

Cancer Intelligence Report – FAQs

What does the data include?

The data includes cancer incidences and mortality rates in the Isle of Man. This data is calculated to allow for the fair comparison of rates between different population areas. It also includes a comparison between the rates in the Isle of Man, the Northwest of England and England as a whole during the same time period.

Rates are presented per 100,000 individuals using a five-year rolling average.

How is the data collected?

The data is collated through NHS Digital by Manx Care and Public Health from a variety of sources including Somerset Cancer Register, Isle of Man Pathology, Isle of Man hospital records (Medway), tertiary centres, including the Cheshire and Merseyside Cancer Alliance, and incidences in people from the Isle of Man treated outside of these centres. This is then then supplied to the National Cancer Registration and Analysis Service (NCRAS) who analyse the data on behalf of Public Health Isle of Man.

What is the Somerset Cancer Register?

The Somerset Cancer Register is a digital platform, designed for healthcare professionals to manage cancer patient care.

Why is the data not more up to date?

It should be noted that the published data in the UK is only available up to 2019. We are hoping to be able to streamline future reports to provide more up to date data now that the move from manual to automatic data collection is complete.

Why are only certain types of cancer covered in the report?

The report only includes the most common cancer types where there are significant incidences. Certain types of cancer won't be included because the number of incidences are too small. Given the size of our population, we have to be cautious that no individuals are identifiable through our reporting, and we do this by reporting on those with enough incidences to ensure identification is not possible.

How do our most common cancers compare to those in England?

Our top four most common cancers are in line with those in England – please refer to data from Cancer Research UK here: <https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/health-professional/cancer-statistics/incidence/common-cancers-compared#heading-Zero>

Why are the incidences of prostate cancer so much lower here than in England?

There is a gap in the data where incidences of prostate cancer are concerned. We expect that there was under-reporting of this type of cancer in the Isle of Man rather than it being an indication of lower rates during that period. We can tell that this is likely due to under-reporting as our mortality data is in line with the UK data.

Why are we comparing our data to the North West and England?

We report to the North West and England because we are part of the Cheshire and Merseyside Cancer Alliance.