Breast, colorectal and lung cancer combined

Stage Distribution

For the two-year period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018, the proportion of patients in Scotland diagnosed with breast, colorectal or lung cancer at the earliest stage (stage 1) was 25.5%. In mainland NHS Boards this varied from 22.2% (NHS Grampian) to 31.7% (NHS Dumfries & Galloway), see Figure 1 and the staging tables.

The proportion of patients in Scotland with a ‘not known’ stage recorded at diagnosis is 6.0%. In mainland NHS Boards this varied from 2.9% (NHS Fife) to 13.2% (NHS Grampian). There has been an increase in NHS Grampian unknown stage for lung cancer for 2017. This is due to a known local recording issue.

Figure 1: Stage distribution for breast, colorectal and lung cancer by NHS Board of residence; 2017 and 2018 combined

Source: ISD Detect Cancer Early data

Notes:

1. A list of NHS Boards within each network; NCA, SCAN & WOSCAN is in the glossary.
Trend in cancer stage

The trend in the percentage of patients diagnosed at each stage of disease for breast, colorectal and lung cancer in Scotland is presented in Figure 2.

The proportion of patients diagnosed with stage 1 disease has increased by 2.2 percentage points from the baseline to year 7 (23.3% to 25.5%). At the same time there has been a slight increase in the proportion of patients diagnosed with stage 2 and stage not known’s, with a decrease in stage 3 and stage 4. Stage not known has decreased from the baseline to year 3 with a steady increase over the last 4 years.

Figure 2: Trend in the proportion of patients diagnosed at each stage\(^1\) for breast, colorectal or lung cancer in Scotland; 2010 and 2011 combined to 2017 and 2018 combined

Source: ISD Detect Cancer Early data

Notes:

1. There has been an increase in NHS Grampian unknown stage for lung cancer for 2017. This is due to a known local recording issue. It is hoped these cases can be assigned a stage for future publications.
Relative percentage change by NHS Board of Residence

Figure 3: Percentage change in patients diagnosed at stage 1 for breast, colorectal or lung cancer, by NHS Board of residence; 2010 and 2011 combined compared to 2017 and 2018 combined

Source: ISD Detect Cancer Early data

Notes:
1. Excludes Island NHS Boards; small numbers in the calculation of a percentage can be misleading.
2. A list of NHS Boards within each network; NCA, SCAN & WOSCAN is in the glossary.
3. All percentage changes in this chart are relative percentage changes.

All percentage changes in this section are relative percentage changes. Figure 3 shows the relative percentage change in stage 1 for year 7 (1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018) compared with the baseline (1 January 2010 to 31 December 2011) for Scotland, Cancer Network and individual mainland NHS Boards. A positive value represents an increase from the baseline while a negative value represents a decrease from the baseline.

In year 7 (1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018) there was a 9.4% increase in stage 1 diagnosis for breast, colorectal or lung cancer compared with the baseline, see the staging tables and Figure 3. This is below the Local Delivery Plan standard of 25% and shows that the standard has not yet been met.

Scotland as a whole and 9 of the 11 individual mainland NHS Boards have shown an increase in stage 1 diagnosis since the baseline (a positive % change). However, NHS Highland and NHS Borders have shown a decrease (a negative % change).
In the mainland NHS Boards the percentage change varied from -14.5% (NHS Borders) to +21.6% (NHS Lothian), no boards are meeting the 25% target. Of the Cancer Networks; SCAN, WOSCAN and NCA show an increase of +13.6%, +8.6% and +6.2%, respectively.

**Trend in relative percentage change from baseline**

All percentage changes in this section are relative percentage changes. For the purpose of monitoring the Local Delivery Plan standard, it can be useful to look at the trend in the percentage change from the baseline. The trend in the percentage change from the baseline at each stage of disease in Scotland is shown in Figure 4.

For stage 1, there has been an increase in the percentage change for each year compared with the baseline. The percentage change in year 7 was 9.4%. For the latest year (year 7) there has been a decrease in stage 3 and 4 whereas there has been an increase for stage 1 and stage 2. For stage 4, there has been an increase from the baseline for year 1 to year 3, however the percentage change has decreased for year 4 and year 5 with a slight increase for year 6 then another decrease in year 7.

