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# Recent trends in incidence of cancer among children in Northern Ireland

(A comparison between April-December of 2021, 2020 and 2018-2019)

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## Further information

Further information is available at: [www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/nicr](http://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/nicr)

**Phone:** +44 (0)28 9097 6028      **e-mail:** [nicr@qub.ac.uk](mailto:nicr@qub.ac.uk)

## Acknowledgements

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# INCIDENCE

During the April-December period the number of cases of cancer diagnosed among children increased between 2018-2019 and 2021 by 23.5% from 34 cases per year to 42 cases.

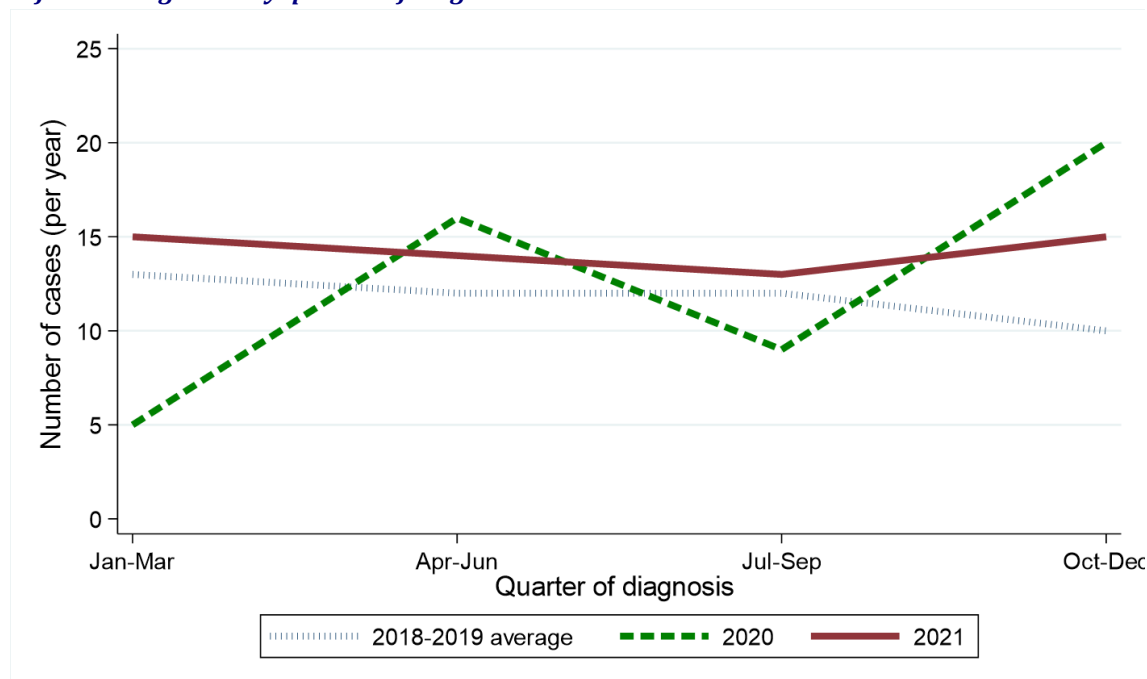
**Table 1: Number of cancer cases diagnosed among children in 2018-2021 by quarter and year of diagnosis**

Period of diagnosis	Annual total	Quarter diagnosed			
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sept	Oct-Dec
2018-2019*	46	13	12	12	10
2020	50	5	16	9	20
2021	57	15	14	13	15

