

SECTION 7: CANCER

Introduction

Every year around 300,000 new cases of cancer are diagnosed in the UK. Current estimates suggest that more than one in three people will develop some form of cancer during their lifetime. In 2010, there were more than 137,000 cancer deaths in the UK, and approximately one in four of all deaths in the UK were due to cancer. In Darlington deaths (aged less than 75 years) from cancers of the lung, bowel, breast and prostate together account for around half of all cancer deaths (similar to England).

Cancer contributes significantly to the gap in life expectancy between Darlington and England and as such is a priority area for action locally.

The commitment to narrowing the cancer mortality gap is highlighted in the national Cancer Reform Strategy (2007) which aims to:

- Promote cancer screening programmes and encourage uptake
- Save lives through earlier diagnosis
- Reduce inequalities in public awareness and access to services
- Direct resources where they will yield the most benefit.

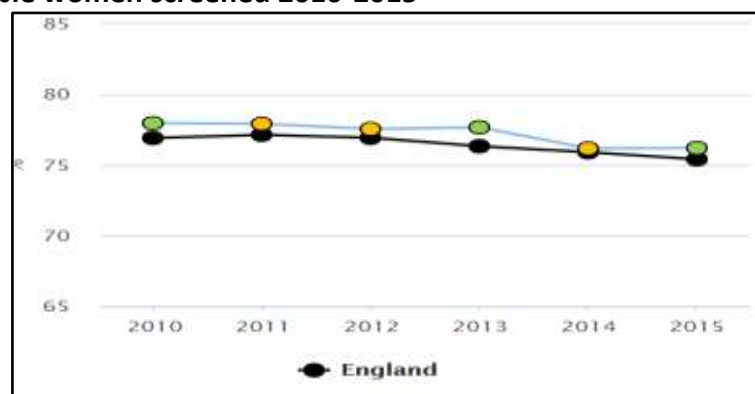
The importance of saving lives through increasing public awareness and encouraging earlier diagnosis has informed local approaches to reducing cancer mortality rates in Darlington.

Screening:

Breast screening supports early detection of cancer and is estimated to save 1,400 lives in England each year. Inclusion of this indicator will provide an opportunity to incentivise screening promotion and other local initiatives to increase coverage of cancer screening. Improvements in coverage would mean more breast cancers are detected at earlier, more treatable stages. The breast cancer screening programme plays an important part in reducing late diagnosis.

The graph shows the percentage of eligible women screened adequately within the previous 3 years data for Darlington and England are shown. For all years coverage in Darlington is slightly higher than the England coverage.

Fig 103: % of eligible women screened 2010-2015



Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework. www.phoutcomes.info

What are the levels of need?

Cancer incidence

Cancer incidence in Darlington (2008-2012 pooled) is significantly higher for men than women. Male and female cancer incidence rates in Darlington are not significantly different to England or the North East. The tables following provide the comparative illustration. Data are taken from the Northern and Yorkshire Cancer Information Service (NYCRIS). When broken down between male and female; male cancer incidence in Darlington rose by 1.6% between 2000-04 and 2008-12. This is compared to a 2.7% reduction in the North East and a 3.4% rise in England: Whilst female cancer incidence in Darlington rose by 3.9% between 2000-04 and 2008-12. This rise was smaller than that seen in England (7.2%) and the North East (5.2%).

Fig 104: Male and female cancer incidence rates per 100,000 people 2008 - 2012 pooled – all ages

