

Cancer Research UK's 'CancerStats – Key Facts' series provides accessible, top line statistics and facts on cancer. The charity's Statistical Information Team also produces evidence-based reports, charts and tabulations. All of this information can be accessed on our CancerStats website: <http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/cancerstats> or by emailing stats.team@cancer.org.uk.

How common is skin cancer?

- ▶ There are two main types of skin cancer: non-melanoma skin cancer, which is very common, and malignant melanoma which is less common but more serious.
- ▶ Registration of non-melanoma skin cancer is incomplete. More than 81,600 cases of non-melanoma skin cancer were registered in 2006 but it is estimated that the actual number is at least 100,000 cases in the UK each year.
- ▶ More than 10,400 cases of malignant melanoma were diagnosed in the UK in 2006.
- ▶ Malignant melanoma incidence rates in Britain have more than quadrupled since the 1970s.
- ▶ Like most cancers, skin cancer is more common with increasing age, but malignant melanoma is disproportionately high in younger people.
- ▶ Almost one third of all cases of malignant melanoma occur in people under 50.
- ▶ Malignant melanoma is now the most common cancer in young adults (aged 15-34) in the UK.
- ▶ Malignant melanoma is more than twice as common in young women (up to age 34) as in young men, but more men die from it.
- ▶ Over the last twenty-five years, rates of malignant melanoma in Britain have risen faster than any other common cancer.
- ▶ The most common site for men to develop a malignant melanoma is on the chest or back. For women it is on the legs.
- ▶ Worldwide, the highest rates of malignant melanoma are in Australia and New Zealand.

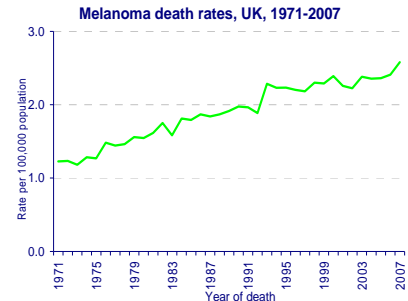


How many people survive skin cancer?

- ▶ Although non-melanoma skin cancer is extremely common, in the vast majority of cases it is detected early and is not life-threatening.
- ▶ Malignant melanoma survival rates have been improving for the last twenty-five years and are now amongst the highest for any cancer.
- ▶ The latest malignant melanoma survival rates show that 78% of men and 91% of women are alive five years after diagnosis.
- ▶ Malignant melanoma survival rates are better for people diagnosed early with the thinnest tumours.
- ▶ People from the most affluent areas have better malignant melanoma survival rates than those from the more deprived areas.

How many people die from skin cancer?

- ▶ More than 2,600 people die from skin cancer each year in the UK.
- ▶ Most skin cancer deaths, more than 2,000 each year, are from malignant melanoma.
- ▶ The majority of non-melanoma skin cancer deaths are in elderly people.
- ▶ Almost a half of all people that die from malignant melanoma are younger than 70.



What causes skin cancer?

- ▶ Sun exposure is the main cause of malignant melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers.
- ▶ Other factors that influence the risk of skin cancer are:
 - People with light eyes or hair, who sunburn easily or do not tan have an increased risk of skin cancer.
 - People with a lot of moles, unusually shaped or large moles, or a lot of freckles have a higher risk of melanoma.
 - A history of sunburn doubles the risk of melanoma and also increases the risk of non-melanoma skin cancer.
 - Use of sun beds, especially by young people, increases the risk of skin cancer.
 - People with a previous non-melanoma skin cancer have a much higher risk of developing a second one.
 - People with a close relative diagnosed with skin cancer have a higher risk of developing it themselves.



Skin cancer - UK

	Males	Females	Persons
Number of new cases of non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC) (UK 2006),	44,684	36,998	81,682
Rate per 100,000 population*	121.7	75.5	94.9
Number of deaths from non-melanoma skin cancer (UK 2007)	334	243	577
Rate per 100,000 population*	0.8	0.4	0.6
Number of new cases of malignant melanoma (UK 2006)	4,803	5,607	10,410
Rate per 100,000 population*	14.3	15.4	14.7
Number of deaths from malignant melanoma (UK 2007)	1,104	938	2,042
Rate per 100,000 population*	3.1	2.1	2.6
Five-year survival rate for malignant melanoma (patients diagnosed 2000-2001** in England and Wales)	78%	91%	-

*age-standardised to the European population

**period estimates