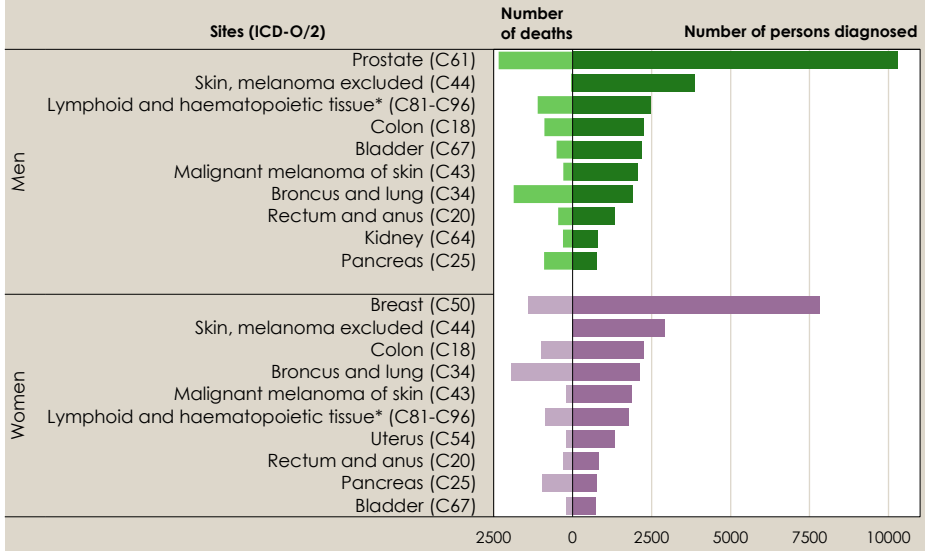
Statistics on Cancer Incidence 2017

In 2017, about 67,000 malignant tumours for just over 61,000 persons were reported to the Cancer Registry. In addition, approximately 54,000 tumours for about 40,000 persons were reported to the Basal Cell Cancer registry. The number of people who receive a cancer diagnosis is considerably higher than the number of deaths in cancer. For women, breast cancer is the most common type of cancer, and for men, prostate cancer is the most common.

The most common types of cancer

Figure 1 shows the number of people diagnosed with cancer during 2017 for the 10 most common types of cancer, as well as the number of deaths with the cancer type as the underlying cause of death. Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women. In 2017, over 7,800 women were diagnosed with breast cancer and 1,400 women died with breast cancer as the underlying cause of death. Prostate cancer is the most common cancer among men. During the year, about 10,300 men were diagnosed with prostate cancer and over 2,300 men died from it. Lung cancer was the largest cause of cancer deaths among women, with over 1 900 deaths in 2017. About the same number of men died from lung cancer. Note that the persons who died from cancer in a certain year could have had their cancer diagnosed several years earlier. Comparing the incidence for one year with the mortality for the same year still gives a general idea of mortality in relation to the incidence of various types of cancer.

Figure 1. The ten most common cancer sites, 2017
Number of persons diagnosed and deaths



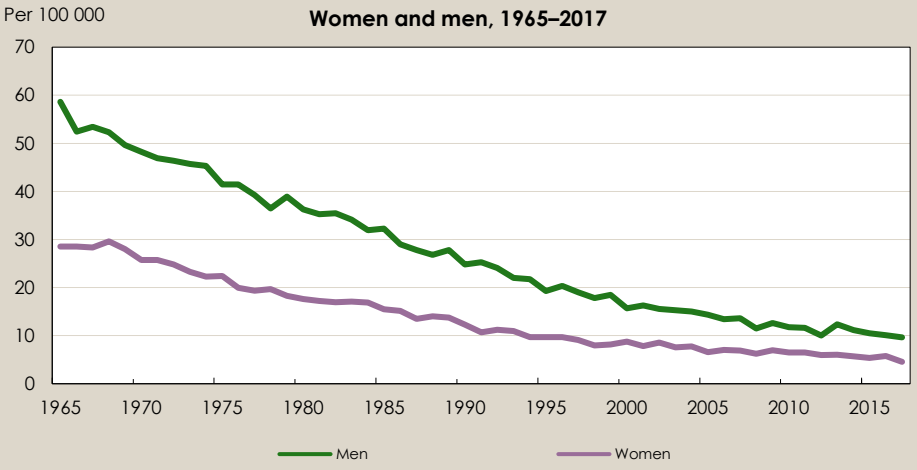
* The group includes lymphomas, leukimeas and related cancers.

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

Major changes over time in the incidence of certain cancers

The risk of developing cancer increases with age for most types of cancer. Age-adjusted incidence and mortality takes the age structure of the population into account and can be used for comparisons over time and between regions. Statistics from many years are needed to understand trends in incidence. Viewed over a longer period of time, there have been major changes in the incidence of some forms of cancer. One such example is stomach cancer where the age-adjusted incidence has decreased by more than 80 per cent since 1965, which is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Stomach cancer
Number of persons diagnosed per 100 000, age-standardised rates



