

Belgian Cancer Registry



# Cancer Fact Sheet **Head & Neck Cancer**

ICD10 : C00-C14, C30-C32

**Belgium 2021**

# 1. Cancer Incidence

## 1.1. Number of new diagnoses and incidence rates

**Table 1:** Head and Neck Cancer: Average age at diagnosis, number of new cancer diagnoses (N), crude rate (CR), age-standardised incidence rates (ESR and WSR) and cumulative risk by sex and region, 2021

Males	Age (years)	N	CR	ESR	WSR	CRi
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>65.4</b>	<b>1,951</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>2.31</b>
Brussels-Capital Region	64.5	151	25.2	26.2	18.4	2.38
Flemish Region	66.2	1,094	33.2	23.4	16.4	2.07
Walloon Region	64.3	706	39.6	30.6	21.9	2.79

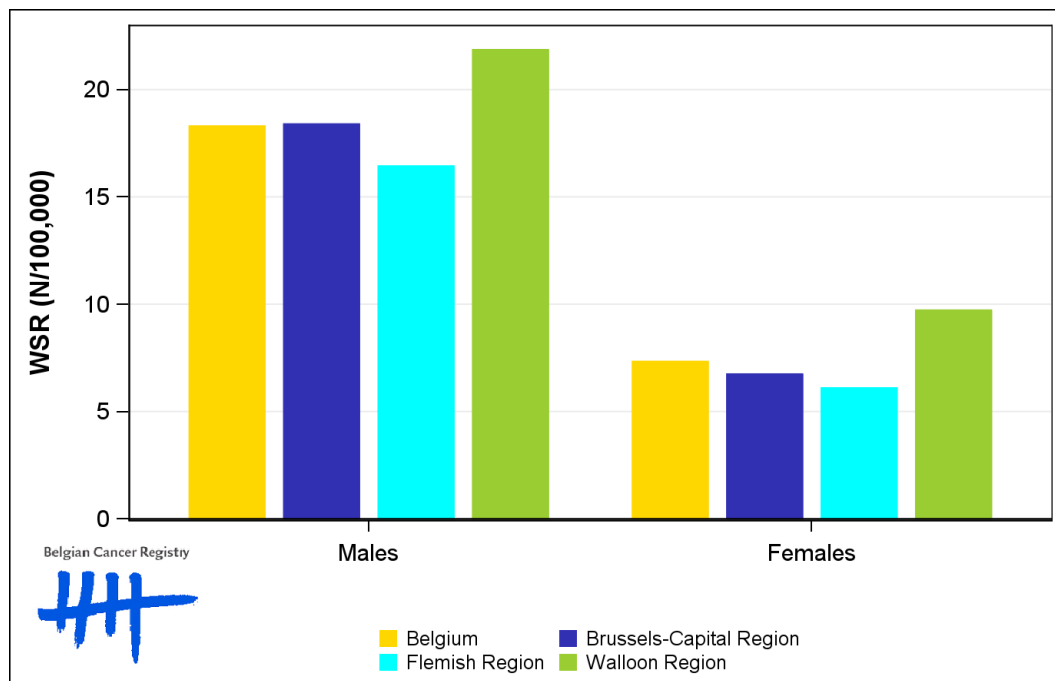
Females	Age (years)	N	CR	ESR	WSR	CRi
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>65.9</b>	<b>837</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>0.90</b>
Brussels-Capital Region	64.9	69	11.1	9.7	6.7	0.77
Flemish Region	66.9	423	12.6	8.4	6.1	0.75
Walloon Region	64.9	345	18.5	13.5	9.7	1.19

CR=Crude (all ages) Rate (N/100,000 person-years)  
 ESR (1976)=Age-Standardised Rate, using the European Standard Population (N/100,000 person-years)  
 WSR=Age-Standardised Rate, using the World Standard Population (N/100,000 person-years)  
 CRi=Cumulative Risk for 0-74 years (%)

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**Figure 1:** Head and Neck Cancer: Age-standardised incidence rates by sex and region, 2021



