



# Mesothelioma incidence and survival in networks and regions

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THAMES CANCER REGISTRY



## Introduction

Mesothelioma is a form of cancer found most commonly in the membranes around the lungs (the pleura). It is almost always fatal and most patients die in the first year of diagnosis. [1] The current incidence of mesothelioma in the UK is approximately 1,800 cases per annum [2] and is expected to rise. [3] The leading cause of mesothelioma is exposure to asbestos fibres, and occurs most commonly people who worked in the following industries; mining, shipbuilding, manufacture of asbestos textiles and cement, plumbing, insulation and building. [4]

## Objective

To describe mesothelioma incidence and survival in cancer networks and regions in England.

## Method

We extracted data on patients diagnosed with mesothelioma (ICD-10 C45) living in England between 2002 and 2006 from the National Cancer Information Service (NCIS). We extracted age-standardised rates (per 100,000 European standard population (ASR (E)) and 1-year relative survival (%) in cancer networks, by sex. We displayed these rates and proportions in bar charts. We mapped the incidence and survival in cancer networks.

## Result

North England, Essex, Kent and Medway, North East London, and Central South Coast all had a high incidence rate (figure 1).

Looking at incidence by sex and cancer network, men had a higher incidence of mesothelioma than women. The highest incidence rate was among men living in Central South Coast (7.7 (ASR (E)) (figure 2).

Looking at the incidence from 1987 to 2006, we observed a more pronounced increase in men than in women (figure 3).

There was a low relative survival in the South of England (figure 4).

Women had a higher relative survival than men (figure 5). The highest relative 1-year survival in women occurred in the Humber and Yorkshire Coast (69.6%) and the lowest in Avon, Somerset and Wiltshire (23.5%). The highest relative survival in men was in Pan Birmingham (39.2%) and the lowest was in, Avon, Somerset and Wiltshire (26.6%).

Looking at one-year relative survival of mesothelioma in England from 1987 to 2006 we observed an increase in relative survival (figure 6).

## Conclusion

The incidence rates of mesothelioma are increasing and will continue to rise due to high exposure of asbestos in the 1960s and 1970s. There has been an important improvement in relative survival over the study period, most likely due to lead time and early diagnosis.

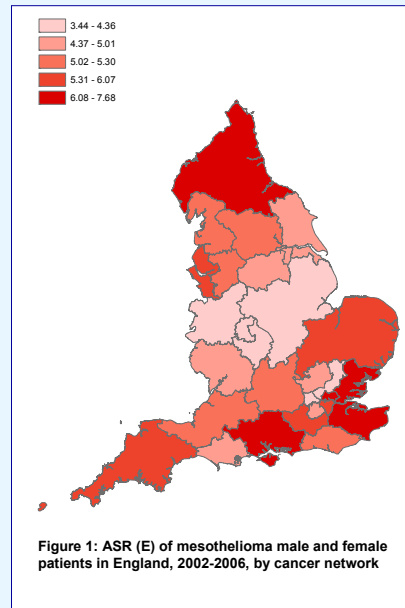


Figure 1: ASR (E) of mesothelioma male and female patients in England, 2002-2006, by cancer network

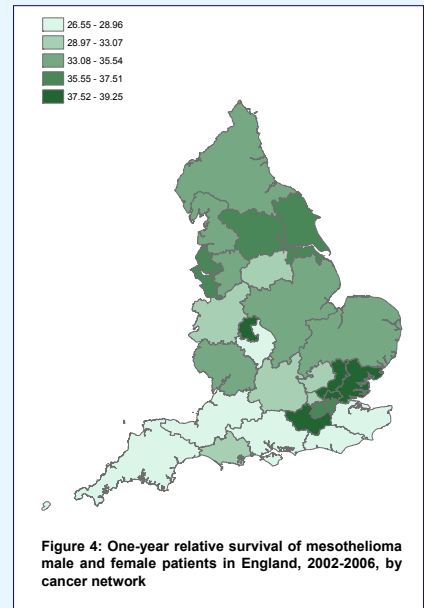


Figure 4: One-year relative survival of mesothelioma male and female patients in England, 2002-2006, by cancer network