The percentage change in patients recorded with a ‘not known’ stage from the baseline shows a large reduction. The percentage change from the baseline to year 7 for stage not known is -28.6% (a negative % change). The percentage change has decreased sharply from the baseline to year 3 with a steady increase over the last 4 years.
Figure 4: Trend in relative percentage change from baseline for each stage for breast, colorectal and lung cancer in Scotland; 2010 and 2011 combined to 2017 and 2018 combined

Source: ISD Detect Cancer Early data
Notes:
1. There has been an increase in NHS Grampian unknown stage for lung cancer for 2017. This is due to a known local recording issue. It is hoped these cases can be assigned a stage for future publications.
2. All percentage changes in this chart are relative percentage changes.
Cancer Stage by Deprivation

The percentages of patients diagnosed with breast, colorectal or lung cancer in Scotland at each stage of disease by deprivation category are presented in Figure 5.

For the two-year period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018, people living in the most deprived areas are less likely to be diagnosed at an earlier stage than those from least deprived areas. For people with breast, colorectal or lung cancer in the most deprived areas, 22.6% were diagnosed at the earliest stage (stage 1) compared with 29.1% in the least deprived areas, see Figure 5 and the staging table by deprivation.

**Figure 5: Proportion of patients in Scotland diagnosed with breast, colorectal or lung cancer by stage and deprivation category; 2017 and 2018 combined**

![Cancer stage by deprivation chart](image)

Source: ISD Detect Cancer Early data

Notes:

1. Deprivation category shown is the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) quintiles for 2012

A higher proportion of patients were diagnosed at the more advanced stage of disease (stage 4) in the most deprived areas (deprivation category 1) with 29.7% compared with 20.0% in the least deprived areas (deprivation category 5).
Trend in relative percentage change in stage 1 by deprivation

All percentage changes in this section are relative percentage changes. Figure 4 presents the trend in the percentage change from the baseline at each stage of disease in Scotland. The trend in the percentage change for stage 1 of disease for each deprivation category is shown in Figure 6.

There has been an increase in the percentage change for each year compared with the baseline patients diagnosed with breast, colorectal or lung cancer in the most deprived areas of Scotland (deprivation category 1). The percentage change in year 7 was 11.8% from baseline in the most deprived areas.

Figure 6: Trend in relative percentage change from baseline for stage 1 for breast, colorectal and lung cancer in Scotland; 2010 and 2011 combined to 2017 and 2018 combined

Source: ISD Detect Cancer Early data

1. All percentage changes in this chart are relative percentage changes.
Breast cancer

Stage Distribution by NHS Board of Residence

For the two-year period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018, the most common stage of disease at diagnosis for breast cancer in Scotland was stage 2, which accounted for 45.9% of all patients. During this time period the proportion of patients in Scotland diagnosed with stage 1 breast cancer was 40.4%. In the mainland NHS Boards the percentage of patients diagnosed with stage 1 breast cancer varied from 37.3% (NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde) to 58.2% (NHS NHS Dumfries & Galloway), see Figure 7 and the staging tables.

The proportion of patients in Scotland with a not known stage recorded at breast cancer diagnosis is 1.1%.

Figure 7: Stage distribution for breast cancer by NHS Board of residence; 2017 and 2018 combined

Source: ISD Detect Cancer Early data

Notes:
1. A list of NHS Boards within each network; NCA, SCAN & WOSCAN is in the glossary.

When looking at the trend over the whole time period, patients diagnosed at stage 1 with breast cancer increased from 38.7% from the baseline to 41.2% in year 4 but have seen small decreases each year since to 40.4%.
Breast Cancer Stage by Deprivation

For the two-year period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018, of those patients diagnosed with breast cancer in the most deprived areas of Scotland (deprivation category 1), the highest proportion were diagnosed with stage 2 (46.8%). For those patients living in the least deprived areas (deprivation category 5), the highest proportion were also diagnosed at stage 2 (46.7%), see Figure 7 and the staging table by deprivation.

At the same time, a higher proportion of patients were diagnosed at the more advanced stages of breast cancer (stage 3 and 4) in the most deprived areas (deprivation category 1) than in the least deprived areas (deprivation category 5); 15.7% compared with 10.4%, see Figure 8 and the staging table by deprivation.

