

Appendix 1: Glossary and abbreviations

A brief glossary of terms used is given below. More detailed descriptions of statistical terms and methods can be found in Appendix 2.

Table A1.1. Glossary of terms

Age-specific rate	The annual rate (incidence or mortality) within a specific five-year age-class (e.g. 55 – 59 years); usually expressed per 100000 individuals.
Age-standardised rate (see also Direct age-standardisation)	The incidence or mortality rate within a specific population, corrected for age-structure in order to allow comparison with populations of different age-structure.
Benign tumour	Usually a slow-growing tumour, that may displace but does not invade or infiltrate surrounding tissue; a tumour considered not to have malignant or invasive potential.
Cancer	Sometimes used as a synonym of “malignant neoplasm” but includes any tumour or neoplasm with malignant potential – including in situ tumours that have not (yet) invaded surrounding tissue but may have the potential to do so. Excludes benign tumours.
CIN III	Abbreviation for “cervical intraepithelial neoplasia, grade III”, considered an in situ tumour of the uterine cervix (the most frequent tumour type detected by cervical screening).
Confidence interval/limits	A range of values surrounding the estimate which has a specified probability of including the true population value. The 95% confidence interval is most widely used: this is the range of values within which we are said to be 95% confident that the true value of a measurement or estimate (e.g. incidence rate) lies. For example, a mean rate expressed as 5.0 ± 0.4 (95% confidence limits) means that we are 95% confident that the rate lies between 4.6 and 5.4, based on the data available.
Cox regression	A statistical method of calculating overall differences in survival between groups of patients.
Crude rate	The overall incidence or mortality rate (number of cases divided by total population) without any correction for age-structure of the population. Crude rates of cancer will generally be higher in a population with a higher proportion of older people, and are thus not directly comparable with populations having a younger age-profile.
Crude survival	The probability of surviving for a specified time after a diagnosis of cancer.
Cumulative rate	The sum of age-specific rates up to, and including, a particular age (typically 74).
Cumulative risk	An overall estimate of the likelihood of a person developing a particular cancer up to, and including, a particular age (typically 74), derived from the cumulative rate.
Cutaneous	Of skin.
Direct age-standardisation	Age-standardisation of a rate by applying the age-specific rates for a study population to a standard (e.g. World or European) population’s age-structure.
Hazard ratio	The ratio of the risk of death (hazard) for an individual from a particular group, relative to the base group.
ICD-10	The tenth revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (WHO 1992).
ICD-9	The ninth revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (WHO 1977).
ICD-O.1	First edition of the International Classification of Diseases for Oncology (WHO 1976).
ICD-O.2	Second edition of the International Classification of Diseases for Oncology (Percy et al. 1990).
In situ tumour	Cancer with malignant potential which has remained confined to the tissue in which it originated.
Incidence rate	The number of cases diagnosed within a defined period (usually a year) divided by the population at risk; generally expressed as cases per 100000 persons per year.
Intracranial	Within the skull (cranium).
Invasive tumour	A tumour that is not (or is no longer) confined to the tissue in which it originated (see in situ tumour).
Kaplan-Meier	A precise method of calculation of survival.

Leukaemia	A malignant disease of the blood and blood-forming organs characterised by uncontrolled proliferation of leukocytes (white blood cells).
Lifetime risk	The risk of developing, or dying of, cancer over an average lifetime.
Lymphoma	A solid malignant tumour originating in lymphoid tissue, generally in lymph nodes.
Lymphoreticular	Related to the blood or immune system .
Malignant tumour	Used in this report (and in ICD-10) as a synonym of “invasive tumour” or “invasive cancer”, but sometimes used more loosely to include in situ cancers (of malignant or invasive potential).
Median	The value of an observation having equal numbers of observations above and below that value (e.g. a disease with a median age at diagnosis of 45 years would have approximately equal numbers of cases diagnosed in patients younger than and older than 45).
Metastasis	The distant spread of a cancer from its original (primary) site to other parts of the body.
Mortality/incidence ratio	The ratio between numbers of deaths from a particular cancer (as recorded on death certificates) and the number of incident cases within the same period.
Neoplasms	A new growth or tumour; for diseases of the blood any uncontrolled proliferation of blood cells.
Non-melanoma skin cancer (NMS)	Skin cancers other than melanomas. These are primarily basal cell and squamous cell carcinomas among invasive skin cancers.
Prevalence / prevalence rate	The total, current number of cases or rate of a disease within a population, including cases diagnosed in earlier years.
Primary tumour	A tumour that originated in the tissue, or in the part of the body, where it has been diagnosed.
Prognosis	An estimation of the future course of a disease.
P-value	The probability of a particular event.
Relative survival	The ratio between the survival of the group under study and the survival of an equivalent group in the general population .
Secondary tumour	A tumour originating in one tissue, or one part of the body, but which has become established (through metastatic spread from the primary tumour) in a different location.
Statistical significance	An estimate of the likelihood of a finding (e.g. of difference between two sets of values) having occurred due to chance alone. Data are said to have reached conventional levels of statistical significance ($P < .05$) if the probability that a result could have arisen by chance is less than 0.05 (5%).
Statistically significant	A finding whose statistical significance is less than a specified value (in this report usually .05); unlikely to have occurred by chance.
Stratified	Divided into groups with a common characteristic (e.g. age, sex) for the purposes of analysis.
Survival	The probability of living for a specified period after a cancer diagnosis.
Tumour	An abnormal tissue growth characterised by abnormal and excessive division of cells; may be benign or may have malignant potential.
Uncertain behaviour	A cancer which, at the time of diagnosis, cannot be classified as either benign or malignant .

Table A1.2. Abbreviations

CIN	cervical intra-epithelial neoplasia
CSO	Central Statistics Office
EASR	European age-standardized rate
EASIR	European age-standardized incidence rate
EASMR	European age-standardized mortality rate
HIPE	Hospital Inpatient Enquiry
IARC	International Agency for Research on Cancer
ICD	International Classification of Disease
ICD O	International Classification of Disease for Oncology
NMS	non-melanoma skin (cancer)
TRO	tumour registration officer
WASR	World age-standardized incidence rate