## 1.2. Age-specific incidence rates

**Table 2:** Head and Neck Cancer: Age-specific incidence rates, crude rate (CR) and age-standardised incidence rates (ESR and WSR) by sex, Belgium 2021

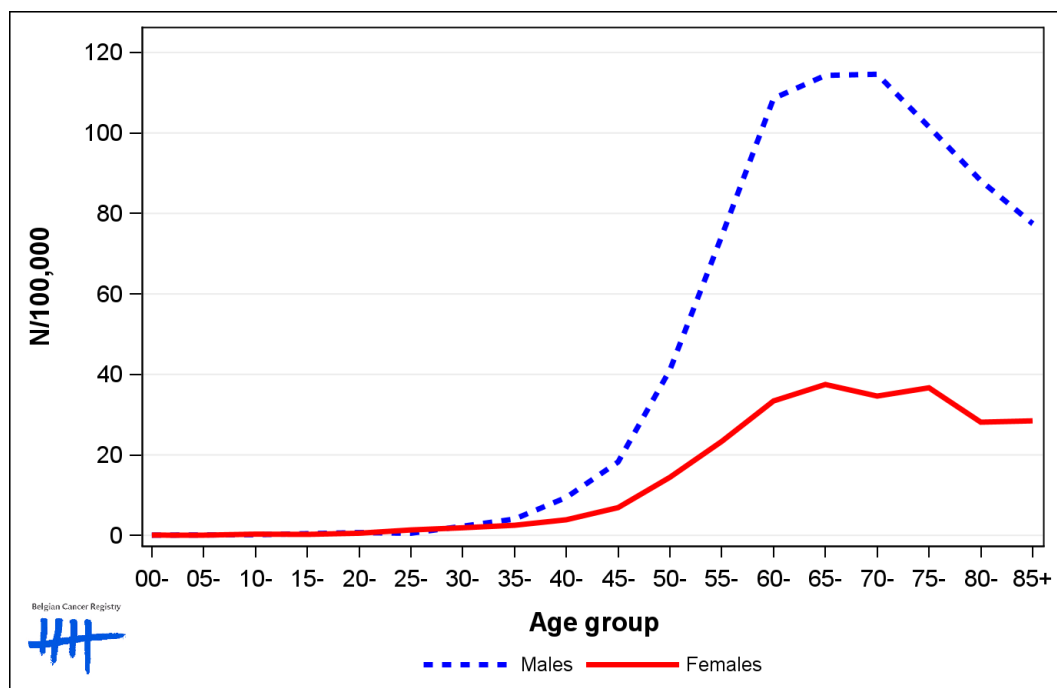
	00-	05-	10-	15-	20-	25-	30-	35-	40-	45-	50-	55-	60-	65-	70-	75-	80-	85+	CR	ESR	WSR
Males	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5	0.0	1.3	5.6	10.1	15.5	38.4	64.7	100.0	115.9	115.1	113.7	85.0	68.3	34.4	25.9	18.3
Females	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.0	1.9	2.9	4.0	4.8	8.3	15.0	24.5	34.2	44.4	39.1	40.3	28.6	31.7	14.3	10.2	7.3

CR=Crude (all ages) Rate (N/100,000 person-years)

ESR (1976)=Age-Standardised Rate, using the European Standard Population (N/100,000 person-years)

WSR=Age-Standardised Rate, using the World Standard Population (N/100,000 person-years)

