

This analysis looks at cancer incidence in the NHS Borders region and makes comparisons with data for Scotland as a whole.

Data is sourced from <https://www.opendata.nhs.scot/>

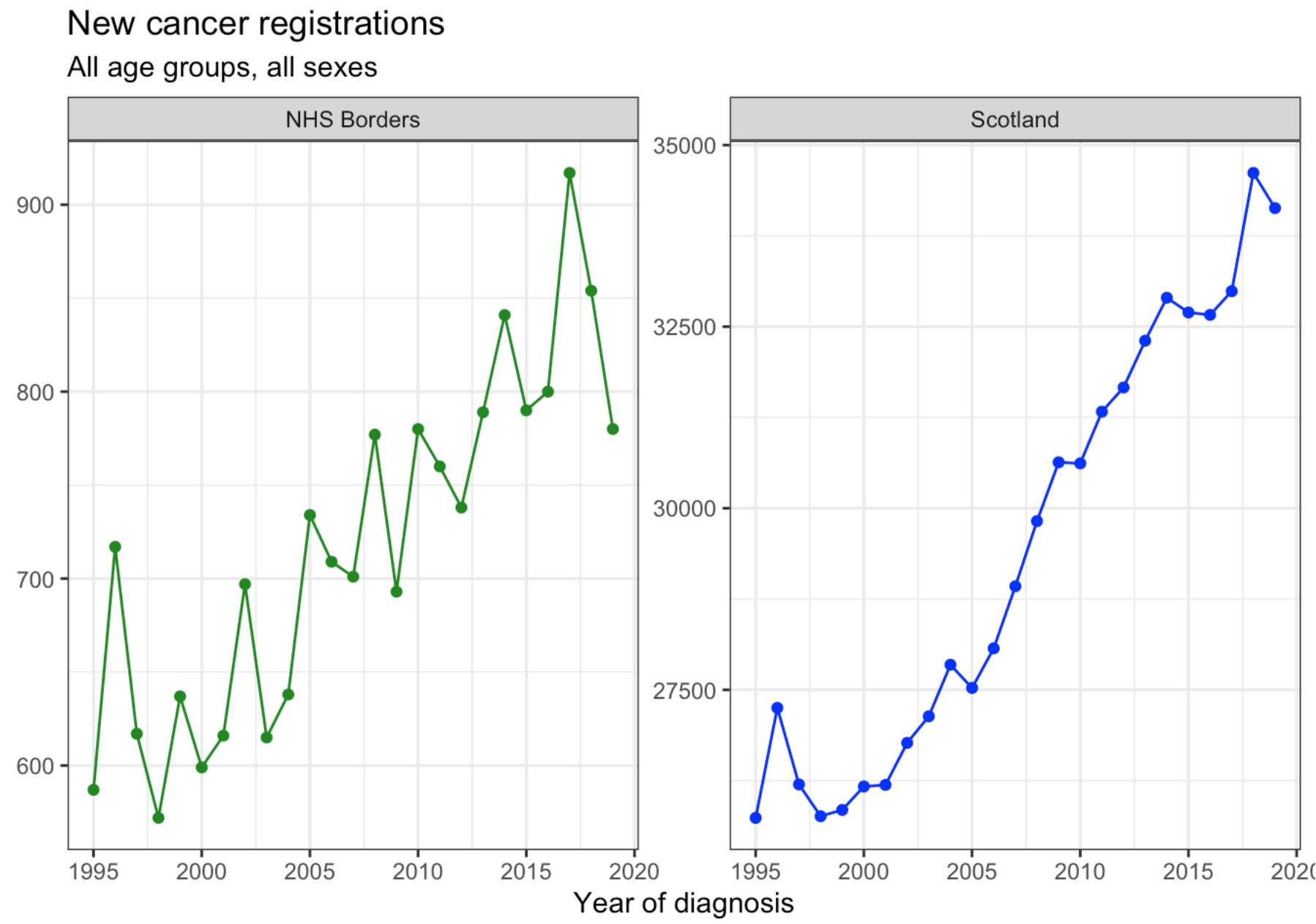
Summary

- The number of incidences of cancer increased by around 33% across NHS Borders between 1995 and 2019.
- The most incidences of cancer occur in the 65 to 79 age group.
- The most common cancers are those of the skin.
- Incidence rates for some cancers are higher in NHS Borders than the rest of Scotland.

1. Number of cancer registrations

The number of cancer registrations in NHS Borders has increased between 1995 and 2019.

The plots below show that the pattern of change in NHS Borders is similar to that in Scotland as a whole.



