



Briefing on ONS cancer registration statistics 2015

Introduction

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 North West. The full publication and associated data tables are available here:

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

Key points for the North West

- The total number of cancer registrations¹ in the North West for 2015 was 41,678, of which 21,062 (50.5%) were diagnosed in males and 20,616 (49.5%) in females. This reflects the national distribution of diagnoses by sex for England.
- The overall number of cancer diagnoses in the North West has stayed roughly the same since 2014, when there were 41,671² cases of cancer diagnosed in the region, compared with 41,678 in 2015.
- Cancer diagnoses in the North West comprised 14% of all cancer diagnoses made in England in 2015.
- The North West age-standardised cancer incidence rates for all cancers (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer) were 689.3 per 100,000 males and 572.9 per 100,000 females. Overall, cancer incidence rates in the region

¹ All cancers combined excluding non-melanoma skin cancer: ICD10 C00-C97 excl. C44

² Figure taken from ONS:

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

were higher than England for both males and females, with national rates of 667.4 and 542.8 per 100,000, respectively.

- The three most common cancers diagnosed in females resident in the North West accounted for 53.5% of all female diagnoses. The most common female cancers were breast cancer with 5,916 cases (28.7%), lung cancer³ with 3,110 (15.1%) and colorectal cancer⁴ with 2,004 (9.7%).
- The age-standardised incidence rates were 165.1 per 100,000 females for breast cancer and 86.9 for lung cancer, both of which were higher than the national rates of 170.2 and 65.6 per 100,000 females, respectively. The age-standardised rate for colorectal cancer was 55.3 per 100,000 females, which was lower than the national rate of 56.8 per 100,000 females.
- The three most common cancers in males resident in the North West accounted for 51.4% of all male diagnoses. The most common male cancers were prostate cancer with 4,897 cases (23.3%), lung cancer with 3,270 (15.5%) and colorectal cancer with 2,661 (12.6%).
- The age-standardised incidence rates were 109.8 per 100,000 males for lung cancer and 87.9 for colorectal cancer, both of which were higher than the national rates of 89.4 and 84.6 per 100,000 males, respectively. The age-standardised rate for prostate cancer was 159.5 per 100,000 males, which was lower than the national rate of 176.4 per 100,000 males.

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.

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.

First published: July 2017

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³Trachea, bronchus and lung cancer: ICD10 C33-C34

⁴Colon and rectum cancer ICD10: C18-C20