



How common is **skin cancer**?

- ▶ There are two main types of skin cancer: non-melanoma skin cancer, which is very common, and malignant melanoma which is less common but more serious.
- ▶ Registration of non-melanoma skin cancer is incomplete. More than 84,500 cases of non-melanoma skin cancer were registered in 2007 but it is estimated that the actual number is at least 100,000 cases in the UK each year.
- ▶ About 10,670 cases of malignant melanoma were diagnosed in 2007 in the UK.
- ▶ Malignant melanoma incidence rates in Britain have more than quadrupled over the last thirty years.
- ▶ Like most cancers, skin cancer is more common with increasing age, but malignant melanoma is disproportionately high in younger people.
- ▶ Almost one third of all cases of malignant melanoma occur in people under 50.
- ▶ Malignant melanoma is the second most common cancer in young adults (aged 15-34) in the UK.
- ▶ Malignant melanoma is almost twice as common in young women (up to age 34) as in young men, but more men die from it.
- ▶ Over the last twenty-five years, rates of malignant melanoma in Britain have risen faster than any other common cancer.
- ▶ If current trends continue, it is anticipated that there will be around 15,500 cases of malignant melanoma diagnosed per year within the next 15 years.
- ▶ In the UK, people aged 65 and over are more likely to be diagnosed with late stage malignant melanoma than younger people.
- ▶ The most common site for men to develop a malignant melanoma is on the chest or back. For women it is on the legs.
- ▶ Worldwide, around 197,000 people were diagnosed with malignant melanoma in 2008.
- ▶ Worldwide, the highest rates of malignant melanoma are in Australia and New Zealand.

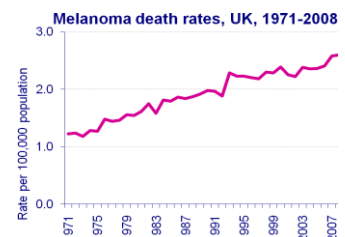


How many people survive **skin cancer**?

- ▶ Although non-melanoma skin cancer is extremely common, in the vast majority of cases it is detected early and is not life-threatening.
- ▶ Malignant melanoma survival rates have been improving for the last twenty-five years and are now amongst the highest for any cancer.
- ▶ The latest malignant melanoma survival rates show that 81% of men and 90% of women survive the disease for at least five years after diagnosis.
- ▶ Malignant melanoma survival rates are better for people diagnosed early with the thinnest tumours.
- ▶ People from the most affluent areas have better malignant melanoma survival rates than those from the more deprived areas.

How many people die from **skin cancer**?

- ▶ About 2,560 people died from skin cancer in 2008 in the UK.
- ▶ Most skin cancer deaths, about 2,070 each year, are from malignant melanoma.
- ▶ The majority of non-melanoma skin cancer deaths are in elderly people.
- ▶ Almost a half of all people that die from malignant melanoma are younger than 70.



- ▶ Death rates from malignant melanoma in people aged 65 and over have almost tripled in the last 30 years.
- ▶ Worldwide, around 46,000 people died from malignant melanoma in 2008.

What causes skin cancer?

- ▶ Sun exposure is the main cause of malignant melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers.
- ▶ Other factors that influence the risk of skin cancer are:
 - People with light eyes or hair, who sunburn easily or do not tan have an increased risk of skin cancer.
 - People with a lot of moles, unusually shaped or large moles, or a lot of freckles have a higher risk of melanoma.
 - A history of sunburn doubles the risk of melanoma and also increases the risk of non-melanoma skin cancer.
 - Use of sun beds, especially by young people, increases the risk of skin cancer.
 - People with a previous non-melanoma skin cancer have a much higher risk of developing a second one.
 - People with a close relative diagnosed with skin cancer have a higher risk of developing it themselves.



Are children using sunbeds?

- ▶ In England, more than one quarter of a million children aged 11-17 are risking their health by seeking a tan from sunbeds.
- ▶ In England, on average, six per cent of 11-17 year olds use sunbeds.
- ▶ In Liverpool and Sunderland 50 per cent of 15-17 year-old girls aim to tan on sunbeds, and more than two in five use them at least once a week



Skin cancer - UK

	Males	Females	Persons
Number of new cases of non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC) (UK 2007)	46,568	37,982	84,550
Rate per 100,000 population*	124.2	82.2	100.3
Number of deaths from non-melanoma skin cancer (UK 2008)	309	182	491
Rate per 100,000 population*	0.7	0.3	0.5
Number of new cases of malignant melanoma (UK 2007)	4,975	5,697	10,672
Rate per 100,000 population*	14.6	15.4	14.9
Number of deaths from malignant melanoma (UK 2008)	1,121	946	2,067
Rate per 100,000 population*	3.1	2.2	2.6
Five-year survival rate for malignant melanoma (patients diagnosed 2001-2006 in England)	81%	90%	-

*age-standardised to the European population

Cancer Research UK's 'CancerStats – Key Facts' series provides accessible, top line statistics and facts on cancer. The charity's Statistical Information Team also produces evidence-based reports, charts and tabulations. All of this information can be accessed on our CancerStats website: <http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/cancerstats> or by emailing stats.team@cancer.org.uk.