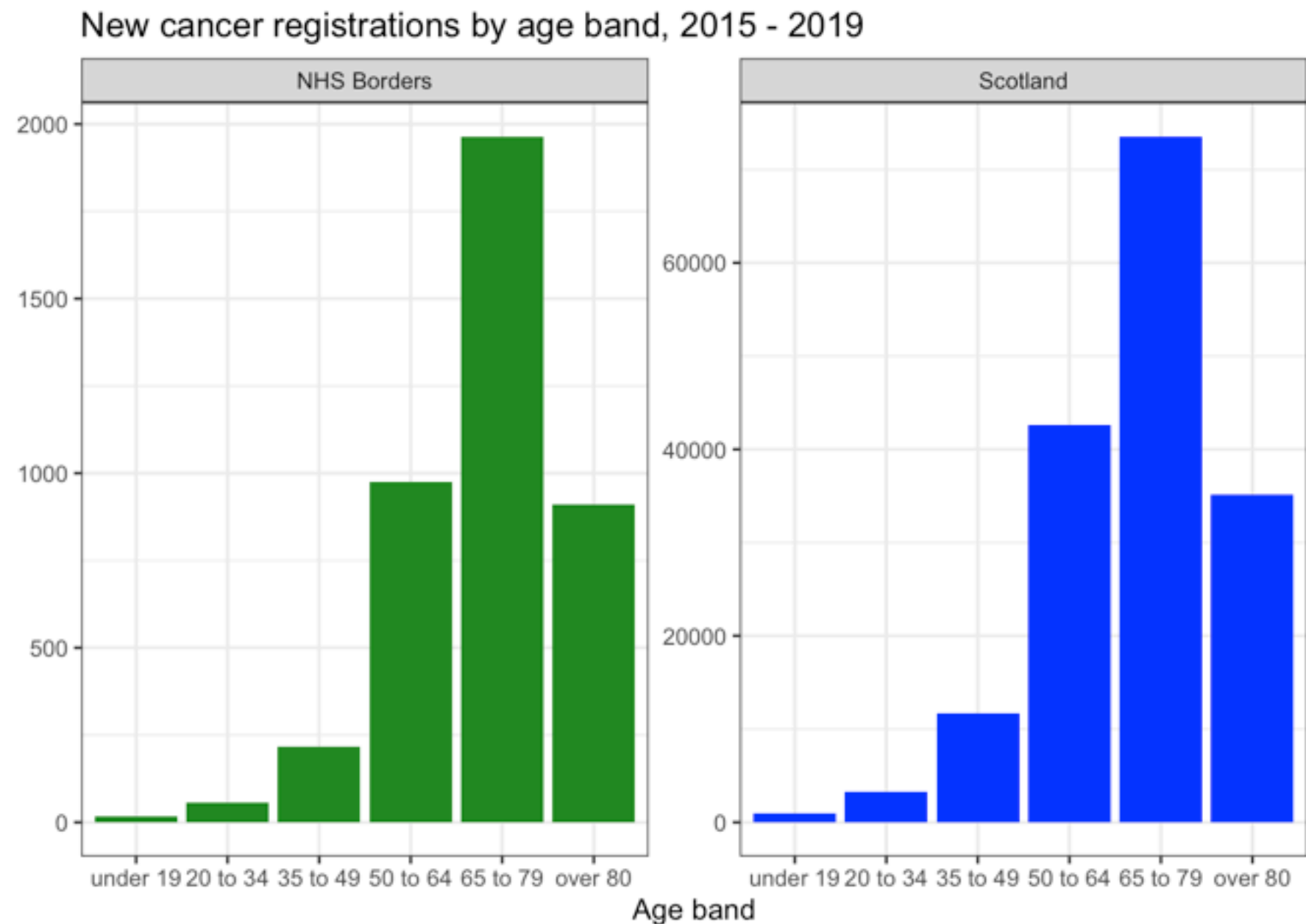
From the table below it can be seen that the incidence of cancer in NHS Borders and Scotland increased by c33% between 1995 and 2019.

```
## # A tibble: 4 x 4
##   area      cancer_site      year incidences_all_ages
##   <chr>      <chr>      <dbl>         <dbl>
## 1 NHS Borders All cancer types 1995             587
## 2 NHS Borders All cancer types 2019             780
## 3 Scotland   All cancer types 1995          25737
## 4 Scotland   All cancer types 2019          34133
```

