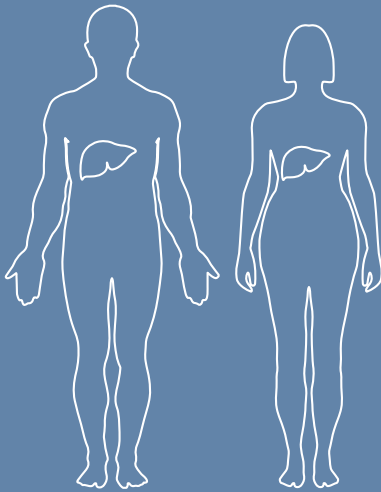




European Commission



Liver cancer burden in EU-27

The liver is a large organ located in the upper right side of the abdomen, above the stomach, that assists the digestion of food and removal of toxins. Liver cancer occurs when cancer cells form in the tissues of any part of the liver. There are several types of liver cancer. Hepatocellular carcinoma, which begins in the main type of the liver cells (hepatocyte), is the most common type of liver cancer.

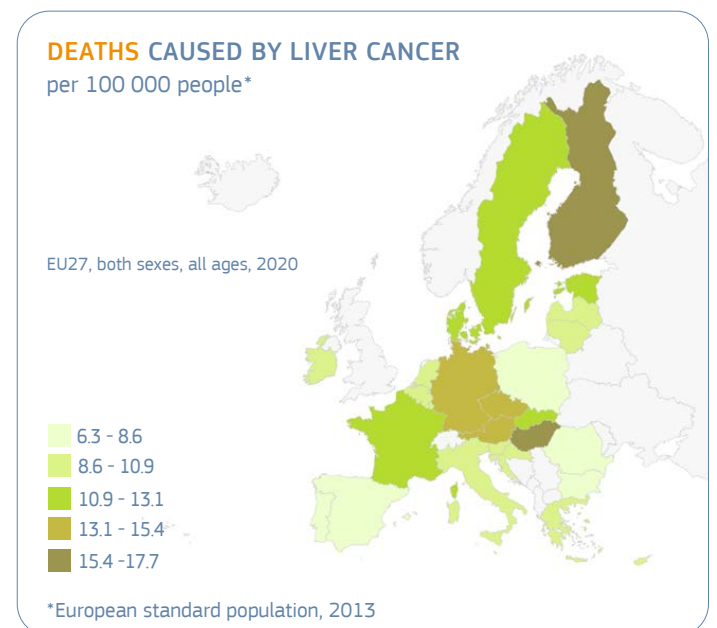
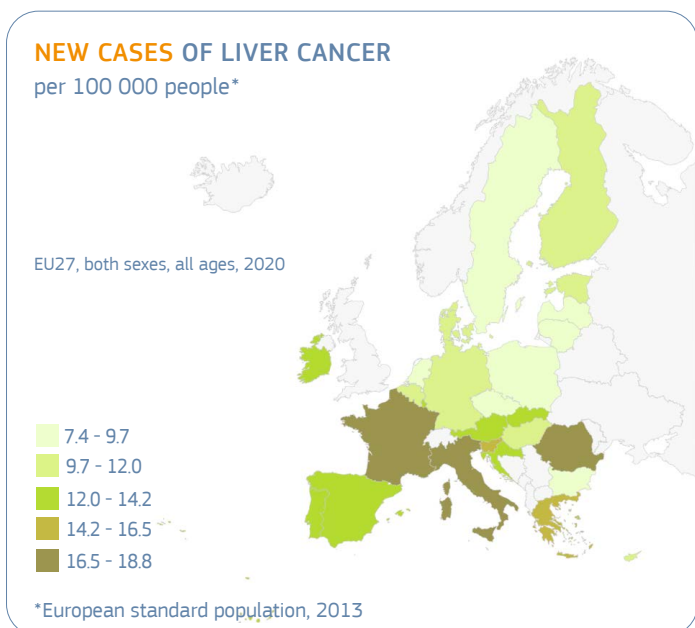
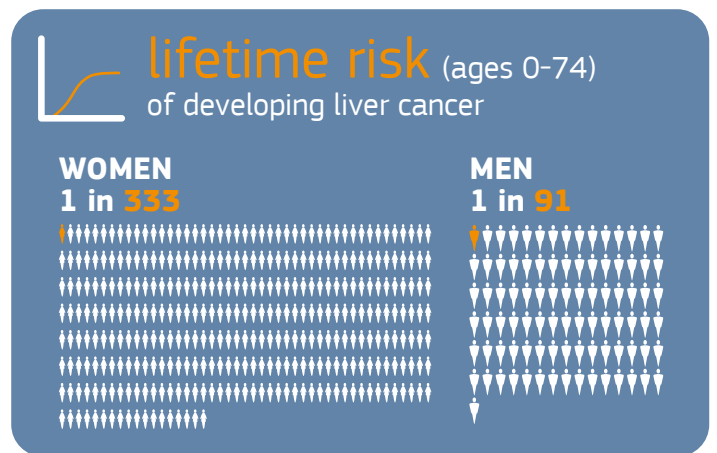
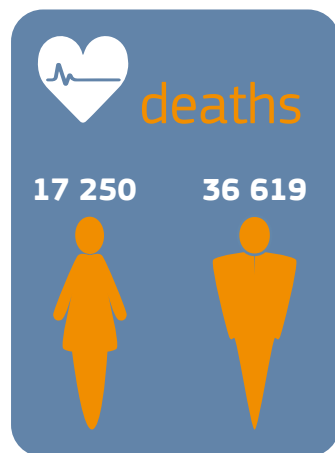
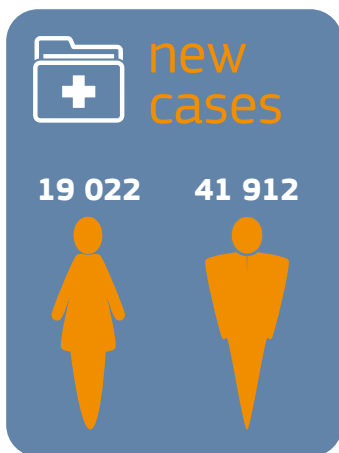
For EU-27 countries it is estimated that liver cancer accounted in **2020** for **2.3%** of all new cancer diagnoses (excluding non-melanoma skin cancers) and **4.3%** of all deaths due to cancer. That made it the 13th most frequently occurring cancer, and the 6th leading cause of cancer death.

