Public Health England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

Cancer survival by stage in London

National cancer registration and analysis service data briefing

Key messages

- One-year cancer survival is higher in London than England for many tumour types
- One-year survival from kidney and lung cancer is higher in London for all stages
- There is some variation in cancer survival across the London sectors

Introduction

In June 2016, NCRAS published figures on cancer survival by stage in England, in collaboration with the Office for National Statistics. This used data on cancers diagnosed during 2012-2014 and followed up to 2015. Analysis has been carried out to further understand cancer survival for the London population and how this compares with England.

Results

The net survival of people with cancer living in London is significantly higher than the survival in England for a number of tumour types and stages (table 1). Cancers with the highest one-year net survival are stage one melanoma and prostate cancer. The lowest survival is for stage four lung cancer at 19%.

	Stage 1		Stage 2		Stage 3		Stage 4		Stage unknown	
	London	England	London	England	London	England	London	England	London	England
Tumour Site (ICD10)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Bladder (C67)	93	95	71	70	64	64	39	34	68	65
Breast (C50)	100	100	99	99	96	95	69	63	90	89
Colorectal (C18 to C20)	96	98	93	92	88	87	45	40	60	60
Kidney (C64)	96	95	98	93	94	92	43	36	75	73
Lung (C33 to C34)	86	83	72	67	49	44	19	16	34	26
Melanoma (C43)	101	101	100	98	94	94	53	50	94	95
Ovary (C56 to C57)	99	98	96	91	77	70	61	50	63	52
Prostate (C61)	101	101	101	101	101	101	82	83	89	90
Uterus (C54 to C55)	98	99	96	94	86	82	57	47	73	66

Key: Significantly higher than England
Significantly lower than England

Table 1: Summary of age-standardised one-year net survival for people in London and England

Survival from lung and kidney cancer is significantly higher for all stages in London compared with England. The differences for lung cancer are displayed in figure 1. This figure also shows that as the cancer stage increases from one to four, the survival from lung cancer survival decreases (86% to 19% and 83% to 16% for stages one to four in London and England, respectively).

London also has a significantly higher survival from ovarian cancer (except stage one) than England. There are a number of cancers where the net survival is lower in London than the national figures, including patients diagnosed with stage one bladder, breast, colorectal, prostate and uterine cancers.

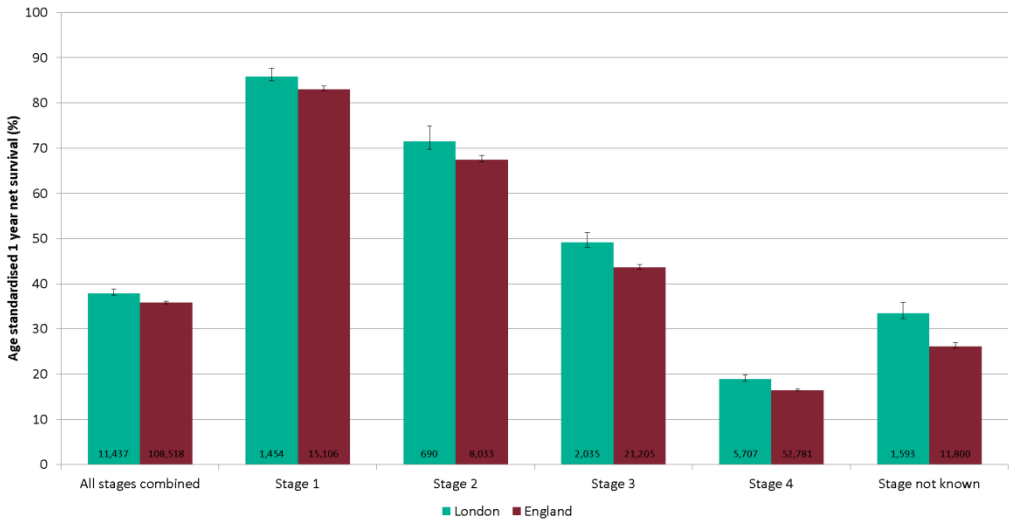

Figure 1: One-year net survival for people diagnosed with lung cancer in London and England

Variation across the London sectors was assessed for breast, colorectal, lung and prostate cancer, and significant differences by stage were found.
As an example, the results for lung cancer are shown in figure 2. For all stages combined, one-year survival from lung cancer is significantly higher in North Central London (41%) than North East London (37%), North West London (39%) and South East London (38%). However, when each stage of lung cancer was assessed individually, the one-year net survival rates for North Central London were not higher than any other sector.

PHE publications gateway number: 2016438
Published: November 2016

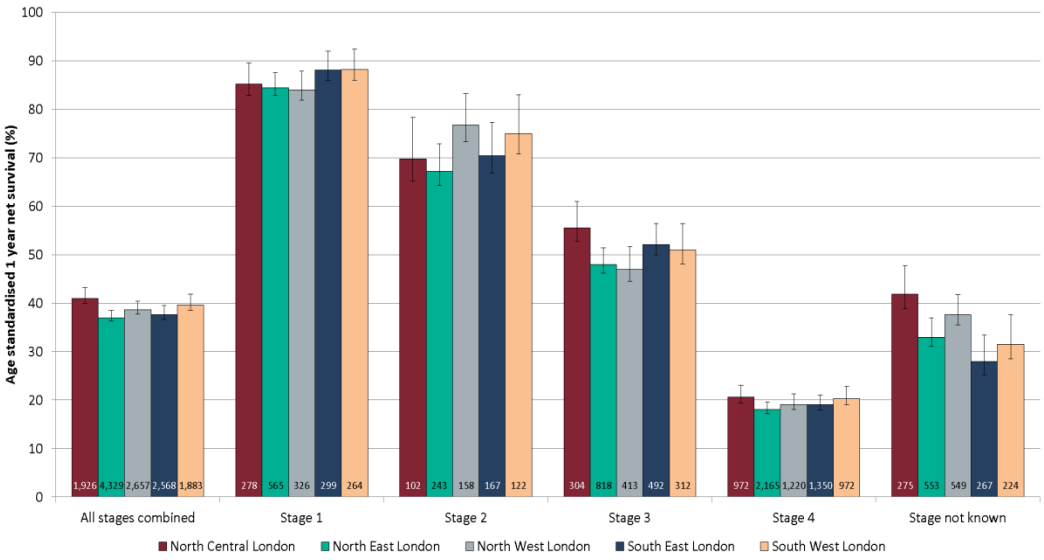

Figure 2: One-year net survival for people diagnosed with lung cancer in London, by sector

Conclusion

The one-year net survival for people diagnosed with cancer in London is significantly higher than national figures for a number of stages and cancer types. For stage two and three cancers, London one-year survival is significantly higher for five cancer types, and for stage four cancers it is significantly higher for seven cancer types. In contrast, there are a number of cancer types for which survival for stage one cancers are significantly lower than national figures, however the absolute difference is small. Variation also exists at the sector level throughout London for all stages of cancer.

Despite better one-year survival in London compared with England for a number of cancers at various stages, the survival for stage four cancers is still very low compared to earlier stages. Therefore increasing the proportion of early diagnoses remains a key issue in London as it does nationally.

FIND OUT MORE:

Other useful resources: What cancer statistics are available and where can I find them?
www.ncin.org.uk/publications/reports/

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