**Figure 2:** Head and Neck Cancer: Age-specific incidence rates by sex, 2017-2021



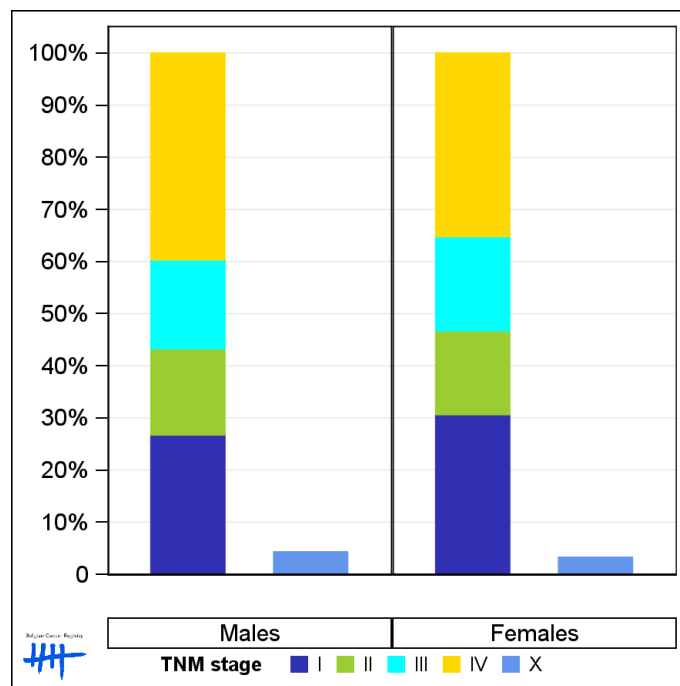
### 1.3. Combined stage

**Table 3:** Head and Neck Cancer: Distribution of combined stage by sex, Belgium 2021

	Stage I	Stage II	Stage III	Stage IV	Stage X	Stage NA	Total
<b>Males</b>							
N	479	296	305	709	80	82	1,951
%	24.6	15.2	15.6	36.3	4.1	4.2	100
<b>Females</b>							
N	238	125	140	273	26	35	837
%	28.4	14.9	16.7	32.6	3.1	4.2	100

Staging according to the TNM 8th edition (Ref: Brierley JD, Gospodarowicz MK, Wittekind Ch. TNM classification of malignant tumours, UICC 8th edition)  
 Combined TNM stage : compilation of pathological (pTNM) and clinical (cTNM) stage. pTNM prevails over cTNM, except when cTNM stage is IV  
 Stage X: diagnoses with an unknown stage  
 Stage NA: diagnoses with a histological diagnosis where no stage can be evaluated (Not Applicable)

**Figure 3:** Head and Neck Cancer: Bar chart of known combined stage by sex, Belgium 2021



## 1.4. Trends in incidence

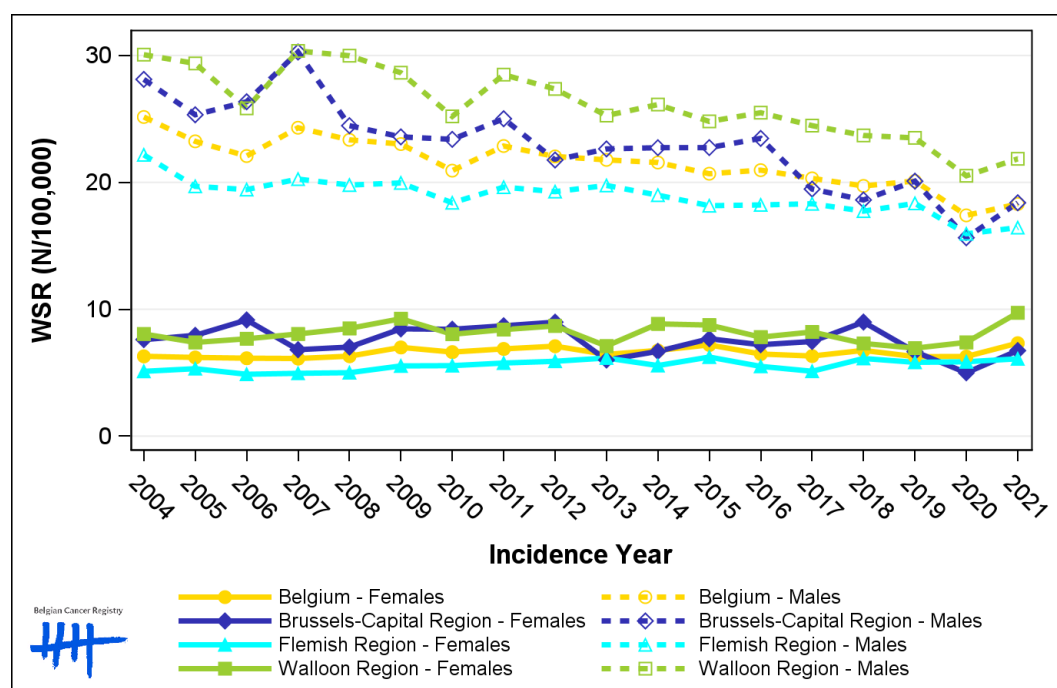
**Table 4:** Head and Neck Cancer: Age-standardised incidence rates (WSR) and average annual percentage change (AAPC) by incidence year, sex and region