The incidence of breast cancer, however, tends to be higher in less deprived areas. This is thought to be due partly to higher rates of attendance for breast screening in less deprived areas. Patients who attend breast screening are more likely to be diagnosed at the earlier stages of disease. This would result in a higher number of patients being diagnosed in the least deprived areas and also a higher proportion being diagnosed at an earlier stage.

**Figure 8: Proportion of patients in Scotland diagnosed with breast cancer by stage and deprivation category; 2017 and 2018 combined**

Source: ISD Detect Cancer Early data

Notes:
1. Deprivation category shown is the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) quintiles for 2012

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7[http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Cancer/Publications/2017-04-25/brstscreen_depcat1yr.xls](http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Cancer/Publications/2017-04-25/brstscreen_depcat1yr.xls)
Colorectal Cancer

Stage Distribution by NHS Board of Residence

For the two-year period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018, the most common stage of disease at diagnosis for colorectal cancer in Scotland was stage 3, which accounted for 25.0% of all patients. During this time period the proportion of patients in Scotland diagnosed with stage 1 colorectal cancer was 16.4%. In the mainland NHS Boards the percentage of patients diagnosed with stage 1 colorectal cancer varied from 12.2% (NHS Ayrshire & Arran) to 23.3% (NHS Forth Valley), see Figure 9 and the staging tables.

The proportion of patients in Scotland with a not known stage recorded at diagnosis is 10.8%. In mainland NHS Boards this varied from 6.1% (NHS Dumfries & Galloway) to 15.1% (NHS Lanarkshire).

Figure 9: Stage distribution for colorectal cancer by NHS Board of residence; 2017 and 2018 combined

Source: ISD Detect Cancer Early data

Notes:
1. A list of NHS Boards within each network; NCA, SCAN & WOSCAN is in the glossary.

When looking at the trend over the whole time period, patients diagnosed at stage 1 with colorectal cancer decreased from 17.8% to 16.4% although there have been increases since 2015 and 2016.
Colorectal Cancer Stage by Deprivation

For the two-year period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018, of those patients diagnosed with colorectal cancer in the most deprived areas of Scotland (deprivation category 1), the highest proportion were diagnosed at the most advanced stage of disease; stage 4 (26.7%). For those patients living in the least deprived areas (deprivation category 5), the highest proportion were diagnosed at stage 3 (24.7%), see Figure 10 and the staging table by deprivation.

For the same time period, a higher proportion of patients were diagnosed at the earliest stages of colorectal cancer (stage 1 and 2) in the least deprived areas of Scotland (deprivation category 5) than in the most deprived areas (deprivation category 1); 42.7% compared with 37.6%.

The incidence of colorectal cancer tends to be higher in more deprived areas where the risk factors, thought to include poor diet, lack of physical activity and long-term smoking, tend to be more common. There are lower rates of participation in bowel screening in more deprived areas which may contribute to the lower proportion being diagnosed at an early stage of disease.

**Figure 10: Proportion of patients in Scotland diagnosed with colorectal cancer by stage and deprivation category; 2017 and 2018 combined**

Source: ISD Detect Cancer Early data

Notes:
1. Deprivation category shown is the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) quintiles for 2012

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8https://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Cancer/Publications/2018-10-30/dim_cancer_colorectal.xls
9http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Cancer/Publications/2017-08-08/2017-08-08-Bowel-Screening-Publication-Report.pdf
Lung Cancer

Stage Distribution by NHS Board of Residence

For the two-year period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018, the most common stage of disease at diagnosis for lung cancer in Scotland was stage 4, which accounted for 45.8% of all patients. During this period the proportion of patients in Scotland diagnosed with stage 1 lung cancer was 17.9%. In the mainland NHS Boards the percentage of patients diagnosed with stage 1 lung cancer varied from 7.9% (NHS Dumfries & Galloway) to 22.8% (NHS Lothian), see Figure 11 and the staging tables.

The proportion of patients in Scotland with a not known stage recorded at diagnosis is 7.2%. In mainland NHS Boards this varied from 0.6% (NHS Fife) to 23.8% (NHS Grampian).

Figure 11: Stage distribution for lung cancer by NHS Board of residence; 2017 and 2018 combined

Source: ISD Detect Cancer Early data

Notes:
1. There has been an increase in NHS Grampian unknown stage for lung cancer for 2017. This is due to a known local recording issue. It is hoped these cases can be assigned a stage for future publications.
2. A list of NHS Boards within each network; NCA, SCAN & WOSCAN is in the glossary.