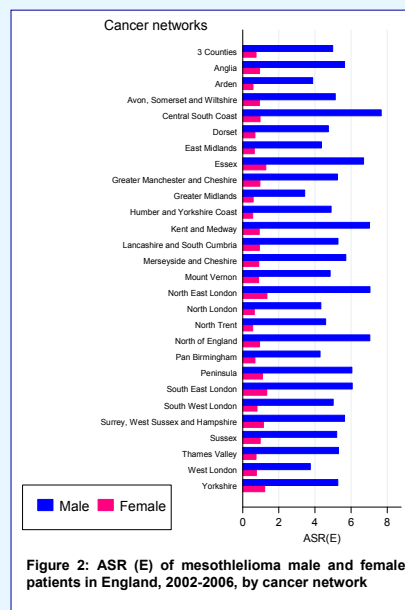


Figure 2: ASR (E) of mesothelioma male and female patients in England, 2002-2006, by cancer network

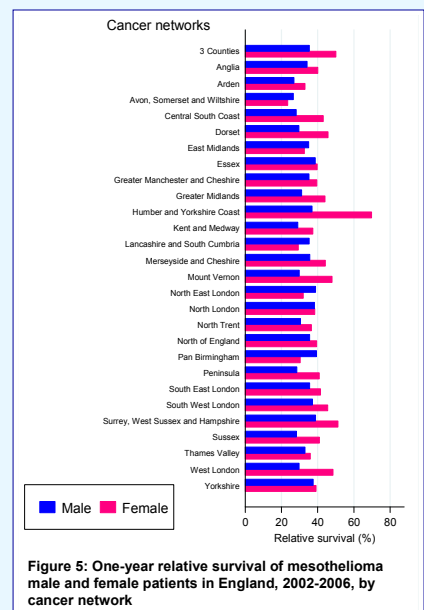


Figure 5: One-year relative survival of mesothelioma male and female patients in England, 2002-2006, by cancer network

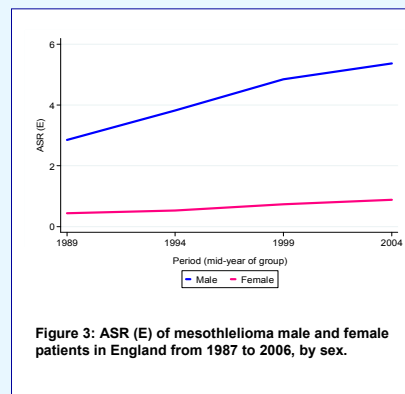


Figure 3: ASR (E) of mesothelioma male and female patients in England from 1987 to 2006, by sex.

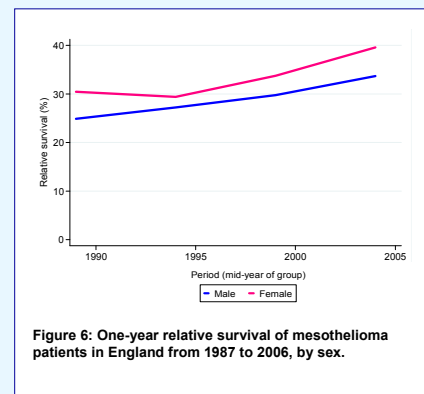


Figure 6: One-year relative survival of mesothelioma patients in England from 1987 to 2006, by sex.

## Reference

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2. National Lung Cancer Audit. Key findings about quality of care for people with Lung Cancer in England and Wales. *National Lung Cancer Audit* 2006;12.
3. Peto J, Hodgson JT, Matthews FE, Jones JR. Continuing increase in mesothelioma mortality in Britain. *Lancet* 1995; **345**:535-39.
4. Mak V, Davies E, Putcha V, Choodari-Oskooei B, Møller H. The epidemiology and treatment of mesothelioma in South East England 1985-2002. *Thorax* 2008; **63**:160-166.