

Cancer Rates in the Scottish Borders

On 30 June 2020, the population of Scottish Borders was **115,240**.

When considering differences between sex, the data here reports relatively close records:

- 1996-2020: Females = 17,150 | Males = 15,750
- 2016-2020: Females = 588 | Males = 540

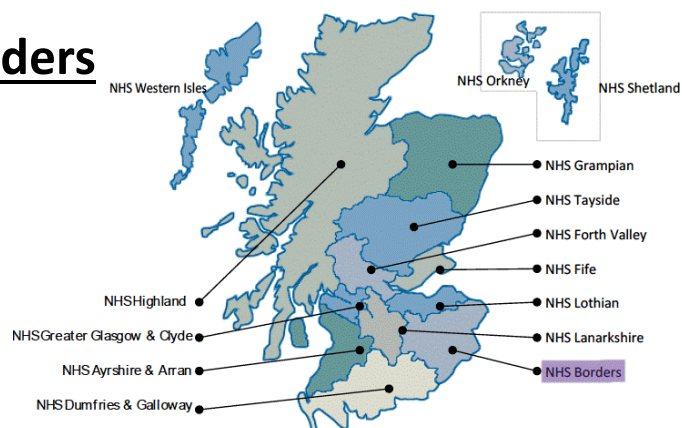
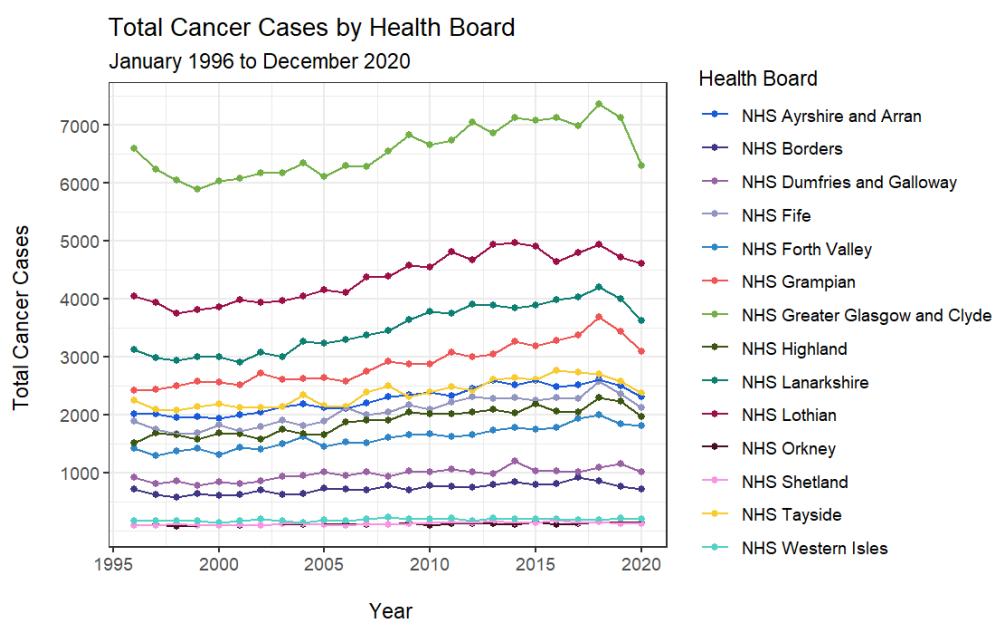