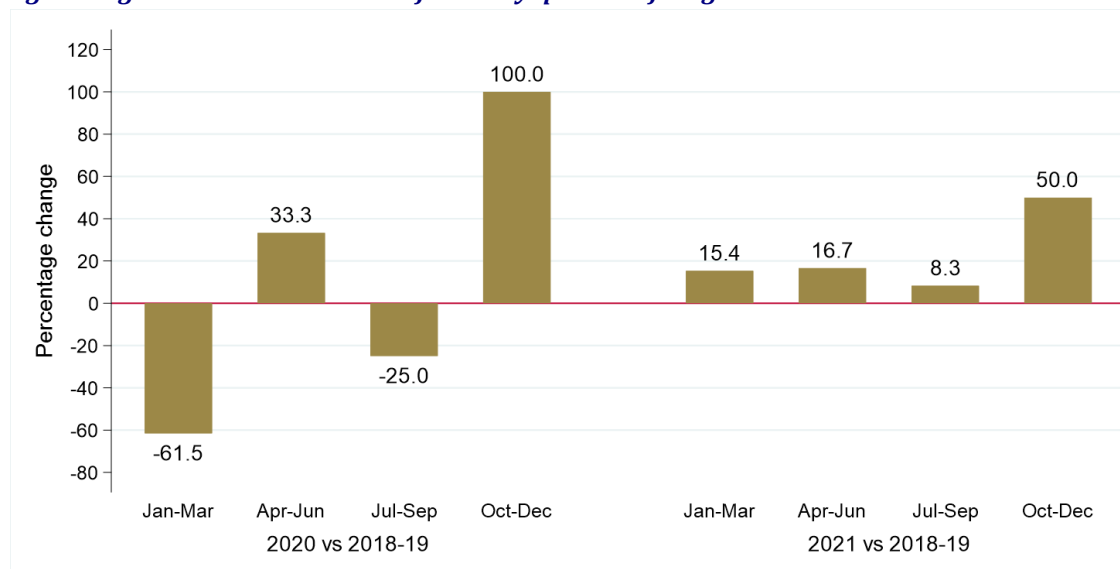
\* Average cases per year rounded to the nearest integer. Row sums may thus differ slightly from the total.

**Figure 1: Number of cancer cases diagnosed among children in 2018-2021 by quarter and year of diagnosis**

**(a) Number of cases diagnosed by quarter of diagnosis**



**(b) Percentage change over time in number of cases by quarter of diagnosis**



## GENDER

Excluding the first quarter of each year the number of cases of cancer diagnosed among boys did not change between 2018-2019 and 2021 with an average of 21 diagnosed each year. Between the same two time periods the number of cancer cases diagnosed among girls increased by 61.5% from 13 per year in 2018-2019 to 21 in 2021. The change in case distribution by gender between 2018-2019 and 2021 was not statistically significant.

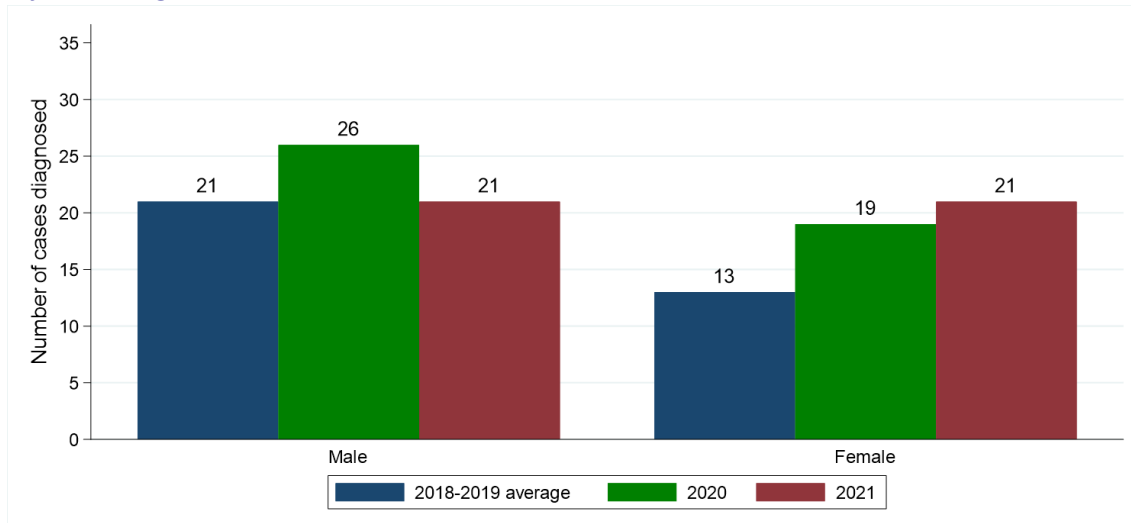
**Table 2: Number and proportion of cancer cases diagnosed among children in April-December of 2018-2021 by gender and period of diagnosis**