Males	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	AAPC	95% CI
<b>Belgium</b>	24.3	23.4	23.0	20.9	22.9	22.0	21.8	21.6	20.7	21.0	20.3	19.7	20.1	17.4	18.3	-1.8	[-2.3; -1.4]
Brussels-Capital Region	30.3	24.5	23.6	23.4	25.0	21.8	22.6	22.7	22.7	23.5	19.5	18.6	20.1	15.6	18.4	-3.0	[-4.0; -2.0]
Flemish Region	20.3	19.8	20.0	18.4	19.6	19.3	19.8	19.0	18.2	18.2	18.3	17.7	18.3	15.9	16.4	-1.3	[-1.7; -0.8]
Walloon Region	30.4	30.0	28.6	25.2	28.5	27.4	25.3	26.1	24.8	25.5	24.5	23.7	23.5	20.5	21.9	-2.3	[-2.8; -1.7]

Females	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	AAPC	95% CI
<b>Belgium</b>	6.1	6.3	7.0	6.6	6.9	7.1	6.4	6.8	7.2	6.5	6.3	6.8	6.3	6.3	7.3	0.2	[-0.6; 0.9]
Brussels-Capital Region	6.8	7.0	8.5	8.4	8.7	9.0	6.0	6.7	7.7	7.2	7.5	9.0	6.7	5.0	6.7	-1.3	[-3.3; 0.7]
Flemish Region	5.0	5.0	5.5	5.6	5.8	5.9	6.2	5.6	6.2	5.5	5.1	6.1	5.8	5.9	6.1	1.1	[0.3; 1.9]
Walloon Region	8.1	8.5	9.3	8.0	8.4	8.7	7.1	8.8	8.8	7.8	8.2	7.3	6.9	7.4	9.7	-0.5	[-1.8; 0.8]

WSR=Age-Standardised Rate, using the World Standard Population (N/100,000 person-years)  
 AAPC = Average Annual Percentage Change over the 2007-2021 period

