

Statistics fact sheet

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EXTERNAL VERSION

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Macmillan and statistics

Statistics are important to Macmillan because they help us represent a lot of complicated information in a way that is easily understood. They also add credibility to an argument or advice. For example, we believe cancer care must improve in the UK because we know it's something which will affect most of us.

To explain the extent of the cancer population a number of key statistics are included in this fact sheet:

- People living with cancer – cancer prevalence
- New cases of cancer – cancer incidence
- People dying with and from cancer – mortality
- Surviving cancer – Median Survival and the Consequences of cancer and its treatment
- Variations – ethnicity and deprivation in cancer incidence
- The reach of Macmillan services

For further support or if you have any queries, please contact: evidence@macmillan.org.uk

People living with cancer – cancer prevalence

Headlines

- There are now an estimated **2.5 million** people living with cancer in the UK, rising to **4 million** by 2030¹
- The number of people living with cancer in the UK in 2015 has increased by almost half a million people in the last five years^{1,2}



See our full infographic '[Cancer: A colossal challenge – the 2.5 million](#)'.

You can also view a [text-only version of this infographic](#).

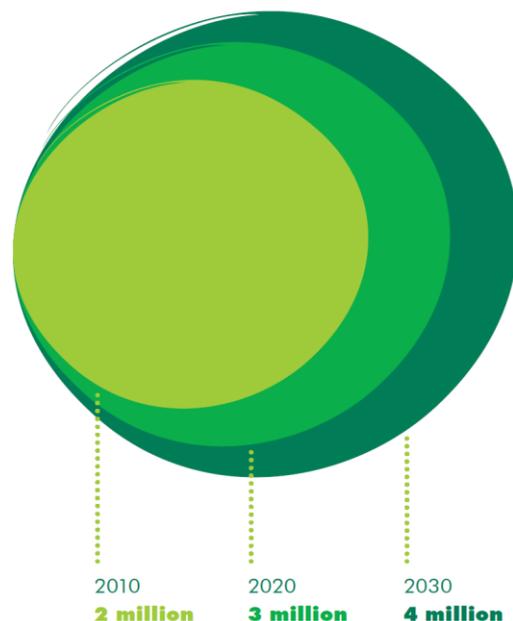
¹ Maddams J, Utley M, Møller H. Projections of cancer prevalence in the United Kingdom, 2010-2040. Br J Cancer 2012; 107: 1195-1202. (Projections scenario 1). Macmillan analysis based on extrapolation of 2010 and 2020 projections that the number of people living with cancer will hit an estimated 2.5 million in 2015.

² 'Five years' refers to 2010-2015.

Changes over time

- The number of older people (aged 65 and over) living with cancer has grown by 300,000 (or 23%) in the five years to 2015³
- The number of people who have survived five or more years since diagnosis has increased by over 260,000 (or 21%) in the five years to 2015³
- The number of people living with cancer in the UK is increasing by 3.2% every year⁴
- The number of cancer survivors in the UK is projected to increase by approximately one million per decade from 2010 to 2040; resulting in four million people living with cancer in 2030⁴
- See also 'The Changing story of cancer' infographic [here](#).

Number of people living with a cancer diagnosis in the UK



Estimated number of people living with cancer: by nation, at the end of 2010, 2015, 2020 and 2030³

	2010	2015	2020	2030
England	1,700,000	2,000,000	2,400,000	3,400,000
Wales	110,000	130,000	160,000	220,000
Scotland	190,000	220,000	260,000	360,000
Northern Ireland	53,000	63,000	74,000	100,000
UK	2,100,000	2,500,000	2,900,000	4,000,000

Note: UK totals may not sum up due to rounding.

