

Statistics on Cancer Incidence 2015

In 2015, approximately 65,000 malignant tumors, for around 61,000 individuals, were reported to the Swedish Cancer Registry. The distribution between men and women is relatively even. The most common form of cancer among women is breast cancer, while prostate cancer is most common among men.

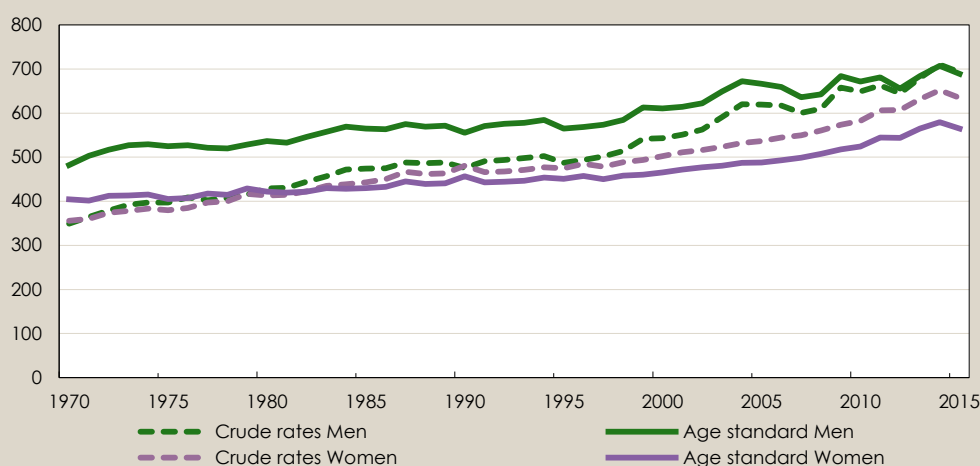
The number of new cancer cases has increased

The number of cancer diagnoses increased during the period 1970 to 2015. Figure 1 shows the number of new tumors per 100,000 inhabitants for both men and women. For women the number increased from 360 to 634 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, and for men it increase from 350 to 693. This corresponds to an increase of 76 percent for women and 98 percent for men.

The risk of contracting cancer increases with age for most forms of the disease, and the growing proportion of elderly people in the population is a contributory factor to the increased number of cases of cancer. The age standardised rate (Figure 1, solid lines) has not increased as strongly. During the period 1970 to 2015, the age standardised rate increased from 404 to 565 per 100,000 inhabitants for women and from 482 to 689 per 100,000 for men, which corresponds to an increase of 40 percent for both men and women. The number of cancer diagnoses is also affected by screening programs and the continual development of cancer diagnostics. Of course, factors such as the proportion of smokers and overweight members of the population and patterns of alcohol consumption are also of significance to the number of cancer diagnoses.

Figure 1. Incidence rates per 100,000 inhabitants by gender 1970-2015

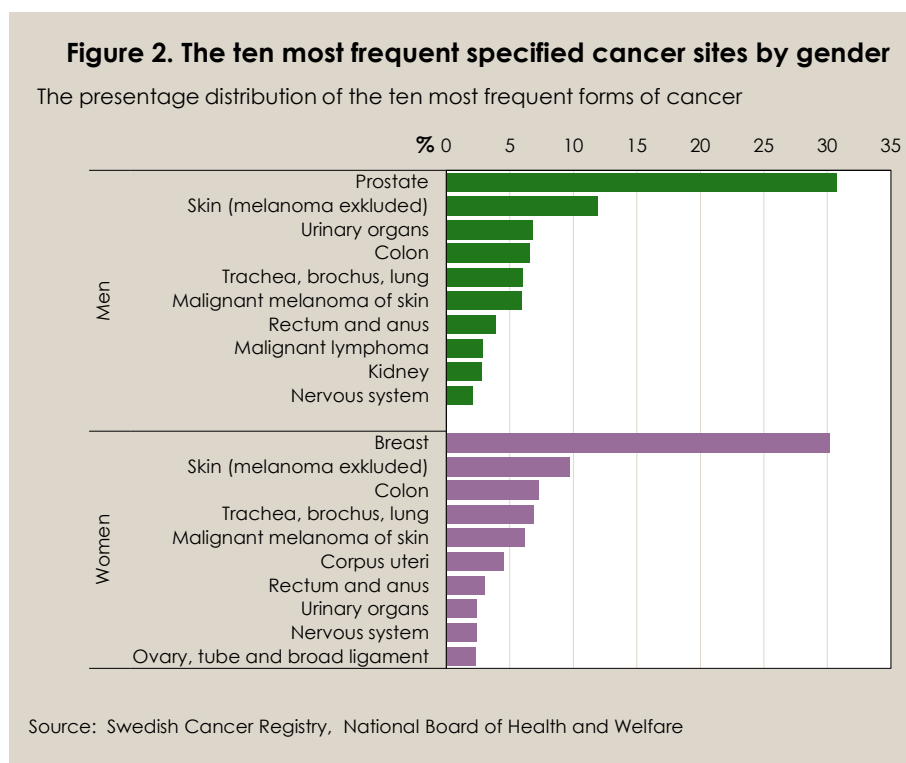
Comparison between different methods of calculating incidence rates



Source: Swedish Cancer Registry, The National Board of Health and Welfare

The most common forms of cancer

The ten most common forms of cancer constitute fully 75 percent of all cancer cases. Breast cancer and prostate cancer are by far the most commonly occurring types of cancer, accounting for more than 30 percent of all cancers. Skin cancer (excluding malignant melanoma) is the second most common form of cancer for both men and women. It is also this type of cancer that is increasing the most.