**Figure 4:** Head and Neck Cancer: Age-standardised incidence rates (WSR) by incidence year, sex and region



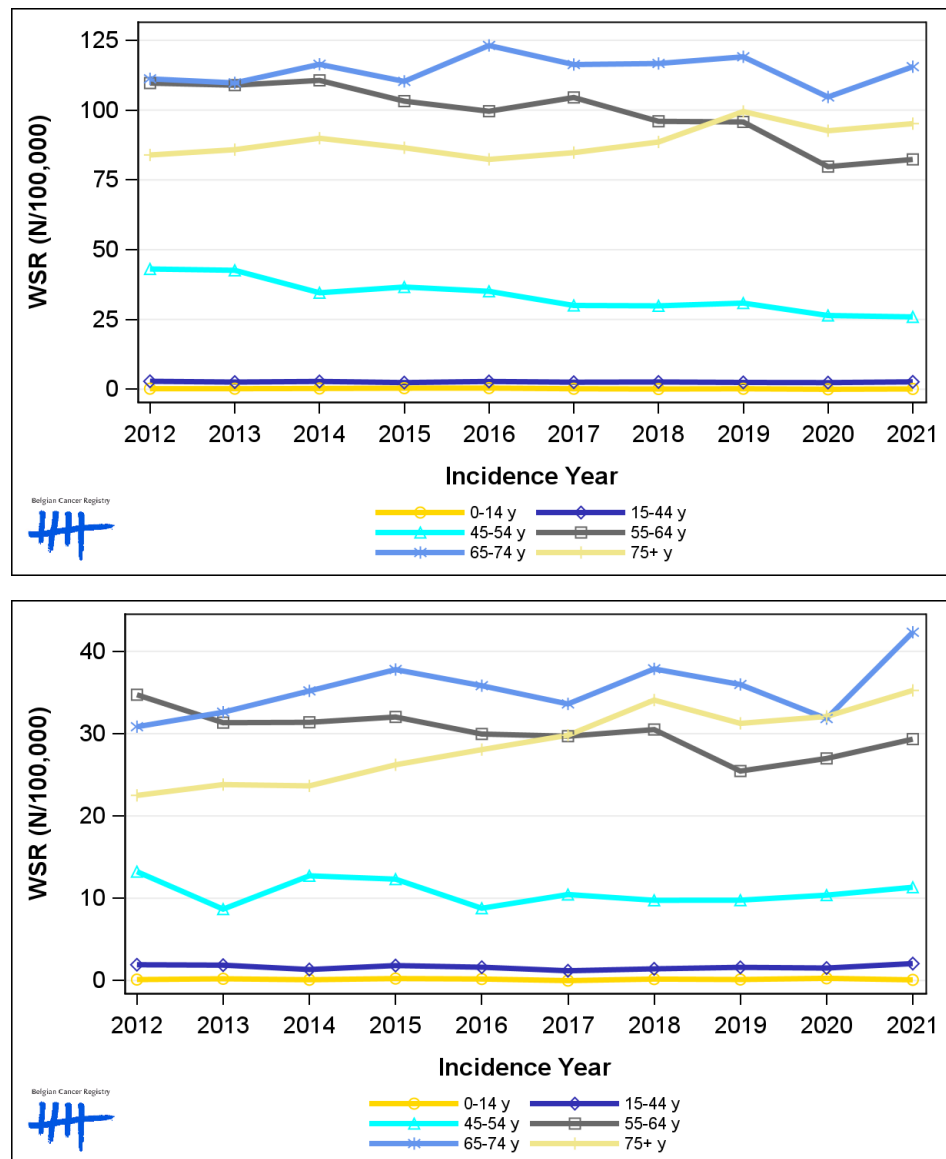
## 1.5. Incidence by broad age groups

**Table 5:** Head and Neck Cancer: Number of new diagnoses and age-standardised incidence rates (WSR) by broad age groups and incidence year by sex, Belgium

	N										WSR									
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Males</b>																				
All ages	1,966	1,997	2,017	1,964	2,013	2,007	1,993	2,076	1,834	1,951	22.0	21.8	21.6	20.7	21.0	20.3	19.7	20.1	17.4	18.3
0-14 y	2	2	3	4	4	2	1	2	0	1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.2	<0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1
15-44 y	72	68	73	61	71	65	66	63	59	69	2.9	2.6	2.8	2.4	2.8	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.7
45-54 y	358	361	292	309	297	252	252	260	215	212	43.1	42.6	34.6	36.6	35.1	30.0	29.9	30.9	26.4	25.9
55-64 y	738	738	757	716	701	748	696	706	597	624	109.7	108.9	110.7	103.2	99.6	104.5	96.0	95.8	79.8	82.3
65-74 y	497	506	550	536	617	603	628	650	589	660	111.2	109.8	116.4	110.3	123.2	116.3	116.7	119.1	104.7	115.5
75+ y	299	322	342	338	323	337	350	395	374	385	83.9	85.8	89.9	86.5	82.3	84.8	88.6	99.5	92.6	95.2
<b>Females</b>																				
All ages	693	652	685	739	696	703	758	710	710	837	7.1	6.4	6.8	7.2	6.5	6.3	6.8	6.3	6.3	7.3
0-14 y	1	2	1	2	2	0	2	1	3	1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.3	<0.1
15-44 y	50	46	33	45	37	28	32	41	38	52	1.9	1.9	1.3	1.8	1.6	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.5	2.1
45-54 y	110	72	105	100	73	86	80	79	84	89	13.2	8.7	12.7	12.3	8.8	10.5	9.8	9.8	10.4	11.3
55-64 y	238	218	220	227	214	217	226	191	204	225	34.7	31.3	31.4	32.0	30.0	29.7	30.5	25.5	27.0	29.3
65-74 y	156	167	184	202	197	192	219	214	194	261	30.8	32.6	35.2	37.8	35.8	33.6	37.9	36.0	31.8	42.3
75+ y	138	147	142	163	173	180	199	184	187	209	22.5	23.8	23.7	26.2	28.1	29.8	34.1	31.3	32.1	35.3