Older people

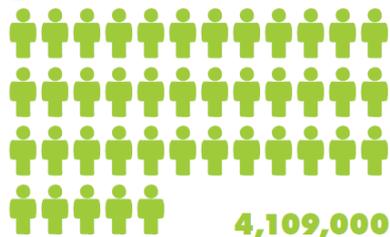
- The number of older people (aged 65 and over) living with cancer has grown by 23% in the five years to 201³

Number of older people (65 and over) living with a cancer diagnosis in the UK

2010



2040



= 100,000 people

The number of older people (aged 65 and over) living with cancer is set to treble between 2010 and 2040.⁴

More than three times as many older people (aged 65 and over) will be living with cancer by 2040 – 1.3 million in 2010 to 4.1 million in 2040.⁴

The number of older people currently (2015) living with cancer has already increased by 300,000 since 2010.³

By 2040 older people will account for 77% of all people living with a cancer diagnosis, an increase from the 2015 figure of 66%.⁴

For additional statistics on older people living with cancer please refer to the 'Prevalence of older people living with cancer' [here](#)

³ Maddams J, Utley M, Møller H. Projections of cancer prevalence in the United Kingdom, 2010-2040. Br J Cancer 2012; 107: 1195-1202. (Projections scenario 1). Macmillan analysis based on extrapolation of 2010 and 2020 projections that the number of people living with cancer will hit an estimated overall 2.5 million in 2015

⁴ Maddams J, Utley M, Møller H. Projections of cancer prevalence in the United Kingdom, 2010-2040. Br J Cancer 2012; 107: 1195-1202. (Projections scenario 1).

More cancer prevalence data

For additional information on people living with cancer from 2010 to 2030 please refer to the 'People living with cancer' [here](#).

For the number of people living up to 20-years after diagnosis in your local area in 2010 and estimated projections to 2030 in England go to the [Local Cancer Intelligence](#) website.

For the number or proportion of people living up to one, five or ten years after diagnosis for 22 common **cancer types** across the UK use the NCIN prevalence e-atlas available [here](#).

Note: The prevalence e-atlas does not include the total number of people living with or beyond cancer, which is equivalent to the 2.5 million and does not have a breakdown by cancer network for Wales. New work in partnership with the National Cancer Intelligence network is underway to update these figures across the UK. For more details of the partnership see [here](#).

New cases of cancer – Cancer Incidence

Short term predictions

- More than a thousand people will be diagnosed with cancer everyday in the UK by the end of 2016.⁵
- In 1996, 263 000 people were diagnosed with cancer and by 2016 this is predicted to grow to a staggering 361 000, equivalent to the entire population of Cardiff being diagnosed each year.⁵
- Of the 1,000 people diagnosed with cancer a day by the end of 2016 in the UK, around 830 people will be in England, 90 in Scotland, 50 in Wales and 30 in Northern Ireland.⁵

By the end of 2016



See our full infographic '[Cancer: A colossal challenge](#)' – 1,000 a day.

⁵ Macmillan Cancer Support estimates. 2014. A thousand people a day diagnosed with cancer by end of 2016. Incidence predictions are based on the assumption that age specific all cancer incidence rates remain constant at 2012 rates. Predictions based on applying the UK 2012 incidence rates for 5 year age groups to 2012-based population projections from the Office for National Statistics. Latest incidence figures for each nation taken from Office of National Statistics, ISD Scotland, Welsh Cancer Intelligence and Surveillance Unit and from personal communication with the Northern Ireland Cancer Registry (May 2014). For full details refer to the release [here](#).

Latest official cancer incidence statistics

The latest officially published incidence figures for the UK which you may see used are for 2012 and tell us:

- Almost 340,000 people in the UK are diagnosed with cancer every year.⁶

Number of new cases of cancer: by nation, 2012⁶

	Every day	Every week	Every month	Every year
England	770	5,400	23,500	281,150
Scotland	85	585	2,500	30,500
Wales	50	345	1,500	18,000
Northern Ireland	25	170	750	9,000
UK	930	6,350	28,250	338,650

This figure is for 2012, the latest year for which cancer incidence data are available. Figures include all malignant neoplasms excluding non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC) (ICD-10 codes C00-97 exc C44). Figures are calculated by dividing annual incidence figures by 12 for a monthly figure, by 365 to get a daily figure, then multiplying by seven to get a weekly figure. Totals have been rounded as this makes figures more accessible. UK totals may not sum up due to rounding.

⁶ 2012 incidence figures compiled for each nation from Office for National Statistics, ISD Scotland, Welsh Cancer Intelligence and Surveillance Unit and Northern Ireland Cancer Registry

People dying with and from cancer – mortality

How many people get cancer?

