OVERVIEW OF CANCER IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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

CANCER STRATEGY

Northern Ireland’s last cancer strategy dates from 2008 and is out of date. Northern Ireland must develop a new comprehensive cancer strategy including prevention, early diagnosis, treatment and research.

PREVENTION

- **Alcohol**: 80% of adults drink alcohol (2016/17). This is an increase from 74% in 2015/16.
  - ACTION: Alcohol contributes to 7 different types of cancer. Northern Ireland should consider minimum unit pricing for alcohol.

- **Smoking**: 20% of adults currently smoke.
  - ACTION: Media campaigns help drive people to stop smoking services. We want regular media campaigns on tobacco and increased support for stop smoking services.

- **Obesity**: 63% of adults are classified as overweight or obese.
  - ACTION: Northern Ireland should support UK-wide legislation to ban junk food TV advertising before the 9pm watershed.

DATA

Data is crucial for driving improved outcomes in cancer care. We are calling for better collection, publication and use of data in Northern Ireland.

EARLY DIAGNOSIS

- **Bowel screening**: Bowel screening uptake (% of invited people aged 60-74 years screened adequately within 6 months of invitation) is 59.4%.
  - ACTION: The UK National Screening Committee has recommended all nations switch to the FIT test for bowel screening and the HPV test for cervical screening. NI should plan to switch to these two tests as soon as possible.

- **Breast screening**: Breast screening uptake (% of invited women aged 50 to 70 screened adequately within 6 months of invitation) is 76%.
  - ACTION: Northern Ireland should support UK-wide legislation to ban junk food TV advertising before the 9pm watershed.

- **Cervical screening**: Cervical screening coverage (% of eligible women whose most recent adequate test was not more than 5 years ago) is 76.8%.
4 IN 10 CANCER CASES IN NORTHERN IRELAND CAN BE PREVENTED...

...MAKE A CHANGE TO REDUCE THE RISK OF CANCER

Be smoke free 1,349 cases

Keep a healthy weight 572 cases

Protect against certain infections such as HPV and H.Pylori 380 cases

Avoid certain substances at work such as asbestos 353 cases

Eat a high fibre diet 332 cases

Be safe in the sun 332 cases

Drink less alcohol 327 cases

Avoid unnecessary radiation including radon gas and x-rays 180 cases

Cut down on processed meat 159 cases

Breastfeed if possible 86 cases

Avoid air pollution 70 cases

Be more active 51 cases

Minimise HRT use 43 cases

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

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

LET'S BEAT CANCER SOONER
cruk.org/prevention

Cancer Registry | Cancer Research UK