Image from: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/>

Comparing total cases by health board



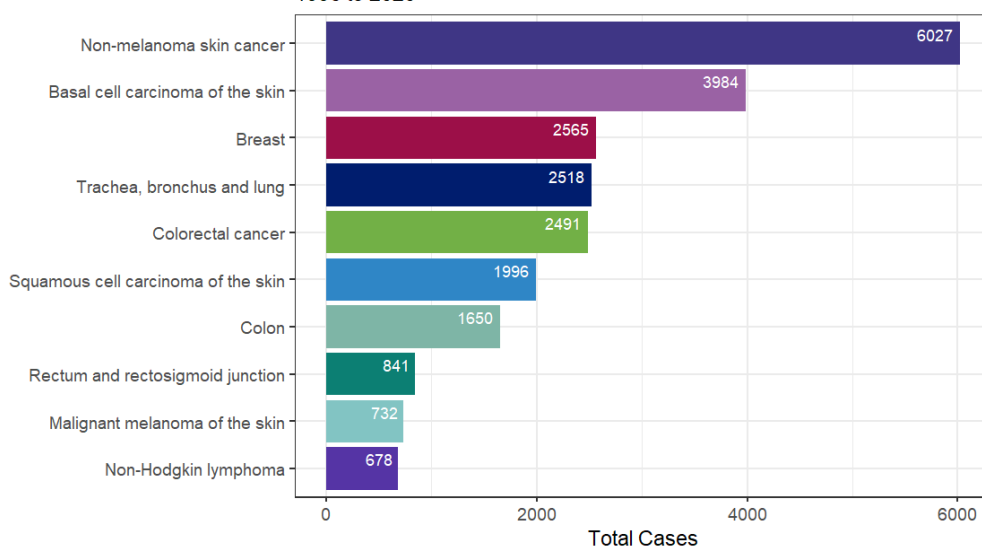
The NHS Borders seem to have a rather flat pattern of total cancer cases across the years, but it is important to bear in mind that the population in the Borders is ageing and is also lower than that of some other regions (e.g. NHS Lothian \approx 800,000). Nevertheless, comparing total cases with other health boards could assist with the planning of ward/ theatre space and amount of equipment that may be required for cancer care.

Comparison of Types of Cancer

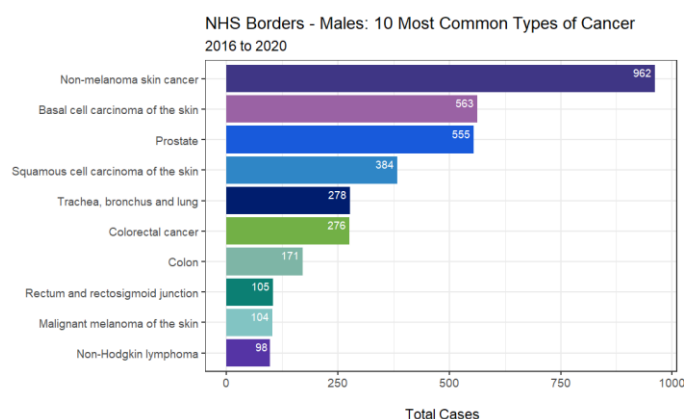
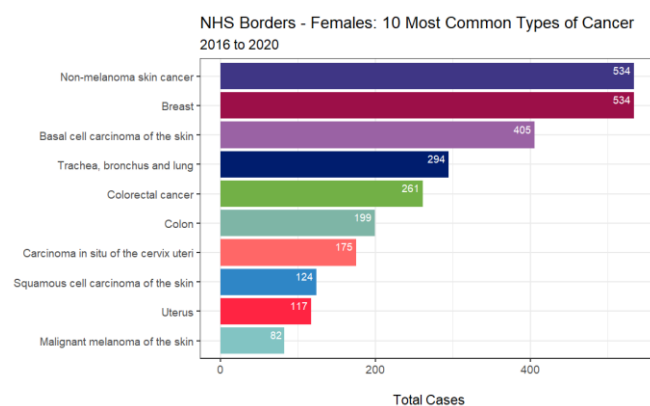
Here we can see the most common types of cancer in the Borders as a cumulative figure from 1996 to 2020.

NOTE: Non-melanoma skin cancer is often removed from NHS data total as registrations can be inaccurate and the cancer is common and usually not fatal.

NHS Borders: 10 Most Common Types of Cancer
1996 to 2020



As cancer can be dependent on the sex of the patient, this is considered on a shorter time frame below with Female figures for 2016 - 2020 on the left, and male figures for 2016 - 2020 on the right.