2. Cancer registrations by age band

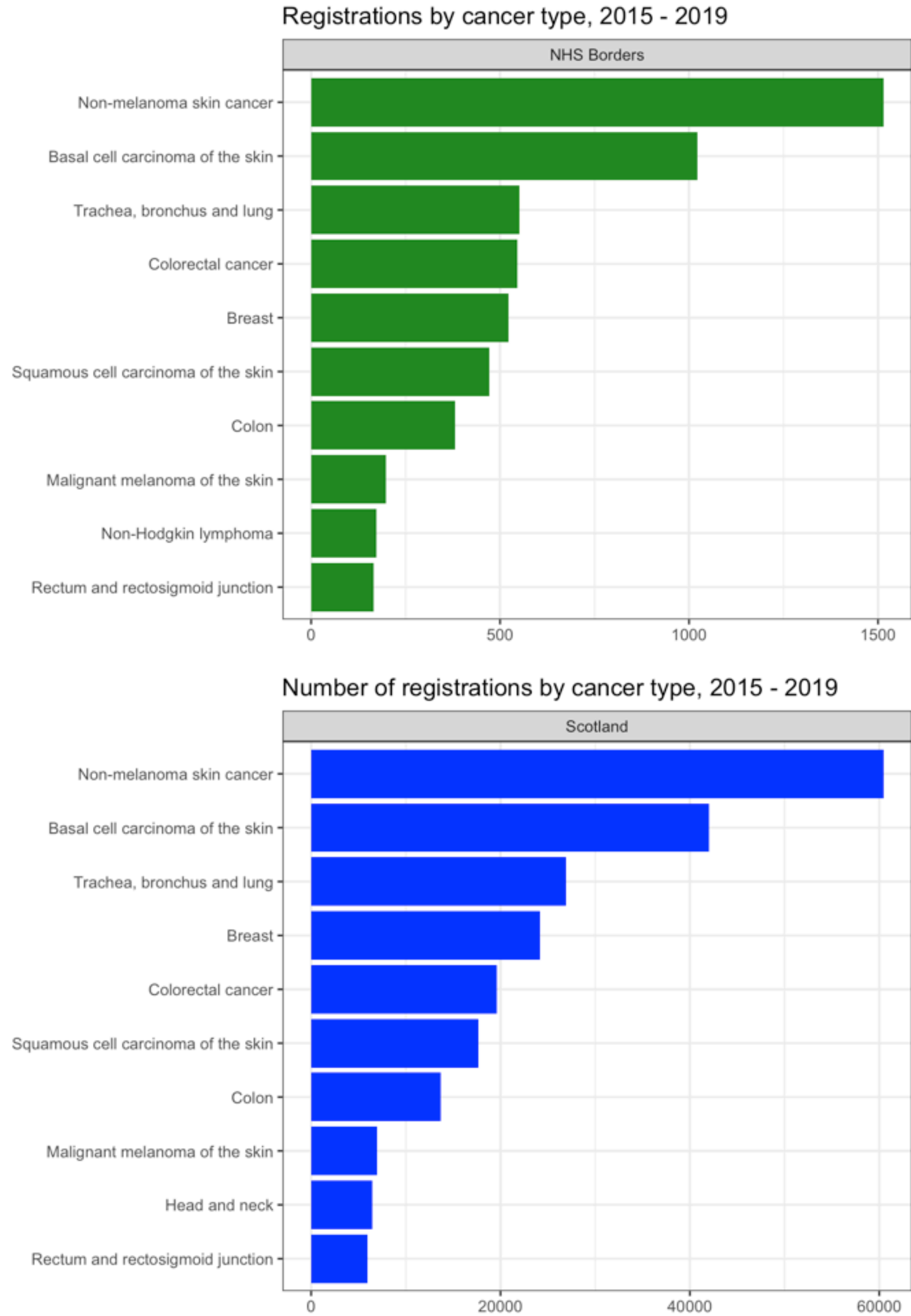
The plots below show the total number of cancer registrations between 2015 and 2019, grouped by age band. New diagnoses are heavily skewed towards older ages (50+), with the most occurring in the 65 to 79 group.

A visual inspection suggests that the age distribution in NHS Borders is very similar to Scotland as a whole.



3. Most common cancers

The plots below show the most common types of cancer between 2015 and 2019. Four of these are skin cancers.



4. Incidence rates of most common cancers

The plots below show the incidence *rates* of the most common types of cancer between 2015 and 2019, comparing rates between NHS Borders and Scotland. A visual inspection of the comparison shows that rates in NHS Borders are higher for some of these cancers. This suggests that further analysis could be carried out to understand the reasons for these differences.

