



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 84,500 cases of non-melanoma skin cancer were registered in 2007 but it is estimated that the actual number is at least 100,000 cases in the UK each year.
- ▶ More than 10,300* cases of malignant melanoma are diagnosed in the UK every year.
- ▶ Malignant melanoma incidence rates in Britain have more than quadrupled over the last thirty years.
- ▶ 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 the second most common cancer in young adults (aged 15-34) in the UK.
- ▶ Malignant melanoma is almost 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.
- ▶ If current trends continue, it is anticipated that there will be around 15,500 cases of malignant melanoma diagnosed per year within the next 15 years.
- ▶ 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.



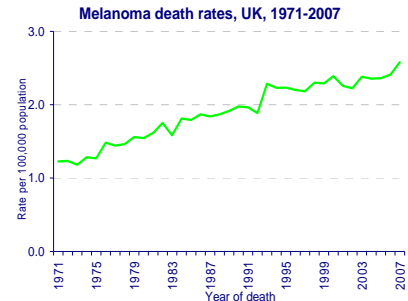
How many people survive skin cancer?

- ▶ 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 81% of men and 90% of women survive the disease for at least 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?

- ▶ Each year in the UK more than 2,500* people die from skin cancer.
- ▶ Most skin cancer deaths, almost 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.



Are children using sunbeds?

- ▶ In England, more than one quarter of a million children aged 11-17 are risking their health by seeking a tan from sunbeds.
- ▶ In England, on average, six per cent of 11-17 year olds use sunbeds.
- ▶ In Liverpool and Sunderland 50 per cent of 15-17 year-old girls aim to tan on sunbeds, and more than two in five use them at least once a week.



Skin cancer - UK	Males	Females	Persons
Number of new cases of non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC) (UK 2007)	46,568	37,982	84,550
Rate per 100,000 population**	124.2	82.2	100.3
Number of deaths from non-melanoma skin cancer (UK 2008)	309	182	491
Rate per 100,000 population	0.7	0.3	0.5
Number of new cases of malignant melanoma (UK 2007)	4,975	5,697	10,672
Rate per 100,000 population	14.6	15.4	14.9
Number of deaths from malignant melanoma (UK 2008)	1,121	946	2,067
Rate per 100,000 population	3.1	2.2	2.6
Five-year survival rate for malignant melanoma (patients diagnosed 2001-2006 in England)	81%	90%	-

**average of the last three years **age-standardised to the European population*