Gender	Period of diagnosis (Apr-Dec)			Percentage change	
	2018-2019*	2020	2021	2020 vs 2018-2019	2021 vs 2018-2019
<b>All persons</b>	34	45	42	+32.4%	+23.5%
<b>Male</b>	21 (61.8%)	26 (57.8%)	21 (50.0%)	+23.8%	0.0%
<b>Female</b>	13 (38.2%)	19 (42.2%)	21 (50.0%)	+46.2%	+61.5%

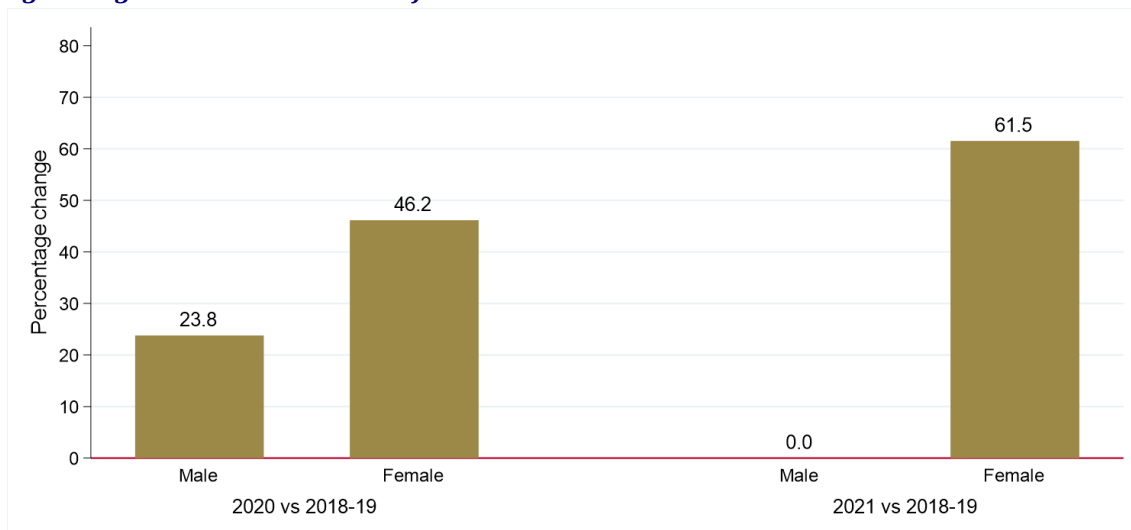
\* Average cases per year rounded to the nearest integer. Column sums may thus differ slightly from the total.

**Figure 2: Number of cancer cases diagnosed among children in April-December of 2018-2021 by gender and period of diagnosis**

**(a) Number of cases diagnosed**



**(b) Percentage change over time in number of cases**



## HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST

Excluding the first quarter of each year the number of cases of cancer diagnosed among children resident in Northern HSCT decreased by 20.0% from 10 per year in 2018-2019 to 8 in 2021. Between the same two time periods the number of cases of cancer diagnosed among children resident in South Eastern HSCT increased by 116.7% from 6 per year in 2018-2019 to 13 in 2021. The change in case distribution by Health and Social Care Trust between 2018-2019 and 2021 was not statistically significant.

