

3.13 Malignant melanoma of the skin

Table 3.13.1
Overview of key epidemiological parameters for Germany, ICD-10 C43

Incidence	2015		2016		Prediction for 2020	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Incident cases	10,850	11,170	11,150	12,090	12,100	13,000
Crude incidence rate ¹	26.1	27.8	26.7	29.8	29.0	32.2
Age-standardised incidence rate ^{1,2}	19.6	19.7	19.9	21.0	20.7	21.3
Median age at diagnosis	60	67	60	68		
Mortality	2015		2016		2017	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Deaths	1,287	1,767	1,226	1,700	1,242	1,593
Crude mortality rate ¹	3.1	4.4	2.9	4.2	3.0	3.9
Age-standardised mortality rate ^{1,2}	1.6	2.8	1.5	2.7	1.6	2.4
Median age at death	76	74	76	74	75	75
Prevalence and survival rates	5 years		10 years			
	Women	Men	Women	Men		
Prevalence	51,000	50,900	92,900	88,100		
Absolute survival rate (2015–2016) ³	85 (80–87)	78 (70–81)	75 (67–79)	63 (52–67)		
Relative survival rate (2015–2016) ³	93 (89–96)	91 (83–94)	92 (84–94)	88 (74–92)		

¹ per 100,000 persons ² age-standardised (old European Standard) ³ in percentages (lowest and highest value of the included German federal states)

► Additional information under www.krebsdaten.de/cancer-sites

Epidemiology

In 2016, around 23,200 people in Germany developed malignant melanoma of the skin. Similar numbers of women and men developed the condition; however, women tended to be diagnosed younger, at a median age of 60 years, compared with 68 years for men. The age-standardised incidence rates for women and men have increased markedly since 2008. This is probably due to the introduction of skin cancer screening in Germany in July 2008. Furthermore, incidence among both sexes has increased more than fivefold since the 1970s. Nevertheless, mortality increased only slightly (and only among men) over the same period. Superficial spreading melanomas are the predominant type of malignant melanomas. They come with a favourable prognosis and are chiefly responsible for the increased incidence. Other forms, in particular nodular and amelanotic melanomas, have considerably less favourable prognoses. Currently, the relative 5-year survival rate with malignant melanoma of the skin in Germany is 93% among women and 91% among men. Two-thirds of all melanomas are detected at an early stage (stage I).

Risk factors and early detection

Ultraviolet (UV) radiation, particularly from repeated intensive exposure to sunlight, is the most important exogenous risk factor associated with malignant melanoma. In addition to radiation from natural sunlight, artificial sources of UV radiation, such as solariums, pose the same risk. Sunburn at any age further increases risk. In addition, one of the most important risk factors that are present at birth are congenital pigment marks (moles), especially particularly large ones. Malignant melanomas are more likely to occur in people with a lighter skin colour. Patients who have already had melanoma have an increased risk of developing it again. Cases in which multiple first-degree relatives contract malignant melanoma may indicate the presence of genetic mutations. However, the risk a family member has of developing a malignant melanoma varies depending on the mutation in question. The number of benign pigment marks that have developed during a person's lifetime and the presence of atypical (dysplastic) pigment marks are further significant risk factors. Statutory screening offers women and men 35-years and older a bi-annual skin examination conducted by a specially trained doctor (such as a dermatologist or general practitioner).

Figure 3.13.1a
 Age-standardised incidence and mortality rates by sex, ICD-10 C43, Germany 1999–2016/2017, projection (incidence) through 2020 per 100,000 (old European Standard)

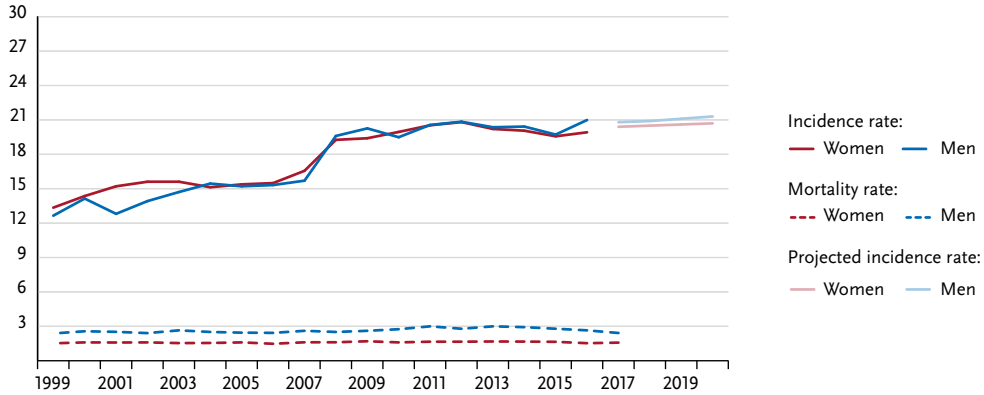


Figure 3.13.1b
 Absolute numbers of incident cases and deaths by sex, ICD-10 C43, Germany 1999–2016/2017, projection (incidence) through 2020