When looking at the trend over the whole time period, patients diagnosed at stage 1 with lung cancer increased from 13.2% to 17.9% although the increases have flattened over the last few years.
Lung Cancer Stage by Deprivation

For the two-year period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018, the highest proportion of patients diagnosed at the most advanced stage of lung cancer (stage 4) was for patients living in deprivation category 3, with 49.7%, see Figure 12 and the staging table by deprivation. The proportion of patients diagnosed at the earliest stages (stage 1 and 2) in the most and least deprived areas are similar at 26.7% and 26.5%, respectively. Previous studies in Scotland and England have found no convincing evidence that deprived patients with lung cancer present with a less favourable stage distribution\textsuperscript{10,11,12,13}.

Figure 12: Proportion of patients in Scotland diagnosed with lung cancer by stage and deprivation category; 2017 and 2018 combined

Source: ISD Detect Cancer Early data

Notes:
1. Deprivation category shown is the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) quintiles for 2012

\textsuperscript{10}Brewster DH, Thomson CS, Hole DJ, Black RJ, Stroner PL, Gillis CR. Relation between socioeconomic status and tumour stage in patients with breast, colorectal, ovarian, and lung cancer: results from four national, population based studies. BMJ 2001 Apr 7;322:830-1.


Glossary

LDP standard: Local Delivery Plan (LDP) standards are priorities that are set and agreed between the Scottish Government and NHS Boards.

ICD-10: The 10th revision of the International Classification of Diseases produced by the World Health Organisation (WHO). It assigns codes to particular diseases and conditions.

Imaging: Examination of organs or tissue using a variety of techniques including x-ray, CT (Computerised Tomography) scan, MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scan etc.

Mainland NHS Boards: Health Boards in Scotland excluding the three Island Health Boards (Orkney, Shetland and Western Isles).


Pathological Information: This information is obtained when a sample of tissue is examined by a pathologist.


List of Tables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>File name</th>
<th>File and size</th>
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<tr>
<td>Number and percentage of patients by stage at diagnosis for Breast, Colorectal and Lung cancer by NHS Board of residence for 2010 and 2011 to 2017 and 2018 combined.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number and percentage of patients in Scotland diagnosed with Breast, Colorectal and Lung cancer by stage and deprivation category for 2010 and 2011 to 2017 and 2018 combined.</td>
<td>Excel 101 Kb</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Note: in order to view the tables to full effect, the macros will need to be enabled. To do this, select options – enable this content.
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Further Information

Further Information can be found on the ISD website.

For more information on Detect Cancer Early see the DCE section of our website. For related topics, please see the Cancer pages.

The next release of this publication will be 11 August 2020.

Rate this publication

Please provide feedback on this publication to help us improve our services.
Appendices

Appendix 1 – Background Information

Data collection

Data to support the Detect Cancer Early (DCE) initiative are collected by Cancer Audit staff across NHS Scotland and are part of the Scottish National Prospective Cancer Audit data sets, which are recorded onto the NHS Boards’ prospective cancer audit systems.

These data are collected locally by individual NHS Boards using national data standards. The information is collected as patients progress through their pathway of care from initial referral, investigations and diagnosis, to staging, treatments and follow-up. Further information on prospective cancer audit data definitions can be found under QPI data sets in the Cancer Audit section of the website.

Quarterly data are submitted to ISD before being validated and loaded onto the Detect Cancer Early database to allow interrogation and reporting.

Data completeness

When the number of tumours recorded by National Prospective Cancer Audit in 2010 and 2011 were compared with an equivalent period in the Scottish Cancer Registry they were found to be approximately 90% complete.

Data Quality

The quality of these statistics are considered fit for publication. The data received were validated against the national data definitions to ensure that codes were consistent.

By utilising both clinical and pathological information from across the patient record all attempts have been made to produce the most accurate staging information possible. However, some patients will legitimately never be staged, and it will not be possible to derive a stage category for some other patients owing to the complexities around data capture. Both these categories of patients will have their stage recorded as not known.

The number and percentage of not known stage should be taken into account when comparing stage distribution figures for individual cancers across geographical areas.

