Detect Cancer Early Staging Data

Year 7 (1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018)

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

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About this release

This release by Information Services Division presents data on patients diagnosed with cancer during the two-year period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018.

Main Points

- In 2017 and 2018 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.

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

Source: ISD Detect Cancer Early data

- 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.

**Background**

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.

In February 2012 the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing formally launched the Detect Cancer Early programme. One aim of the Detect Cancer Early programme was to increase the proportion of people diagnosed with early stage disease (stage 1) by 25% by the end of 2015 concentrating on breast, colorectal and lung cancers, which collectively account for 42.9% of all cancers diagnosed in Scotland in 2017.

To help monitor performance towards the Detect Cancer Early Local Delivery Plan standard, the proportion of patients diagnosed at an early stage of disease (stage 1) for year 7 (2017 and 2018 combined), is compared with that of the baseline (2010 and 2011 combined).

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.

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.

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**Further Information**

Find out more in the full report. The data from this publication is available to download from our web page.

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.

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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.