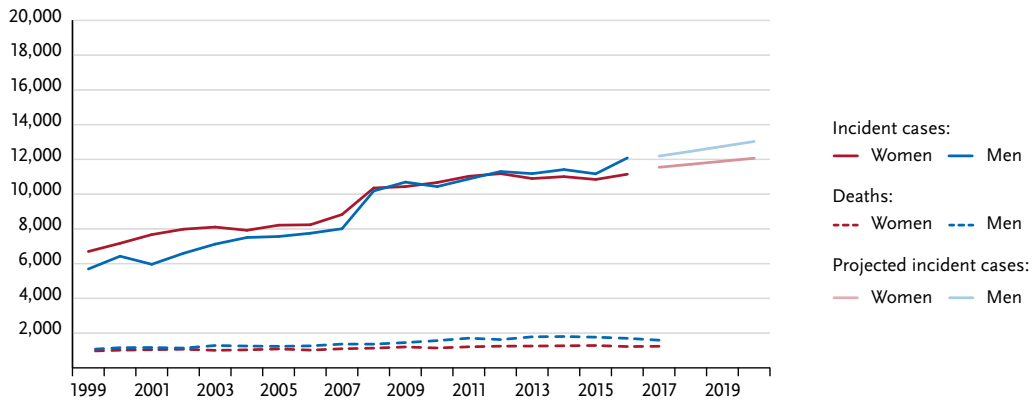


Figure 3.13.2
 Age-specific incidence rates by sex, ICD-10 C43, Germany 2015–2016 per 100,000

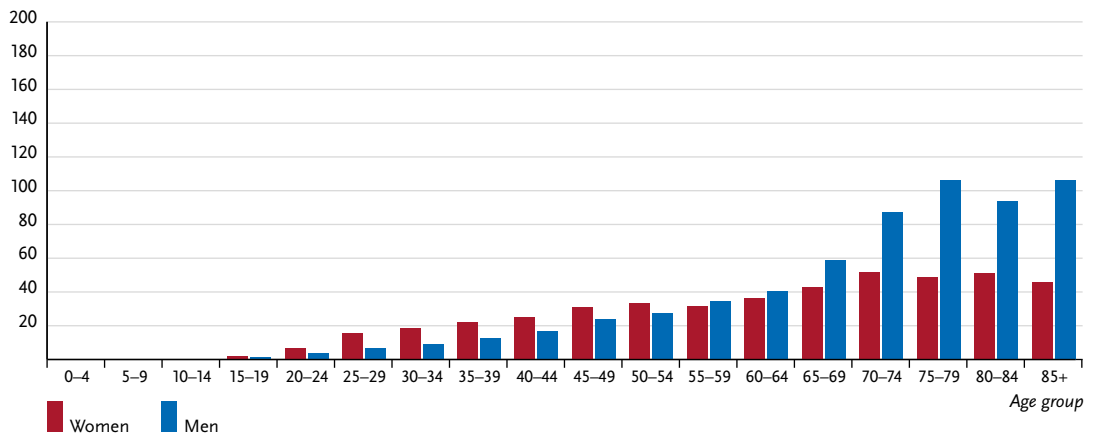


Table 3.13.2
Cancer incidence and mortality risks in Germany by age and sex, ICD-10 C43, database 2016