**Table 3: Number and proportion of cancer cases diagnosed among children in April-December of 2018-2021 by Health and Social Care Trust and period of diagnosis**

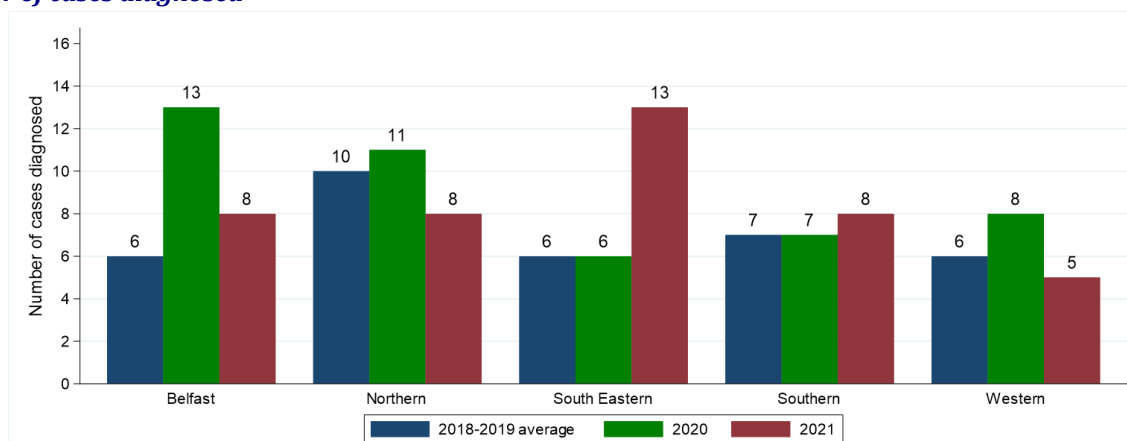
Health and Social Care Trust	Period of diagnosis (Apr-Dec)			Percentage change	
	2018-2019*	2020	2021	2020 vs 2018-2019	2021 vs 2018-2019
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	34	45	42	+32.4%	+23.5%
<b>Belfast</b>	6 (17.6%)	13 (28.9%)	8 (19.0%)	+116.7%	+33.3%
<b>Northern</b>	10 (29.4%)	11 (24.4%)	8 (19.0%)	+10.0%	-20.0%
<b>South Eastern</b>	6 (17.6%)	6 (13.3%)	13 (31.0%)	0.0%	+116.7%
<b>Southern</b>	7 (20.6%)	7 (15.6%)	8 (19.0%)	0.0%	+14.3%
<b>Western</b>	6 (17.6%)	8 (17.8%)	5 (11.9%)	+33.3%	-16.7%

\* Average cases per year rounded to the nearest integer. Column sums may thus differ slightly from the total.

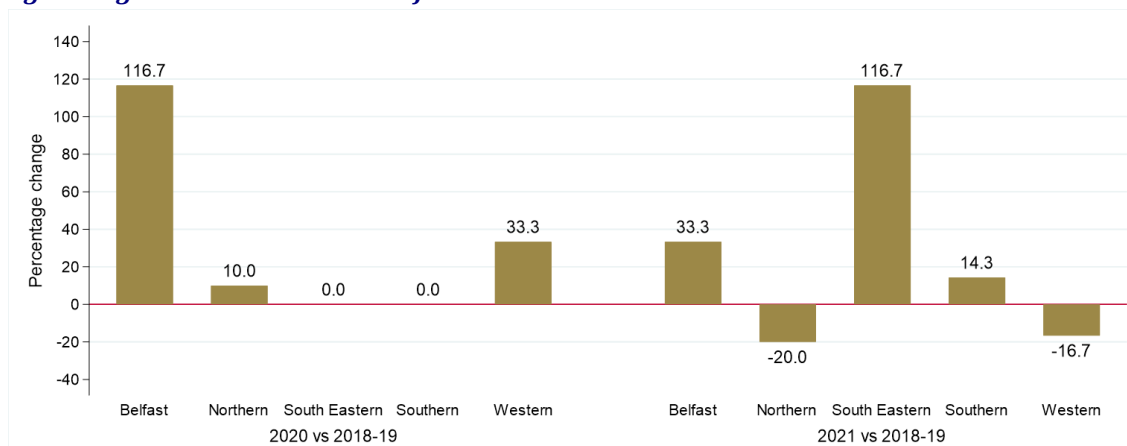
Note: Cases with unknown Health and Social Care Trust are included in totals.