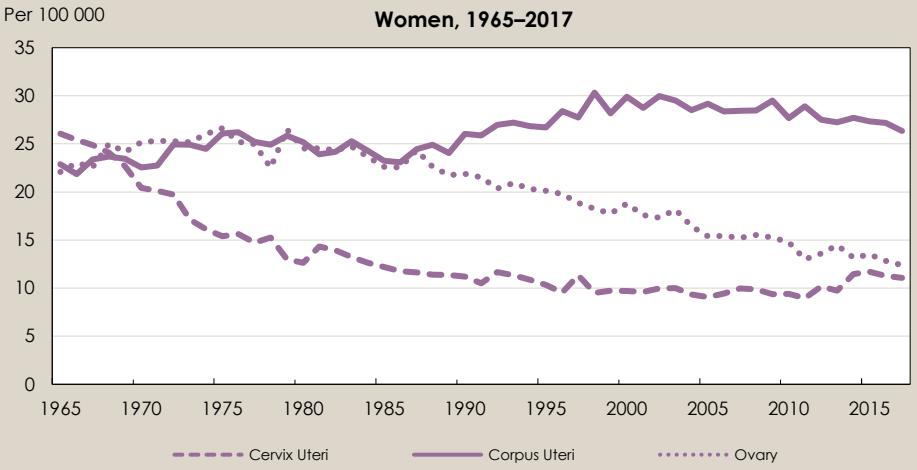
Source: The Swedish Cancer Registry, The National Board of Health and Welfare

Another example is cancer in the female genital organs; ovarian cancer, cancer of the corpus uteri, cervical cancer, vaginal cancer and vulvar cancer that amount to approximately 3,000 cases of cancer per year and which account for around 10 per cent of all cancer in women. Figure 3 below shows the age-adjusted incidence of cancer from 1965 and onwards in the most common sites: cervix, corpus uteri and ovary. While the incidences of ovarian cancer and cervical cancer have approximately halved since the end of the 1960s, the incidence of cancer of the corpus uteri has increased. The increase in cancer of the corpus uteri has tailed off while there is no indication that the downward trend for ovarian cancer is about to level off.

The incidence of cervical cancer fell significantly after screening was introduced during the second half of the 1960s and was then stable for a long time. However, since a few years ago, the number of reported cases of cervical cancer has increased and for no clear reason. Concern has been raised about reduced effectiveness in cervical cancer screening, since an increase in cases has been observed among women who have participated in the screening programme. However, it is important to note that most cases of cervical cancer occur in the

segment of the population that is not participating in the screening programme [1].

Figure 3. Gynecological cancer
Number of persons diagnosed per 100 000, age-standardised rates

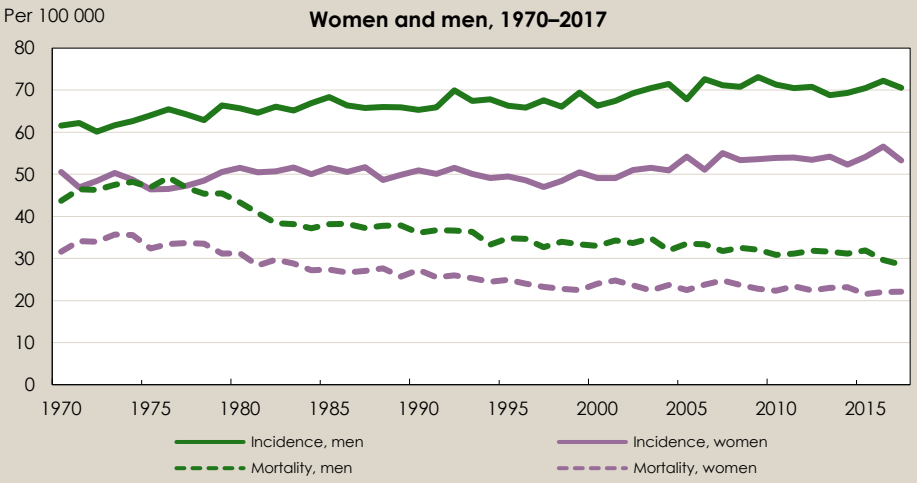


Source: The Swedish Cancer Registry, The National Board of Health and Welfare

Screening for colorectal cancer

Cancer in the colon and rectum, colorectal cancer, is one of the most common forms of cancer with around 6,400 cases of cancer and 2,600 deaths per year. The incidence of colorectal cancer is increasing while mortality is decreasing slightly, see Figure 4.

Figure 4. Colorectal cancer
Number of persons diagnosed and deaths per 100 000, age-standardised rates



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

Screening for colorectal cancer has been introduced in many places in the world with the aim of reducing mortality. The screening affects mortality partly by earlier detection of cancer with more treatable stages, and partly by precursors of cancer being detected and eliminated. In Sweden, screening has been offered in Stockholm and Gotland since 2008. In other areas of the country, segments of the population have been screened as part of a randomized trial that has been ongoing since 2014. From 2019, the intention is to invite people to a regular screening program nationwide.

Basal cell carcinoma

Since 2004, The National Board of Health and Welfare has collected data for the Basal Cell Cancer Registry. Basal cell carcinoma is the most common type of skin cancer, a slow-growing cancer that rarely forms metastases. The most important risk factor in the development of basal cell carcinoma is the exposure to ultraviolet radiation in sunlight. In 2017, about 54,000 cases for about 40,000 persons were reported to the Basal Cell Cancer Registry.

References

1. Dillner J, Sparén P, Andrae B, Strander B. Livmoderhalscancer ökar hos kvinnor med normalt cellprov. Läkartidningen. 2018;115:E9FD.

Further information
More tables, graphs and other information are available in the Excel file:
www.socialstyrelsen.se/publikationer2018/2018-12-51
You can access the data and produce your own tables and graphs with the Statistical Database:
www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistics/statisticaldatabase/cancer

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