N=Number of invasive tumours  
WSR=Age-Standardised Rate, using the World Standard Population (N/100,000 person-years)

**Figure 5:** Head and Neck Cancer: Age-standardised incidence rates (WSR) versus incidence year by broad age groups for males (top) and females (bottom), Belgium



## 2. Relative survival

**Table 6:** Head and Neck Cancer: 5-year relative survival proportion by sex, age group and region, Belgium 2017-2021

	5-year relative survival 2017-2021 (%)					
	Males			Females		
	N at risk	estimate	95% CI	N at risk	estimate	95% CI
<b>Overall</b>	9,489	54.9	[53.5, 56.3]	3,586	60.2	[57.9, 62.5]
<b>Age group</b>						
15-49 years	668	69.6	[65.2, 73.5]	319	84.2	[78.6, 88.4]
50-74 years	7,030	54.7	[53.1, 56.2]	2,331	61.5	[58.9, 64.1]
75+ years	1,801	49.9	[45.4, 54.5]	938	48.0	[42.4, 53.7]
<b>Region</b>						
Brussels-Capital Region	711	53.7	[48.5, 58.7]	319	61.7	[54.6, 68.2]
Flemish Region	5,371	57.4	[55.6, 59.3]	1,904	61.0	[57.8, 64.2]
Walloon Region	3,407	51.2	[48.8, 53.5]	1,363	58.6	[54.8, 62.2]

**Figure 6:** Head and Neck Cancer: relative survival proportion by sex, Belgium 2017-2021

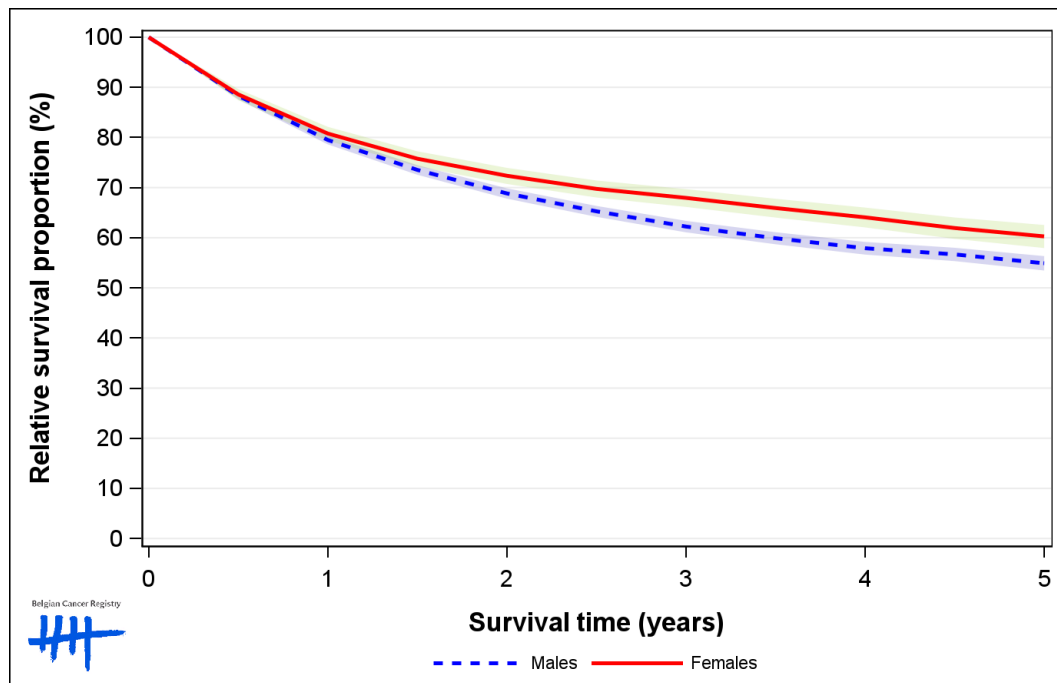


Figure 7: Head and Neck Cancer: relative survival proportion by age group in males, Belgium 2017-2021

