

# Skin cancer in the South West: changing epidemiology

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## 1. Introduction

The South West Public Health Observatory (SWPHO) as the lead Cancer registry for Skin cancer has undertaken a number of initiatives to address the high incidence of Skin cancers observed in the South West (SW) among them its newly launched Skin Cancer Hub. The need for such initiatives and interventions in the field of prevention and early diagnosis in Skin cancer have been based on the following observations: a constant increase in the number of Malignant Melanoma (MM) and Non Melanoma Skin Cancer (NMSC), a significant frequency of Skin cancers in young people and changes in the tumour anatomical site. Skin cancers represent a heavy burden on the NHS and a large number of cases could be prevented with an appropriate campaign.

## 2. Method

The SWPHO cancer registry database was analysed to establish the frequency of young people and the changes of MM tumour sites. The sub-National Projection, produced by the office of National Statistics were used for prediction data and ONS used for Direct Age Standardised Rate.

### Latest SWPHO initiatives

**SWPHO Skin Cancer Prevention and Early Diagnosis initiatives funded by the National Cancer Action team.**

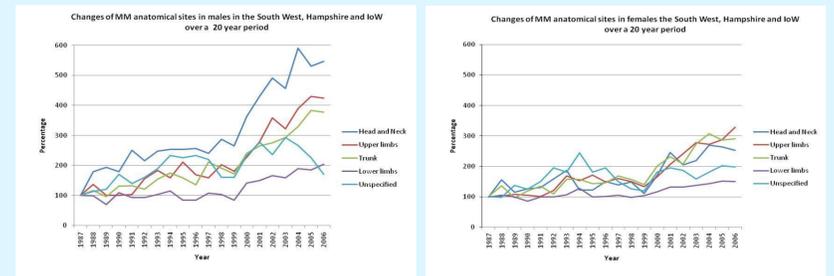


All cases of cancer in young people aged 16–24 years (inclusive) diagnosed in 2006 in the South West region. (Source: SWPHO cancer register)

	16 to 18 years old	19 to 24 years old
Haematological cancers	14	27
Skin cancers	9	24
Testis and Gynaecological cancers	5	28
Central Nervous System	1	12
Soft Tissue Sarcoma and Bone tumours	3	10
Others	12	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>116</b>

Skin cancers represent 21% of total cancers in young people

### Changes in Malignant Melanoma tumour site in last two decades in the South West, Hampshire and Isle of Wight area



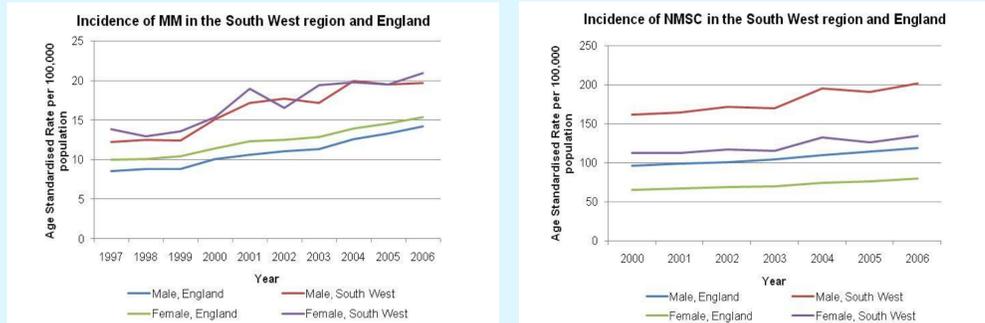
Source: SWPHO cancer register

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There is a great increase in the percentage of head and neck and upper limbs MM in males over the last twenty year.

When considering site distribution within the same year, a decrease of MM occurring on the lower limbs and an increase frequency of upper limbs cases was observed in females (Data not presented in this poster).

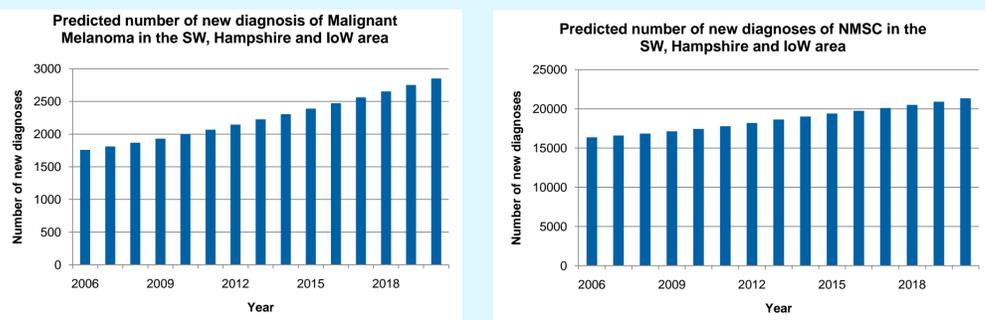
### Trend in age standardised incidence rates of Malignant Melanoma and Non Melanoma Skin Cancer in the South West region and England



Source: ONS

Source: ONS

### Predicted number of new diagnosis of Malignant Melanoma and Non Melanoma Skin Cancer in the South West, Hampshire and Isle of Wight area 2006–2020



Source: SWPHO cancer register (2006 data), ONS sub national population projections, predicted change in MM rates

Source: SWPHO cancer register (2006 data), ONS sub national population projections, predicted change MM rates

Møller et al "Future burden of Cancer in England" British Journal of Cancer (2007) 96, 1484–1488

There are difficulties obtaining an accurate trend in NMSC incidence because of variables reporting, so to make projections of future incidence it has been assumed that future rates of NMSC will remain constant at the 2006 level.

### Five higher ASR per 100,000 population per PCT for Malignant Melanoma and Non Melanoma Skin Cancer in the South West region in 2006.

	MM		NMSC
Plymouth teaching PCT	32.58	Plymouth teaching PCT	194.25
Torbay Care Trust	29.11	Cornwall and Isle of Scilly	192.16
Devon PCT	23.39	Bournemouth and Poole PCT	192.01
Dorset PCT	20.72	Dorset PCT	179.62
Somerset PCT	20.52	Torbay Care Trust	172.05

ASR per 100,000 population for England are 14.67 and 96.81 for MM and NMSC respectively

## 4. Conclusion

Skin Cancer presents a challenge for the NHS in term of workload and projections indicate that the average annual increase of MM between 2006 and 2020 will 3.5% and 2.1% for NMSC at cancer registry regional level.

The frequency of skin cancer in young people should not be underestimated and is likely to rise if the use of sunbeds at a young age is not stopped and the denial of risk by teenagers remains.

The presentation pattern of the malignant melanoma has evolved over the years and differed between males and females possible due to behaviour changes.

Part of the data presented in this poster could be modified with initiatives targeting people's behaviour and providing them with better awareness of the risk associated to exposure to UV radiation.