

The information collected by the Registry mainly pertains to tumours and their treatment, but a limited set of patient data is also collected. As the Registry has no facilities for data linkage with other national datasets such as census or occupational registers, the patient data presented here is that which can be extracted from clinical medical records. As such, it is necessarily limited and sometimes of unproven validity. Apart from age, sex and area of residence, we have not attempted to link other patient variables with individual cancer sites, and the aggregate patient data is presented below.

The 21450 registered cancers were diagnosed in 19867 patients, 1.08 cancers per patient.

## 4.1. SMOKING STATUS

This is recorded, if available, from the medical records. Information on smoking was available for 64% of patients (Table 4.1). Forty per cent of men and 25% of women were recorded as current or ex-smokers.

**Table 4.1. Distribution of cancer patients by smoking status and sex**

	MALES		FEMALES		BOTH SEXES	
	patients	% of total	patients	% of total	patients	% of total
smoker	2451	25%	1883	18%	4334	22%
ex-smoker	1483	15%	724	7%	2207	11%
never smoked	2537	26%	3693	36%	6230	31%
unknown	3180	33%	3916	38%	7096	36%
<b>all patients</b>	<b>9651</b>		<b>10216</b>		<b>19867</b>	

## 4.2. MARITAL STATUS

Table 4.2. shows the marital status of patients with registered cancers. Information was available on 92% of patients. Fifty-seven percent of men and 42% of women were married. Far more women were widowed, due to their greater life expectancy.

**Table 4.2. Marital status of patients**

	MALES		FEMALES		BOTH SEXES	
	patients	% of total	patients	% of total	patients	% of total
married	5500	57%	4296	42%	9796	49%
single	1864	19%	1692	17%	3556	18%
widowed	1094	11%	2714	27%	3808	19%
separated	130	1%	214	2%	344	2%
divorced	24	0%	23	0%	47	0%
other/unknown	1039	11%	1277	12%	2316	11%
<b>all patients</b>	<b>9651</b>		<b>10216</b>		<b>19867</b>	

## 4.3. OCCUPATION

*Table 4.3. Occupational class of patients*

	MALES		FEMALES	
	patients	% of total	patients	% of total
farming, fishing and forestry	1532	15.9%	412	4.0%
electrical trades	80	0.8%	17	0.2%
engineering and allied trades	154	1.6%	53	0.5%
textile, clothing and leather	28	0.3%	25	0.2%
food, drink and tobacco production	67	0.7%	30	0.3%
chemical, paper, wood, rubber, plastics and printing	46	0.5%	9	0.1%
other manufacturing	153	1.6%	30	0.3%
building and construction	392	4.1%	85	0.8%
managers and executives	115	1.2%	59	0.6%
communication, warehouse and transport	452	4.7%	104	1.0%
clerical and office	92	1.0%	236	2.3%
sales	205	2.1%	182	1.8%
business and commerce	94	1.0%	59	0.6%
computer software	8	0.1%	3	0.0%
scientific and technical	134	1.4%	33	0.3%
health and related	148	1.5%	337	3.3%
social workers and related	3	0.0%	12	0.1%
religious	95	1.0%	51	0.5%
other professional	44	0.5%	25	0.2%
personal service and childcare	206	2.1%	303	3.0%
teachers	98	1.0%	177	1.7%
central and local government	108	1.1%	65	0.6%
Garda	69	0.7%	16	0.2%
Army	33	0.3%	15	0.1%
other	335	3.5%	204	2.0%
not given	4960	51.4%	7674	75.1%
<b>all patients</b>	<b>9651</b>		<b>10216</b>	

The patient's current or last occupation, as given in the medical records, was recorded. This information was recorded in fewer than 50% of cases for men and in only 25% of women (Table 4.3). The most frequent occupational category for both males and females was "farming, fishing and forestry workers" as it was in the 1996 census. The percentage of males with cancer describing themselves as farmers (16%) was higher than would be expected from the census data for a group of the same age composition (11%) but this may be due to differential reporting of occupation by retired persons.

#### 4.4. EMPLOYMENT STATUS

This was more frequently available than occupation (Table 4.3). The largest number of males (52%) was described as "retired", and of females (38%) as "housewife".

**Table 4.4. Employment status of patients**

	MALES		FEMALES		BOTH SEXES	
	patients	% of total	patients	% of total	patients	% of total
retired	5006	52%	2543	25%	7549	38%
housewife			3843	38%	3844	19%
employed	1086	11%	653	6%	1739	9%
self-employed	458	5%	78	1%	536	3%
religious	135	1%	108	1%	243	1%
student	55	1%	90	1%	145	1%
other/unknown	2911	30%	2901	28%	5811	29%
<b>all patients</b>	<b>9651</b>		<b>10216</b>		<b>19867</b>	