

N. Ireland Cancer Registry Implications of Research for Services

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Paper Title	Estimated incidence and prevalence of metastatic breast cancer in Northern Ireland, 2009 to 2020
Authors	Hawkins, S. T., Ashok, A., Kelly, J. M., Savage, G., Fitzpatrick, D., Mitchell, H., McBrien, A. & Bennett, D
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Conclusion	Metastatic breast cancer (MBC) happens when cancer spreads beyond the breast, but many countries don't regularly track how many people are living with it. This study used health records from Northern Ireland to estimate how common MBC is. Researchers linked cancer registry data with hospital and death records and used a new method to identify people with MBC, either at first diagnosis (de novo) or later as the disease progressed. They found around 250 new MBC cases each year, and the number of people living with MBC rose by 55% between 2009 and 2020.
What this means for the service	The findings highlight the need for better tracking of MBC to support care planning and services.