

On 24 May 2017 the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published cancer registrations statistics to include cancers diagnosed up to 2015 in England. The publication presents statistics for England, region of residence, cancer site, sex, age and year of diagnosis.

Presented here is a summary of the data from all malignant cancers, not including non-melanoma skin cancer (C00-C97 excl. C44) for the West Midlands. The full publication and associated data tables are available here:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/datasets/cancerregistrationstatisticscancerregistrationstatisticsengland>

Key points for the West Midlands region:

- The total number of cancer registrations in the West Midlands for 2015 was 31,336 with 16,063 (51%) diagnosed in males and 15,273 (49%) in females. This reflects the national distribution of diagnoses by sex for England.
- The overall number of cancer diagnoses in the West Midlands has increased by 0.2% since 2014, when there were 31,274¹ cases of cancer diagnosed in the region.
- The West Midlands age-standardised cancer incidence rates for all cancers (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer) were 651.6 per 100,000 males and 533.5 per 100,000 females. Overall, cancer incidence rates in the region were lower for males and females than in England, with national rates of 667.4 and 542.8 per 100,000, respectively.
- The three most common cancers diagnosed in females resident in the West Midlands accounted for 54% of all female diagnoses. The most common female cancers were breast cancer with 4,766 cases (31%), colorectal cancer² with 1,716 (11%) and lung cancer³ with 1,699 (11%).
- The age-standardised incidence rates were 168.3 per 100,000 females for breast cancer and 59.4 per 100,000 for lung cancer, both of which were lower than the national rates of 170.2 and 65.6 per 100,000 females, respectively. The age-standardised rate for colorectal cancer was 59.2 per 100,000 females, which was higher than the national rate of 56.8 per 100,000 females.
- The three most common cancers in males resident in the West Midlands accounted for 52% of all male diagnoses. The most common male cancers were prostate cancer with 4,125 cases (26%), colorectal cancer with 2,120 (13%) and lung cancer with 2,161 (13%).
- The age-standardised incidence rate for prostate cancer was 167.2 per 100,000 males, colorectal cancer was 86.6 per 100,000 males and lung cancer was 89.3 per 100,000 males; all of which were lower than the national rates of 176.4, 84.6 and 89.4 per 100,000 males, respectively.

About the Data

The cancer statistics presented here are the latest in the series of annual data releases by ONS known as the MB1 series.

¹Figure taken ONS: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/datasets/cancerregistrationstatisticscancerregistrationstatisticsengland>

²Colon and rectum cancer ICD10 C18-C20

³Trachea, bronchus and lung cancer ICD10 C33-C34

The cancer registrations reported here are considered complete for the diagnosis year 2015. Cancer registration is a dynamic process, as records held by the National Cancer Registration and Analysis Service and ONS may be updated should more accurate information become available at a later stage.

Briefing prepared by National Cancer Registration and Analysis Service.