ISD routinely seeks clarification from NHS Boards on their data where there may be large changes in numbers, unusual patterns in the data or changes in trends. These changes may be influenced by a variety of factors including service changes/reconfiguration or data recording changes. NHS Boards are given the opportunity to review their submitted records during a quality assurance stage prior to publication. There are several quality assurance reports built in the DCE datamart where NHS Boards can assess the data quality after uploading.
Staging definitions

The method of defining stage can vary depending on the type of cancer. While the detail of the methods used here are different for breast, colorectal and lung cancer, in general they use a combination of the clinical and pathological information recorded for each patient. Clinical may include information about the cancer obtained by physical examination, imaging, and endoscopy, while pathological information is obtained when a sample of tissue is examined by a pathologist.

It should also be noted that it is not always possible to assign a stage of disease for every cancer patient. There will, therefore, always be a proportion of patients where their stage of disease remains unknown.

NHS Board Boundary Changes

On 1 April 2014 NHS Board boundaries were changed to align with those of local authorities with the purpose of helping closer working in the provision of care in the local community. There were various small changes across NHS Boards affecting only a very small number of patients. The most significant change resulted in the transfer of patients from NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde to NHS Lanarkshire. Patients diagnosed from 1 April 2014 onwards will be in the new 2014 NHS Board structure. Patients diagnosed before this date will be in the previous 2006 NHS Board structure. This change will not affect the Scotland figures and the effect on most NHS Boards will be negligible. However, it will have a small effect on NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde and NHS Lanarkshire figures.

The effect on the NHS Boards was assessed as part of the Detect Cancer Early Staging Data - Year 3 (2013 and 2014 combined) publication\(^\text{14}\). The data was presented in both the previous 2006 NHS Board structure and the new 2014 NHS Board structure for comparison.

For all cancers combined, the proportion of patients diagnosed at stage 1 decreased by 0.2 percentage points (24.6% to 24.4%) for NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde when comparing the previous 2006 NHS Board structure to the new 2014 NHS Board structure. At the same time, the proportion of patients diagnosed at stage 1 in NHS Lanarkshire increased by 0.3 percentage points (24.7% to 24.9%).

This should be taken into account when comparing NHS Board figures between different time periods before and after the 2014 boundary change, for example when comparing the baseline (2010 & 2011 combined) and Year 6 (2016 & 2017 combined).