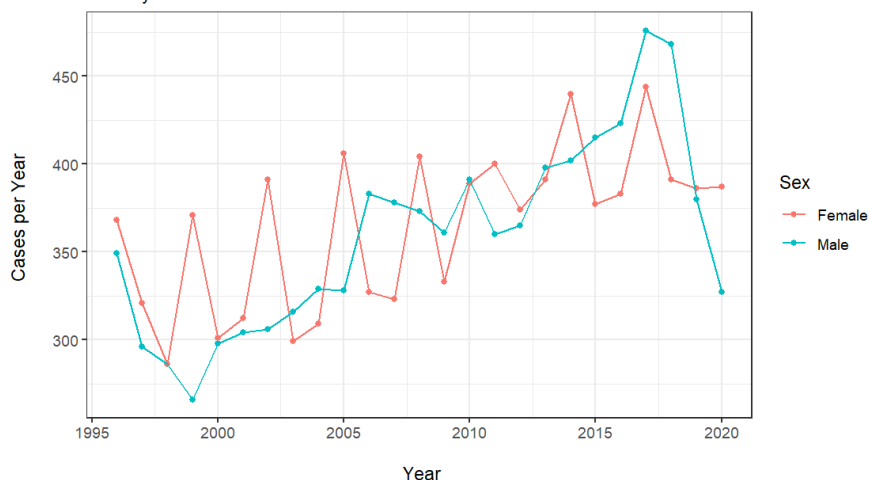


Please note the scales on the x-axis are different

As mentioned above, non-melanoma skin cancer is often removed from NHS data totals. Regardless, here we can see that breast cancer is as prevalent in women in the Borders, and prostate cancer is equally as prevalent in males. We can see that the top cancers shared by both sexes are almost equal in total number of cases across the five-year period.

Count of all cancer cases in the Borders by sex

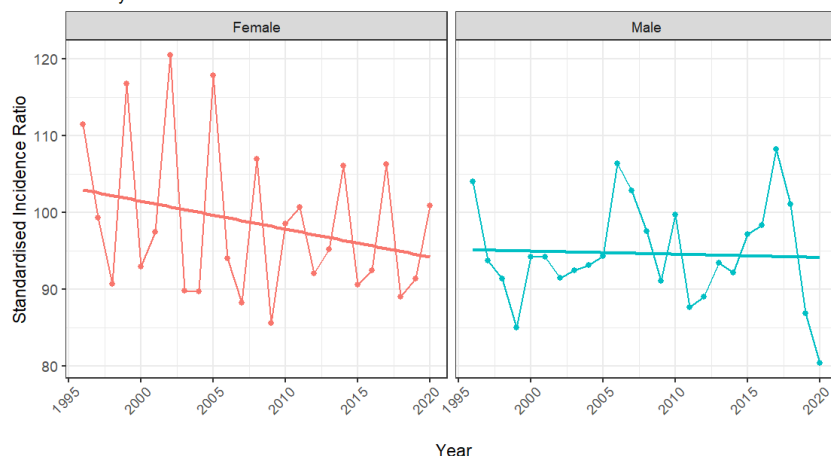
Count of All Cancer Cases per Year in the Borders by Sex
January 1996 to December 2020



Though fluctuating, both sexes have seen a gradual rise in total cases of cancer per year. This is in line with Scottish overall figures.

Public Health Scotland reports that screening services were paused due to the pandemic and therefore the 2020 decrease is likely due to under-diagnosis and a reduction in cancer registrations.

NHS Borders: Standardised Incidence Ratio in the Borders
January 1996 to December 2020



Though cases are rising, the Standardised Incidence Ratio (SIR) is usually below 100. This means that fewer cases are being registered than expected for the population in the Borders.

However, the number of cases are expected to continue to rise due to an aging population.

<https://www.opendata.nhs.scot/dataset/annual-cancer-incidence>

<https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/cancer-incidence-in-scotland/cancer-incidence-in-scotland-to-december-2020/>