

NEWS

UK cancer death rates are predicted to fall 17% by 2030

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Overall cancer death rates in the United Kingdom are predicted to fall by 17% by 2030, show new figures released by Cancer Research UK.¹

The figures, after adjustment for age, show that 170 people in every 100 000 died from any cancer in 2010, but this is predicted to drop to 142 in every 100 000 by 2030. This is largely due to earlier diagnosis and improved treatments but is also partly due to a reduction in smoking related cancers.

The most dramatic fall will be in ovarian cancer, the death rate from which is expected to fall by 43% from 9.1 to 5.3 women per 100 000 by 2030. The number of women in every 100 000 dying from breast cancer is expected to fall by 28%, while the number of people dying from stomach cancer is expected to fall by 40%, from bowel cancer by 23%, and from prostate cancer by 16%.

However, death rates from some cancers are predicted to rise. For oral cancer it is set to rise by 22% from 2.9 to 3.5 per 100 000 people and by 39% for liver cancer, from 4.2 to 5.9 per 100 000.

The latest figures come from the Wolfson Institute of Preventive Medicine at Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry and are a follow up to cancer incidence projections published in 2011.²

Peter Sasieni, Cancer Research UK epidemiologist at Queen Mary, University of London, said, "Our latest estimations show

that for many cancers, adjusting for age, death rates are set to fall dramatically in the coming decades. And what's really encouraging is that the biggest cancer killers—lung, breast, bowel, and prostate—are part of this falling trend.

He added: "Because old age is the biggest risk factor for cancer, and more people are living longer, they have a greater chance of developing and, unfortunately, dying from the disease. But, overall, the proportion—or rate—of those who die from cancer is falling."

Harpal Kumar, Cancer Research UK's chief executive, said, "These new figures are encouraging and highlight the huge progress we're making. Research across many areas is having real impact. But we know there's still so much more to do if we are to reach a day when no one dies prematurely from cancer."

The charity launched the figures to coincide with "Stand up to Cancer," a week long television fundraising event on Channel 4 (www.standuptocancer.org.uk).

1 Cancer Research UK. Cancer mortality projections for all cancers combined. www.cancerresearchuk.org/cancer-info/cancerstats/mortality/mortality-projections.

2 Mistry M, Parkin DM, Ahmad AS, Sasieni P. Cancer incidence in the United Kingdom: projections to the year 2030. *Br J Cancer* 2011;105:1795-803.

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