## Appendix 2 – Publication Metadata

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<tr>
<td><strong>Publication title</strong></td>
<td>Detect Cancer Early Staging Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description</strong></td>
<td>Two years of data (2017 and 2018 combined) presented for three cancers (breast, colorectal and lung) by stage of disease at diagnosis. Comparison between baseline and year 7 figures for monitoring the Local Delivery Plan standard (formerly HEAT target).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Theme</strong></td>
<td>Health and Social Care.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Topic</strong></td>
<td>Conditions and Diseases.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Format</strong></td>
<td>Excel workbooks and PDF.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Data source(s)</strong></td>
<td>Prospective Cancer Audit data collected by Cancer Audit staff across NHS Scotland. Data are collected as the patient progresses through their pathway from referral, investigations, staging, treatment and follow-up. Quarterly data are submitted to ISD before being validated and loaded onto the Detect Cancer Early database to allow interrogation and reporting.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date that data are acquired</strong></td>
<td>Quarterly data submission files for the individual cancers were submitted to ISD up to 1 May 2018 for 2017 data and up to 1 May 2019 for 2018 data. Some resubmissions occur during quality assurance up to 5 July 2019 prior to publication.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Release date</strong></td>
<td>13 August 2019.</td>
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<td><strong>Frequency</strong></td>
<td>Annual.</td>
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<td><strong>Timeframe of data and timeliness</strong></td>
<td>Data on patients diagnosed from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2018.</td>
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<td><strong>Continuity of data</strong></td>
<td>While the national prospective cancer audit data sets for the individual cancers have changed since 2010 every effort has been made to ensure that the specific data items used to report on Detect Cancer Early have remained stable. For example the guidance around the approach to coding Dukes' stage for polyp colorectal cancers has been revised to align with the recent Scottish Bowel Screening guidance. This change was applied retrospectively to the 2010 and 2011 data and NHS Boards were given the opportunity to revisit their audit records and, where appropriate, update information prior to submitting their data to ISD.</td>
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<td><strong>Revisions statement</strong></td>
<td>Figures contained within each publication may also be subject to change in future publications. See ISD Statistical Revisions Policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revisions relevant to this publication</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Concepts and definitions</td>
<td>See Glossary and Appendix A1 contained within this report.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relevance and key uses of the statistics</td>
<td>The DCE team, within ISD, will work in partnership with the SG Cancer Delivery Team and NHS Boards to collate data to facilitate the monitoring of NHSScotland’s performance against the Detect Cancer Early Local Delivery Plan standard (formerly Health, Efficiency, Access and Treatment target). Other uses of the data include support of NHS Boards, researchers, charities, media, and public, and to fulfil Freedom of Information requests and Parliamentary Questions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accuracy</td>
<td>The quality of these statistics are considered fit for publication. Data was validated against the national data definitions to ensure that codes were consistent. NHS Boards were given the opportunity to review and amend all codes which did not appear in the national definitions. By utilising both clinical and pathological information from across the patient record all attempts have been made to produce the most accurate staging information possible. However, some patients will legitimately never be staged, and it will not be possible to derive a stage category for some other patients owing to the complexities around data capture. Both these categories of patients will have their stage recorded as not known.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Completeness</td>
<td>When the number of tumours recorded by Prospective Cancer Audit in 2010 and 2011 were compared with an equivalent period in the Scottish Cancer Registry they were found to be approximately 90% complete.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comparability</td>
<td>Owing to the pragmatic approach taken for deriving stage based on a combination of clinical and pathological information it may not be possible to directly compare these results with other cancer staging data.</td>
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<td>Accessibility</td>
<td>It is the policy of ISD Scotland to make its web sites and products accessible according to published guidelines.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coherence and clarity</td>
<td>Statistics are presented within Excel spreadsheets and PDF. Data are reported on a national, NHS Board and Regional Cancer Network level, broken down by cancer type. The distribution of stage at diagnosis is reported on for the three cancers combined and by individual cancers. For completeness the number and percentage of patients with a not known stage at diagnosis are also included. Further features to aid clarity: 1. All tables are printer friendly. 2. Figures for the three cancers combined and the three individual cancers are available in separate tables to enable users to select a single cancer</td>
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</table>
| Value type and unit of measurement | Distribution of stage (number and %) for NHS Scotland, Regional Cancer Network and NHS Board level, broken down by cancer type. The percentage change (% change) used is the relative percentage change - more specifically this is the difference in the percentage between a particular year and the baseline relative to the baseline, expressed as a percentage. For example: 
\[
\% \text{ change (Year 7)} = \frac{\text{Year 7 \%} - \text{Baseline \%}}{\text{Baseline \%}} \times 100
\] |
| Disclosure | The [ISD protocol on Statistical Disclosure Protocol](#) is followed. |
| UK Statistics Authority Assessment | Not currently put forward for assessment. |
| Last published | 31 July 2018 |
| Next published | 11 August 2020 |
| Date of first publication | 28 May 2013 |
| Help email | nss.isdDetectCancerEarly@nhs.net |
| Date form completed | July 2019 |
Appendix 3 – Early access details

Pre-Release Access

Under terms of the "Pre-Release Access to Official Statistics (Scotland) Order 2008", ISD is obliged to publish information on those receiving Pre-Release Access ("Pre-Release Access" refers to statistics in their final form prior to publication). The standard maximum Pre-Release Access is five working days. Shown below are details of those receiving standard Pre-Release Access.

Standard Pre-Release Access:

Scottish Government Health Department

NHS Board Chief Executives

NHS Board Communication leads
Appendix 4 – ISD and Official Statistics

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 and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

**Purpose:** To deliver effective national and specialist intelligence services to improve the health and wellbeing of people in Scotland.

**Mission:** Better Information, Better Decisions, Better Health

**Vision:** To be a valued partner in improving health and wellbeing in Scotland by providing a world class intelligence service.

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.

ISD’s statistical publications are currently classified as one of the following:

- National Statistics (ie assessed by the UK Statistics Authority as complying with the Code of Practice)
- National Statistics (ie legacy, still to be assessed by the UK Statistics Authority)
- Official Statistics (ie still to be assessed by the UK Statistics Authority)
- other (not Official Statistics)

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](#).