**Diagram

Description automatically generatedCancer 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**

Chart, line chart

Description automatically generated

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 **≈** 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.

Chart, funnel chart

Description automatically generated**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.

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.

Chart, bar chart, funnel chart

Description automatically generated

Chart, funnel chart

Description automatically generated

*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**

Chart, line chart

Description automatically generated

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.

Chart, line chart

Description automatically generated

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/>