**Figure 3: Number of cancer cases diagnosed among children in April-December of 2018-2021 by Health and Social Care Trust and period of diagnosis**

**(a) Number of cases diagnosed**



**(b) Percentage change over time in number of cases**



## SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEPRIVATION

Excluding the first quarter of each year the number of cases of cancer diagnosed among children resident in the most deprived quintile increased by 50.0% from 6 per year in 2018-2019 to 9 in 2021. Between the same two time periods the number of cases of cancer diagnosed among children resident in the least deprived quintile increased by 200.0% from 4 per year in 2018-2019 to 12 in 2021. The change in case distribution by deprivation quintile between 2018-2019 and 2021 was not statistically significant.

**Table 4: Number and proportion of cancer cases diagnosed among children in April-December of 2018-2021 by deprivation quintile and period of diagnosis**

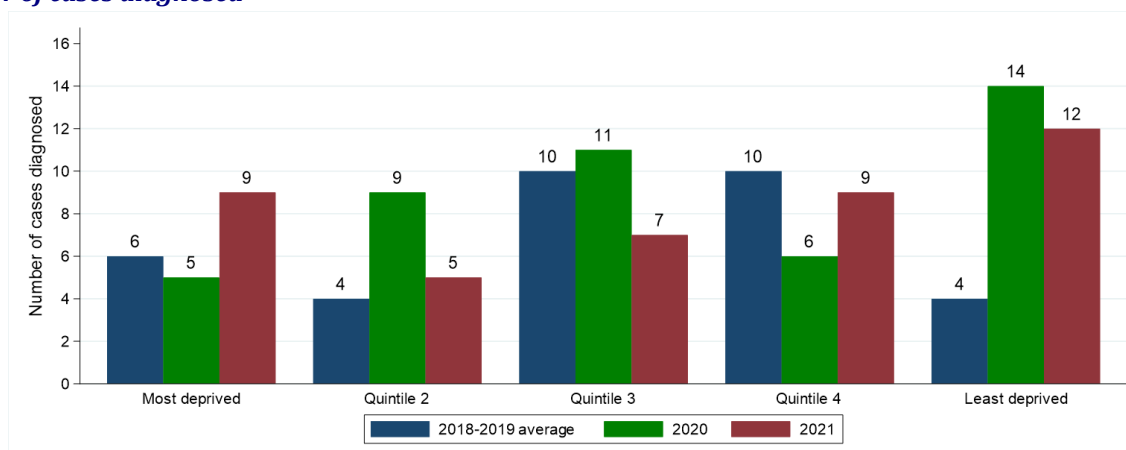
Deprivation quintile	Period of diagnosis (Apr-Dec)			Percentage change	
	2018-2019*	2020	2021	2020 vs 2018-2019	2021 vs 2018-2019
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	34	45	42	+32.4%	+23.5%
<b>Most deprived</b>	6 (17.6%)	5 (11.1%)	9 (21.4%)	-16.7%	+50.0%
<b>Quintile 2</b>	4 (11.8%)	9 (20.0%)	5 (11.9%)	+125.0%	+25.0%
<b>Quintile 3</b>	10 (29.4%)	11 (24.4%)	7 (16.7%)	+10.0%	-30.0%
<b>Quintile 4</b>	10 (29.4%)	6 (13.3%)	9 (21.4%)	-40.0%	-10.0%
<b>Least deprived</b>	4 (11.8%)	14 (31.1%)	12 (28.6%)	+250.0%	+200.0%

\* Average cases per year rounded to the nearest integer. Column sums may thus differ slightly from the total.

Note: Cases with unknown deprivation quintile are included in totals.

**Figure 4: Number of cancer cases diagnosed among children in April-December of 2018-2021 by deprivation quintile and period of diagnosis**

**(a) Number of cases diagnosed**



**(b) Percentage change over time in number of cases**