Women aged	Risk of developing cancer				Mortality risk			
	in the next ten years		ever		in the next ten years		ever	
35 years	0.2%	(1 in 420)	1.8%	(1 in 55)	< 0.1%	(1 in 14,500)	0.2%	(1 in 410)
45 years	0.3%	(1 in 310)	1.6%	(1 in 63)	< 0.1%	(1 in 5,400)	0.2%	(1 in 420)
55 years	0.3%	(1 in 290)	1.3%	(1 in 77)	< 0.1%	(1 in 3,400)	0.2%	(1 in 450)
65 years	0.4%	(1 in 230)	1.0%	(1 in 98)	< 0.1%	(1 in 2,200)	0.2%	(1 in 490)
75 years	0.5%	(1 in 220)	0.7%	(1 in 150)	0.1%	(1 in 1,100)	0.2%	(1 in 560)
Lifetime risk			2.0%	(1 in 50)			0.2%	(1 in 410)
Men aged	in the next ten years		ever		in the next ten years		ever	
35 years	0.2%	(1 in 650)	2.1%	(1 in 47)	< 0.1%	(1 in 10,500)	0.3%	(1 in 290)
45 years	0.3%	(1 in 380)	2.0%	(1 in 50)	< 0.1%	(1 in 4,300)	0.3%	(1 in 290)
55 years	0.4%	(1 in 270)	1.8%	(1 in 56)	< 0.1%	(1 in 2,100)	0.3%	(1 in 300)
65 years	0.7%	(1 in 150)	1.6%	(1 in 63)	0.1%	(1 in 1,100)	0.3%	(1 in 320)
75 years	0.8%	(1 in 120)	1.1%	(1 in 88)	0.2%	(1 in 590)	0.3%	(1 in 360)
Lifetime risk			1.0%	(1 in 46)			0.3%	(1 in 290)

Figure 3.13.3
Distribution of UICC-stages at first diagnosis by sex, ICD-10 C43, Germany 2015–2016
(top: all cases; bottom: only valid reports)

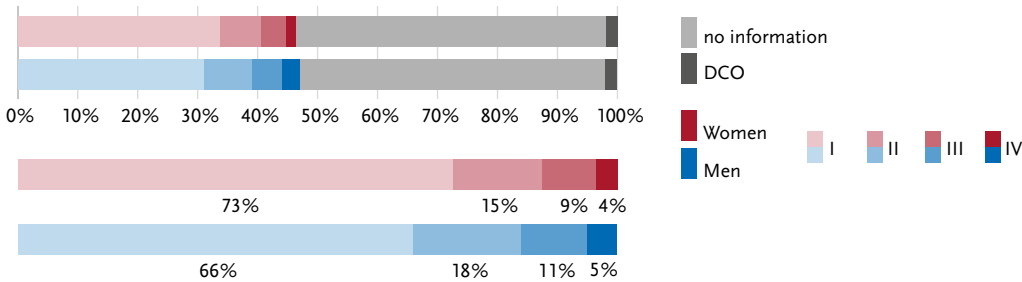


Figure 3.13.4
Absolute and relative survival rates up to 10 years after first diagnosis, by sex, ICD-10 C43, Germany 2015–2016

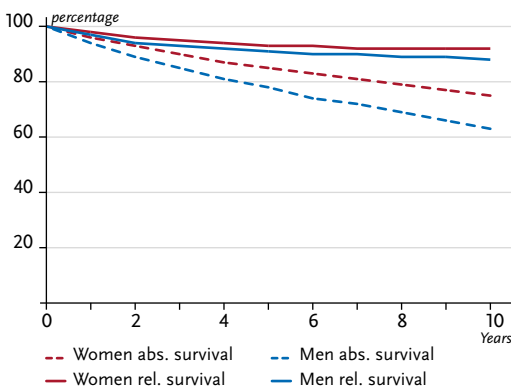


Figure 3.13.5
Relative 5-year survival by UICC-stage and sex, ICD-10 C43, Germany 2015–2016

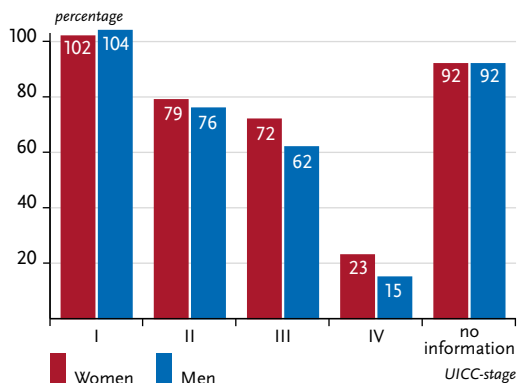


Figure 3.13.6
 Age-standardised incidence and mortality rates in German federal states by sex, ICD-10 C43, 2015–2016
 (Incidence in Bremen for 2014 and 2016, incidence in eastern Germany for 2014 to 2015)
 per 100,000 (old European Standard)