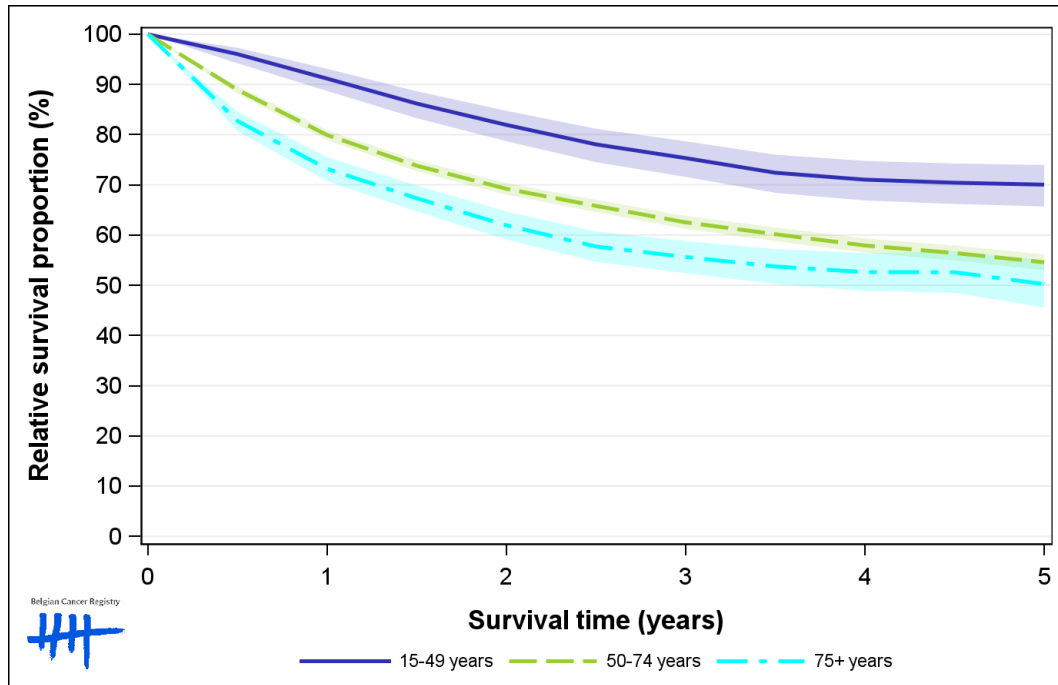
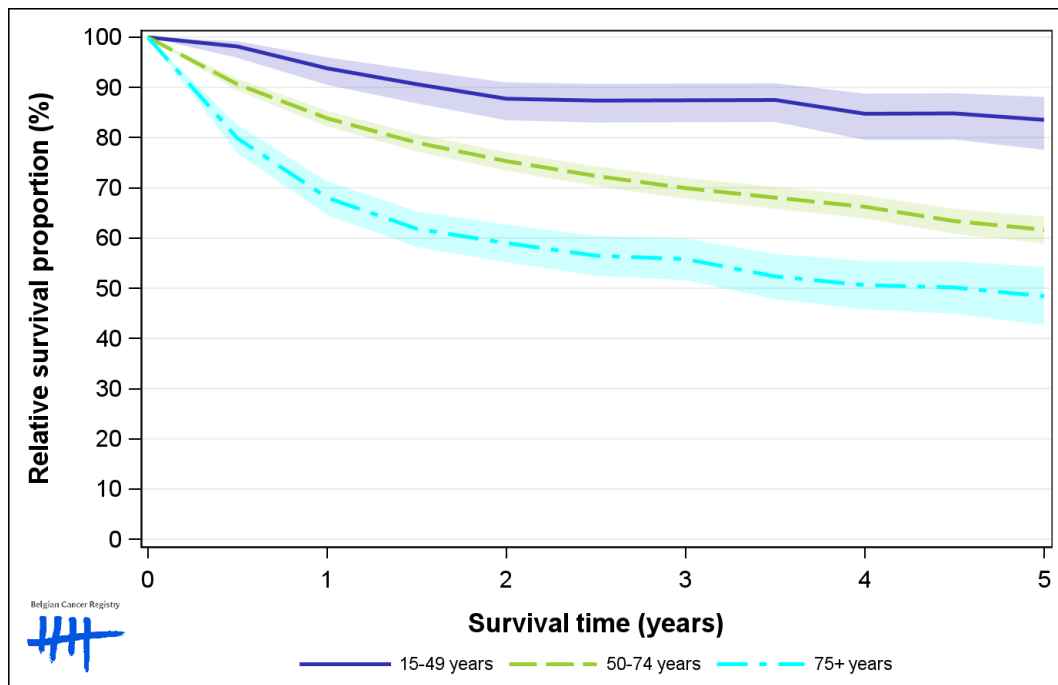
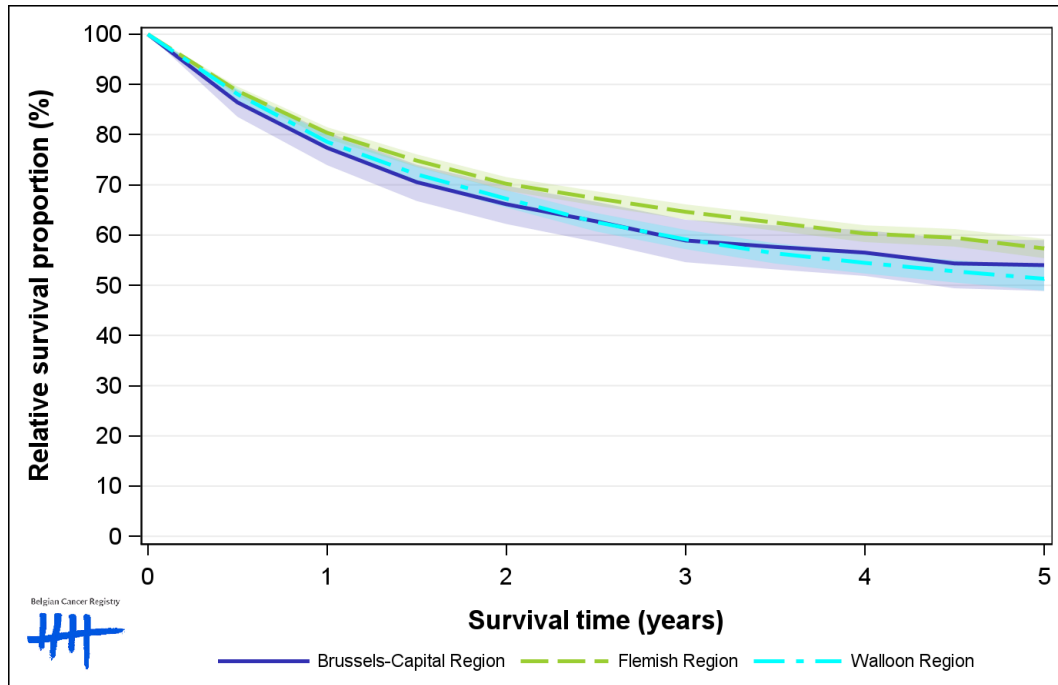


Figure 8: Head and Neck Cancer: relative survival proportion by age group in females, Belgium 2017-2021





**Figure 9:** Head and Neck Cancer: relative survival proportion by region in males, Belgium 2017-2021



**Figure 10:** Head and Neck Cancer: relative survival proportion by region in females, Belgium 2017-2021