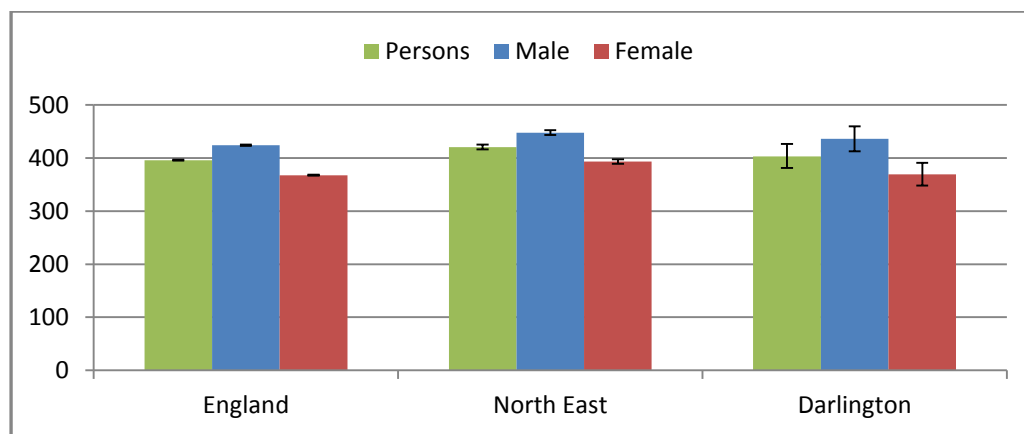
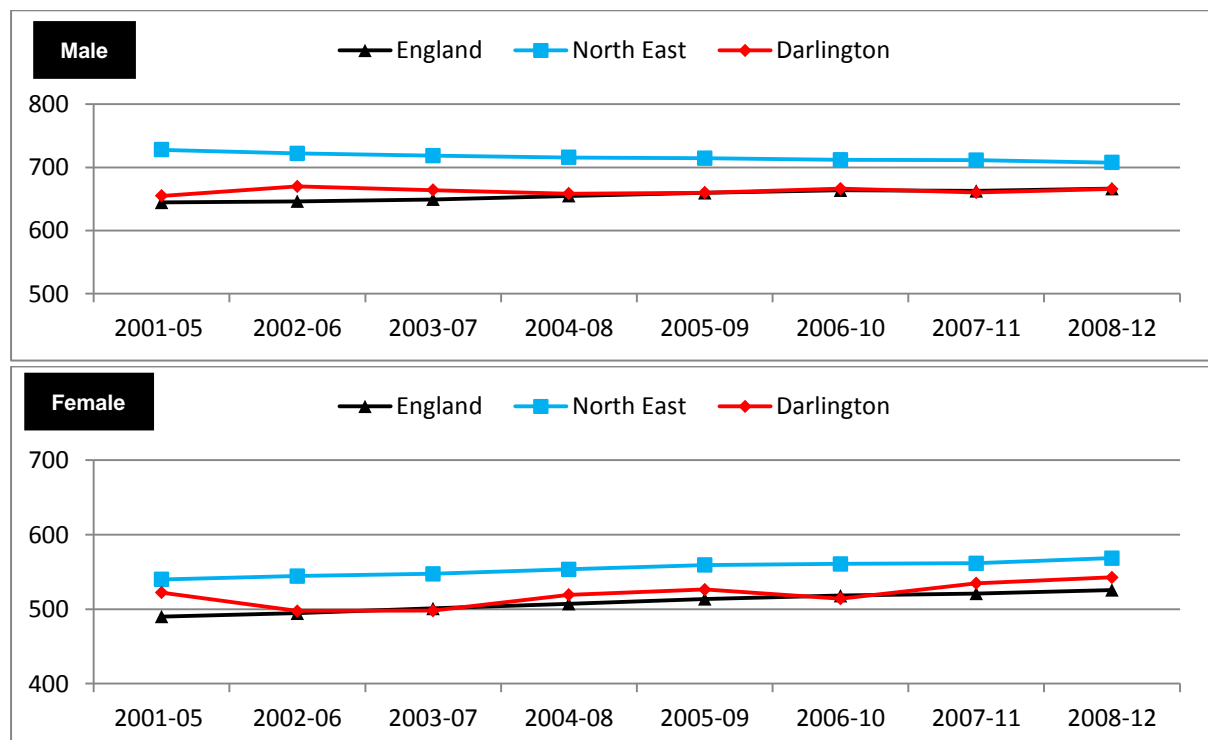


Fig 105: Male and female cancer incidence rates per 100,000, 2001-2004 to 2008-2012 pooled, England, North East and Darlington



Cancer mortality:

Cancer mortality in Darlington (2008-2012 pooled) is statistically significantly higher for men than women. Male and female mortality rates are significantly higher in Darlington than England but lower than the North East.

Further information about Cancer including mortality rates is available from the Public Health England website – [Darlington Cancer Profile](#)