- By 2020, almost one in two people (47%) will get cancer at some point in their lives.⁷
- By 2020, almost four in 10 people (38%) who have had cancer will die from another cause.⁷

These figures tell us about the number of people who die in a year who have had a cancer diagnosis. By 2020, almost one in two people (47%) will get cancer (i.e. 47% of those who died that year will have had cancer). For more information about the how the cancer mortality trends have changed over the past 20 years, and how they will develop going forward read the briefing [here](#). Figures for the top 4 cancers are also available [here](#).

⁷Macmillan Cancer Support. 2013. Cancer mortality trends: 1992–2020. Estimated based on prevalence, incidence and mortality trends for full details see [here](#) (accessed December 2014).

Latest official cancer mortality statistics

The latest officially published mortality figures for the UK which you may see used are for 2013 and tell us:

- Around 160,000 people in the UK die from cancer every year⁸

Number of people who die from cancer: by nation, 2013⁸

	Every day	Every week	Every month	Every year
England	365	2,600	11,000	133,000
Scotland	45	300	1,300	16,000
Wales	25	170	750	9,000
Northern Ireland	12	80	350	4,000
UK	445	3,100	13,500	162,000

This figure is for 2013, the latest year for which cancer mortality data are available. Figures include all malignant neoplasms (ICD-10 codes C00-97). Figures are calculated by dividing annual mortality figures by 12 for a monthly figure, by 365 to get a daily figure, then multiplying by seven to get a weekly figure. Totals have been rounded as this makes figures more accessible. UK totals may not sum up due to rounding.

⁸ 2013 cancer mortality figures compiled for each nation from Office for National Statistics, National Records of Scotland and Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

Surviving cancer – Median Survival and the Consequences of cancer and its treatment

Median Survival

- People now live nearly ten times longer after their cancer diagnosis compared to 40 years ago^{9,10}
- Half of people diagnosed with cancer in England and Wales in 2010-2011 are predicted to survive their disease for at least ten years¹⁰

In the early 1970's the median survival time after diagnosis was one year, by 2007 it was six years and by 2011 it was ten years.^{9,10}

⁹ Macmillan Cancer Support. 2011. Living after diagnosis median cancer survival times. Macmillan identified median survival times based on research by the Cancer Research UK Cancer Survival Group at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine research up to 2007.

<http://www.macmillan.org.uk/Documents/AboutUs/Newsroom/LivingAfterCancerMedianCancerSurvivalTimes.pdf> (accessed December 2014); Cancer Research UK. 2014.

¹⁰ Cancer Research UK. 2014. Cancer Survival.

http://publications.cancerresearchuk.org/downloads/Product/CS_REPORT_SURVIVAL.pdf (accessed December 2014)

Consequences of Cancer and its treatment

While it is clearly good news that more people are surviving cancer, progress can be a double-edged sword. '[Throwing Light on the Consequences of Cancer and its Treatment](#)' (and the accompanying lay summary report '[Cured – But at What Cost?](#)') reveals another vital aspect of the changing cancer story.

- Around one in four (25%) people in the UK face poor health or disability after treatment for cancer.¹¹
- It is estimated that around 500,000 people living with cancer in the UK in 2010 – have one or more physical or psychosocial consequences of their cancer or its treatment that affects their lives on a long-term basis.¹¹

¹¹ Macmillan Cancer Support (2013) Throwing light on the consequences of cancer and its treatment. See [here](#).

Variations – ethnicity and deprivation differences in cancer incidence

Ethnicity

Overall the incidence of cancer in the black and minority ethnic (BME) population is lower than that in the white population¹²

- However this varies for different BME groups and cancer types.
- Males and females in the Asian, Chinese and mixed groups are between 20% and 60% less likely to get cancer than those from the white groups.
- Black females are between 10% and 40% less likely to get cancer than white females; in contrast, there is no evidence that black males have differing risks compared with white males.
- Black males are up to three times more likely to get prostate cancer than white males.
- Black people are nearly twice as likely as white people to get stomach cancer.
- Asian people are twice more likely to get liver cancer than the white population.
- Black and Asian females aged 65 years and over, are at higher risk of cervical cancer compared with White females.

Note: Data are for England only. There are several limitations to the analysis presented here. Ethnicity information for almost a quarter of the cancer patients included in the analysis is missing. The methodology in the source report makes use of a number of relatively crude procedures to assign these patients to specific ethnic groups for incidence data. However despite these limitations, this report has been able to provide a first look at the overall pattern of cancer incidence by ethnicity in England.