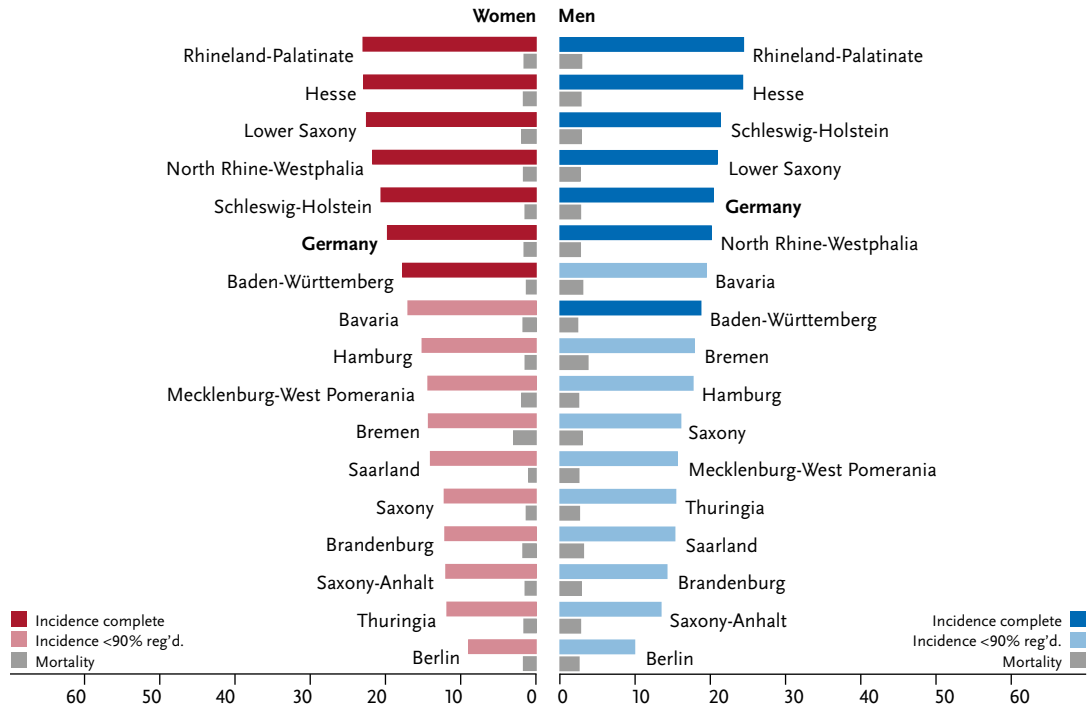
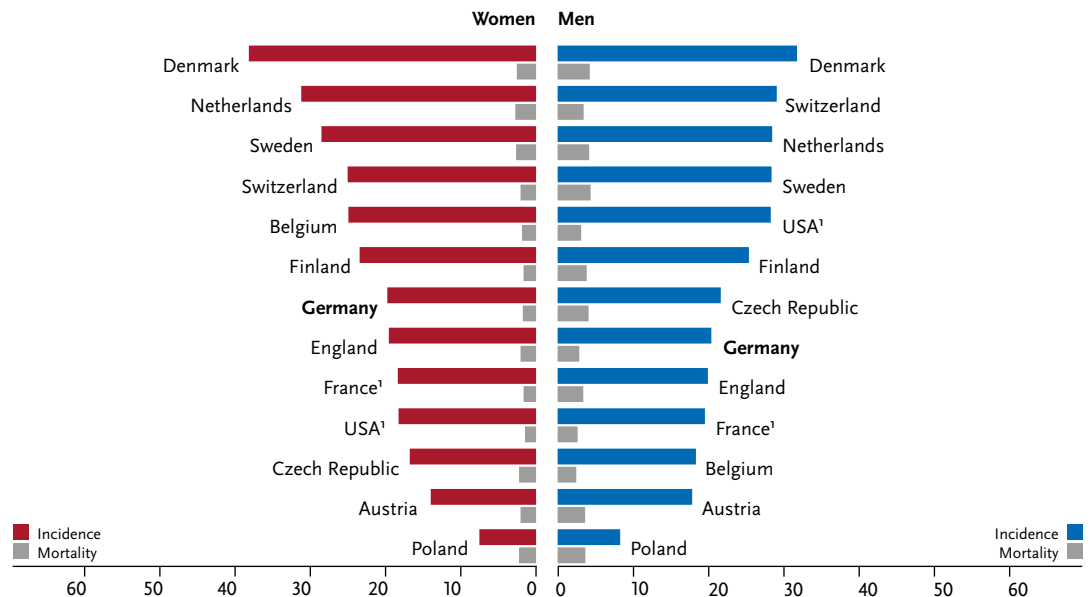


Figure 3.13.7
 International comparison of age-standardised incidence and mortality rates by sex,
 ICD-10 C43, 2015–2016 or latest available year (details and sources, see appendix)
 per 100,000 (old European Standard)



¹ Data according to ICD-O-3 for topography C44 for morphology 8720 – 8780