

OVERVIEW OF CANCER IN HIGHLAND

Cancer Research UK is committed to accelerating progress so that 3 in 4 people survive cancer by 2034.

This data refers to:
Health Board (HB): Highland

Compared to average:

☆☆☆ Better

☆☆☆ Similar

☆☆☆ Worse

'Better' and 'Worse' means that the difference from the average is statistically significant, 'Similar' is when it is not.

AROUND
2,000
CANCER CASES
IN THIS HB

AROUND
1,000
CANCER DEATHS
IN THIS HB

Sept 2018

PREVENTION

 Smoking

☆☆☆

20.7% of adults currently smoke cigarettes in this HB. This is similar to the Scotland average (21.2%).

ACTION: We're calling for Health Boards to maintain funding for stop smoking services.

 Childhood obesity

☆☆☆

23.8% of 4-5 year-olds are overweight or obese in this HB. This is higher than the Scotland average (22.9%).

ACTION: We're calling for the Scottish Government to legislate to restrict multi-buy price promotions on junk food.

EARLY DIAGNOSIS

 Stage at diagnosis

Early diagnosis (cancer diagnosed at stages 1 and 2) gives patients more effective treatment options, improving their chance of survival.

Only 55.6% of bowel, breast and lung cancer patients with a known stage are diagnosed early in this HB.

 Bowel screening

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59.8% of people aged 50-74 take part in bowel cancer screening in this HB. This is higher than the Scotland average (55.6%).

This data predates the roll out of the new bowel screening test, FIT, in November 2017.

 Diagnostics

STANDARD NOT MET 

The National Waiting Times Standard states no patient should wait longer than 6 weeks for 8 key diagnostic tests and investigations.

Of these tests, 29.1% of patients waited longer than 6 weeks for an endoscopy in this HB, and 22.1% waited longer than 6 weeks for a radiology test.

ACTION ON DIAGNOSTIC WORKFORCE: Greater workforce capacity is needed to diagnose cancer earlier. We're calling on the Scottish Government to take action to address immediate and long-term shortages in the diagnostic workforce.

TREATMENT

 Referral to treatment

TARGET NOT MET 

85.0% of patients in this HB receive their first definitive cancer treatment within 62 days of an urgent GP referral. This is below the national target (95%). The Scotland average, 87.3%, is also below the national target.

 31-day waiting times

TARGET MET 

96.2% of patients in this HB receive their first cancer treatment within 31 days of a decision to treat. This is above the national target (95%). The Scotland average, 94.7%, is below the national target.

Contact kirsty.slack@cancer.org.uk (0131 718 6361) for sources and more information

TOGETHER WE WILL BEAT CANCER
cruk.org/scotland

4 IN 10 CANCER CASES IN SCOTLAND CAN BE PREVENTED...



Circle size here is not relative to other infographics based on Brown et al 2018.

Source: Brown et al, British Journal of Cancer, 2018

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