¹² NCIN. 2009. Cancer Incidence and Survival by Major ethnic group. England, 2002-2006. <http://www.ncin.org.uk/view.aspx?rid=75> (accessed December 2012).

Further limited updated statistics by ethnicity are included in the National Cancer Intelligence Network Cancer and Equality Groups: Key Metrics 2014 Report, available [here](#).

Deprivation

Overall the cancer incidence rate in the most deprived groups is higher than the cancer incidence rate in the least deprived group¹³

- If overall cancer incidence rates for the most deprived group were the same as the least deprived group there would be 15,000 fewer cancers diagnosed each year.
- People from the most deprived group are more likely to get lung cancer, laryngeal cancer, cervical cancer (in females), oesophagus cancer, stomach cancer, bladder cancer, kidney cancer, oral cavity cancer and pancreatic cancer compared to those from the least deprived group.* For example:
 - people from the most deprived groups are 2.7 times more likely to get lung cancer compared to people from the least deprived group.
 - people from the most deprived group are up to four times more likely to get laryngeal cancer compared to those from the least deprived group
 - people from the most deprived group are almost twice as likely to get stomach cancer compared to people from the least deprived group
- People from the least deprived groups are more likely to get skin cancer, prostate cancer, testicular cancer (in males) and breast cancer (in females) as compared to people from the most deprived groups.* For example:
 - females from the least deprived group are up to 1.2 times more likely to get breast cancer as compared to females in the most deprived groups.
 - people from the least deprived group are twice as likely to get skin cancer as compared to people from the most deprived groups.

* This is for cancers where there is a statistical significance in the estimated deprivation gap in incidence between the least and most deprived groups for both males and females. Analysis in this report looks at data in England only.

¹³ NCIN. 2014. Cancer by Deprivation in England Incidence, 1996-2010. http://www.ncin.org.uk/about_ncin/cancer_by_deprivation_in_england (accessed December 2014)

The reach of Macmillan services

- In 2013, we reached an estimated 1.8 million people living with cancer in the UK through at least one of our services and we continue to reach all of them in some way through our force for change work.¹¹

¹¹ Macmillan Cancer Support estimates.

This figure was calculated by adding up the number of estimated interactions^[1] we have with people living with cancer through all of our services. The figure is then adjusted to take into account that the same person may use more than one of our services.

In 2006/7, we reported that we were reaching only one in three people living with cancer, and in 2008 this had increased to one in two thanks largely to our merger with Cancerbackup. Gains in reach between 2009 and 2013 have come from both new and existing Macmillan services, but especially from growth in our website and information resources.

If we also include our 'force for change' help - for example influencing free prescriptions and influencing free hospital parking in many hospitals - we can say that we are reaching and improving the lives of everyone living with cancer in some way.

However it's important to remember that not everyone who has had cancer needs our support - for example people who were diagnosed with cancer many years ago who are not experiencing late effects of cancer. So our next challenge will be to reach people in ever more relevant and personalised ways, at the times that they really need us.

For more information see our 'The reach of Macmillan's services fact sheet' [here](#).

^[1] 'Interaction' meaning when someone has been helped by or got in touch with one of our services

Glossary

Cancer prevalence – the number of people living with and after cancer i.e. people who have been diagnosed with cancer and are currently living with cancer at a given point in time. Cancer prevalence can be expressed as a number or rate (per head of population).

Cancer prevalence may be presented as:

- a 'total' or 'complete', i.e. the 2.5 million, all people living with (and after) cancer,
- or time limited duration, e.g. '20-year' prevalence, all people diagnosed in the last 20 years and still alive at a point in time).

Cancer incidence – the number or rate (per head of population) of new cases of cancer diagnosed in a given population in a defined time period (usually a year).

Cancer mortality – the number or rate (per head of population) of deaths from cancer in a given population in a defined time period (usually a year).

Median survival – is the time since diagnosis when relative survival is at 50% and we interpret this as the time when half of the patients have survived (or half have died).

Registration of non-melanoma skin cancer – The policies and practices for the registration of non-melanoma skin cancer have varied widely across the cancer registries and over time. The incidence figure for 'all malignant neoplasm's therefore exclude non melanoma skin cancer.