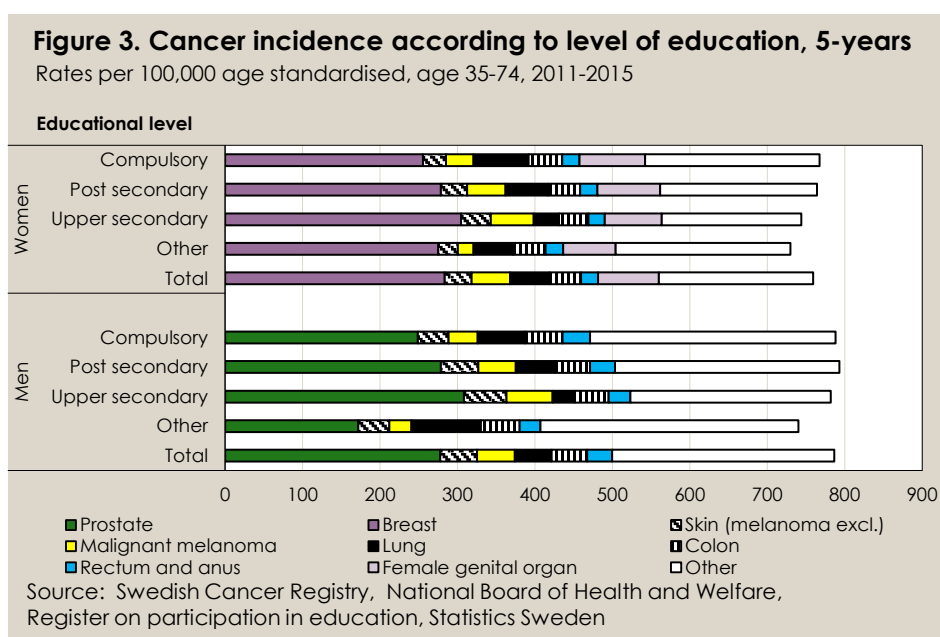


Today, more women than men are affected by lung cancer

Lung cancer is the most-common cancer-related cause of death among women in Sweden, and the next most-common (after prostate cancer) for men. Lung cancer has declined slightly among men since the 1980s but has, during the same period, increased dramatically among women. This increase reflects the changes in smoking habits among women since the 1960s. The most common age for patients to develop lung cancer is around 70 years, but around one hundred people each year are affected before they reach the age of 50.

Cases according to levels of education

Among those with basic, compulsory schooling as their highest level of education, the age standardised rate of lung cancer is 71 cases per 100,000 inhabitants for women and 61 cases per 100,000 inhabitants for men. This is more than twice as high as the rate in the group with post-secondary education, where the figures are 33 for women and 29 for men. The difference in the incidences of lung cancer is likely to reflect the difference in smoking habits. The proportion who smokes on a daily basis is almost 3 times as high in the group with only compulsory education as it is in the group with post-secondary education [1]. For breast cancer, prostate cancer, malignant melanoma and other skin cancers, the relationship is reversed with a higher rate among those with a post-secondary education than among those with a basic, compulsory education. A greater rate of breast and prostate cancer among the more-highly educated could be a result of greater participation in screening program and the greater use of PSA testing. The difference in the rate of skin cancer is believed to be at least partly attributable to differences in sunbathing habits.



Geographical differences in incidences of cancer

There are geographical differences in the incidences of cancer between different counties. For example, the rates of breast cancer, skin cancer and malignant melanoma are higher in the southern counties compared with in the northern counties. Between 2012 and 2014, a study of prostate cancer was conducted in the county of Stockholm [2]. A greater number of prostate cancer cases were detected during the study, which caused the rate of prostate cancer in the county of Stockholm to increase during the period.

Basal cell carcinoma

Since 2004, The National Board of Health and Welfare has collected data on basal cell carcinoma (BCC). Basal cell carcinoma is the most common type of skin cancer. It is slow growing and very infrequently metastasizes to other parts of body but it represents a public health problem because as many as 45,000 people are affected each year. The most important predisposing factor in the development of BCC is the exposure to ultraviolet radiation in sunlight.

References

1. Public Health in Sweden 2016. Stockholm: Public Health Agency of Sweden: 2016.
2. Prostate cancer screening in men aged 50–69 years (STHLM3): a prospective population-based diagnostic study.

More information

More tables, diagrams and other information be found in the Excel file:

www.socialstyrelsen.se/publikationer2017/2017-1-20

If you would like to conduct your own searches in the statistics database:

<http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistik/statistikdatabas/cancer>

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