Source: ECIS – European Cancer Information System

<https://ecis.jrc.ec.europa.eu>, accessed 01/09/2022

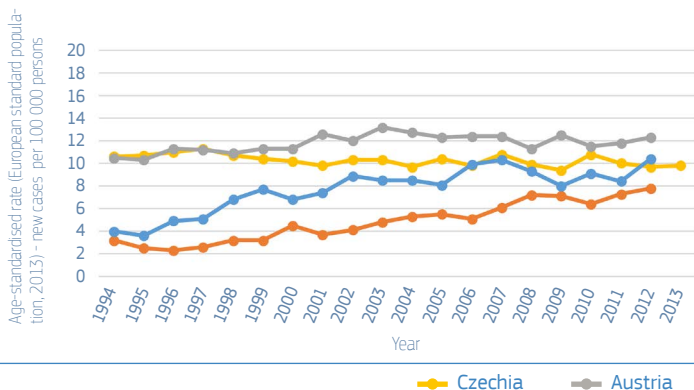
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2020 new cases (incidence) and deaths (mortality) estimates

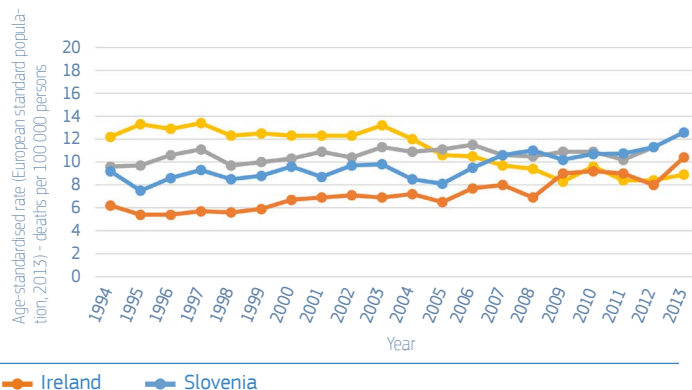


TEMPORAL TRENDS IN SELECTED COUNTRIES¹

NEW CASES OF LIVER CANCER – all ages, per 100 000 people



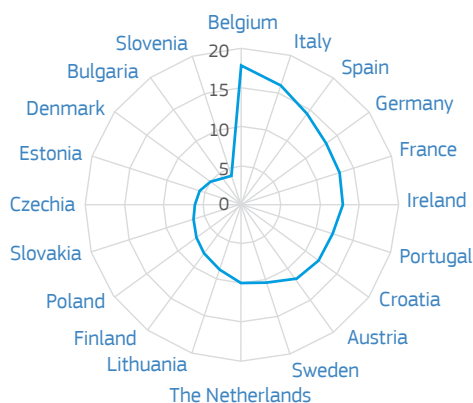
DEATHS CAUSED BY LIVER CANCER – all ages, per 100 000 people



¹ The examples (one from each European region: Central and Eastern, Northern, Southern, Western) are selected from available incidence and mortality time series of at least 20 years, from the ECIS web application archive (<https://ecis.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>), complemented with the official mortality statistics from EUROSTAT (https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/HLTH_CD_ASDR_custom_1394498/default/table?lang=en) for Slovenia

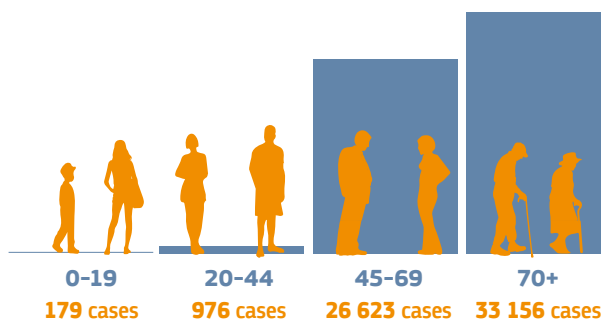
LIVER CANCER SURVIVAL*

Ages >15, cancers diagnosed in 2000-2007
Percentage of people who survived at least 5 years after diagnosis (in absence of other causes of death except cancer)



* Standardised survival rate missing for Malta and Latvia

ESTIMATED DISTRIBUTION OF NEW CASES OF LIVER CANCER IN 2020 – BY AGE GROUP



HIGHLIGHTS

- In EU-27, liver cancer is more common among men compared to women, with both the number of new cases of liver cancer and number of deaths due to liver cancer being more than twice as high for men compared to women.
- Liver cancer incidence and mortality is estimated to be generally lower in Northern European countries and greater in Southern, Western and Eastern European countries.
- Liver cancer incidence and mortality have remained relatively stable over time, with a slight increase in incidence in some European countries.
- The 5-year survival of liver cancer vary between EU-27 countries, with the highest survival rates in Southern and Western European countries, and the lowest in Northern, Eastern and Central European countries. The variation in survival may be due to variability in stage at diagnosis, as well as differences in treatment and screening protocols, including surveillance of patients with cirrhosis.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Grateful acknowledgement is given to the European cancer registries as the data source for the indicators reported in the **European Cancer Information System (ECIS)**.

This factsheet is part of a series that reports information from ECIS for all cancer sites.

For **details**, or to find other cancer **factsheets**:

<https://ecis.jrc.ec.europa.eu>



<https://cancer-code-europe.iarc.fr>



ENCR
European Network
of Cancer Registries