

3.10 Pancreas

Table 3.10.1
Overview of key epidemiological parameters for Germany, ICD-10 C25

Incidence	2019		2020			
	Women	Men	Women	Men		
Incident cases	10,140	10,150	9,960	10,270		
Crude incidence rate ¹	24.1	24.8	23.6	25.0		
Age-standardised incidence rate ^{1,2}	11.6	15.1	11.4	15.1		
Median age at diagnosis	76	72	76	72		
Mortality	2019		2020		2021	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Deaths	9,638	9,584	9,474	9,448	9,602	9,570
Crude mortality rate ¹	22.9	23.4	22.5	23	22.8	23.3
Age-standardised mortality rate ^{1,2}	10.3	13.8	10.0	13.4	10.0	13.3
Median age at death	78	74	78	74	80	74
Prevalence and survival rates	5 years		10 years		25 years	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Prevalence	11,600	11,500	15,100	15,700	17,900	19,200
Absolute survival rate (2019–2020) ³	10 (8–14)	9 (6–12)	7 (6–10)	6 (4–8)		
Relative survival rate (2019–2020) ³	11 (9–16)	11 (6–14)	9 (8–14)	9 (6–12)		

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

Epidemiology

In 2020, about 20,200 people were diagnosed with pancreatic cancer (pancreatic carcinoma). Due to the unfavourable prognosis, almost as many people died from this disease. Since the end of the 1990s, the age-standardised incidence and mortality rates have risen slightly, particularly in the older age groups of 65 years and over. The absolute number of new cases and deaths for both sexes has risen continuously over the years, partly due to demographic trends.

Malignant neoplasms of the pancreas often cause no or only unspecific symptoms in the early stages, meaning that the tumour is often only detected late. The relative 5-year survival rate is therefore extremely unfavourable. In Germany, it is 11% for women and men with pancreatic cancer. This means that pancreatic carcinoma has the lowest survival rate of all cancers apart from mesothelioma. With a proportion of 9.0% (women) and 7.5% (men), it is the fourth most common cause of cancer death in both sexes. The median age at diagnosis is 76 years for women and 72 years for men.

Risk factors

Smoking, both active and passive, and being very overweight (obesity) are recognised risk factors. Diabetes (type 2 diabetes mellitus) and chronic inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis) also increase the risk. This also applies to very high alcohol consumption. Infections with pathogens such as *Helicobacter pylori* and hepatitis B (or HIV) are associated with the development of pancreatic cancer. First-degree relatives of patients with pancreatic cancer are affected more frequently than average. This may be due to hereditary factors, such as a BRCA 2 mutation, or a shared lifestyle. People who frequently eat processed meat products, smoked or grilled foods could also increase their risk of pancreatic cancer.

The role played by environmental factors or occupational exposure to pollutants is not clearly understood.

Figure 3.10.1a
 Age-standardised incidence and mortality rates by sex, ICD-10 C25, Germany 1999 – 2020/2021
 per 100,000 (old European Standard)

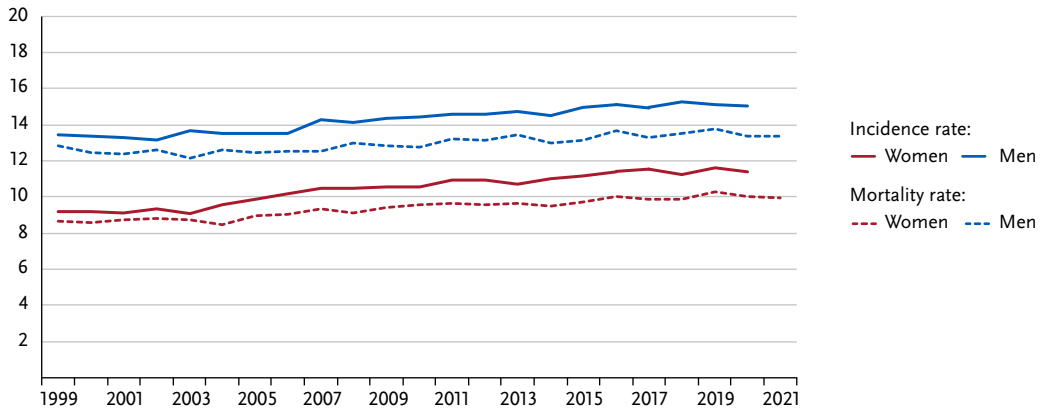


Figure 3.10.1b
 Absolute numbers of incident cases and deaths by sex, ICD-10 C25, Germany 1999 – 2020/2021

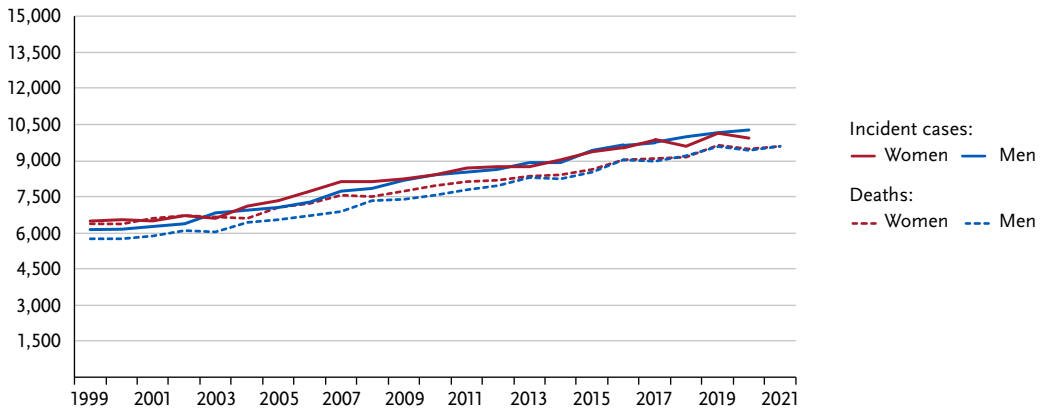


Figure 3.10.2
 Age-specific incidence rates by sex, ICD-10 C25, Germany 2019 – 2020
 per 100,000

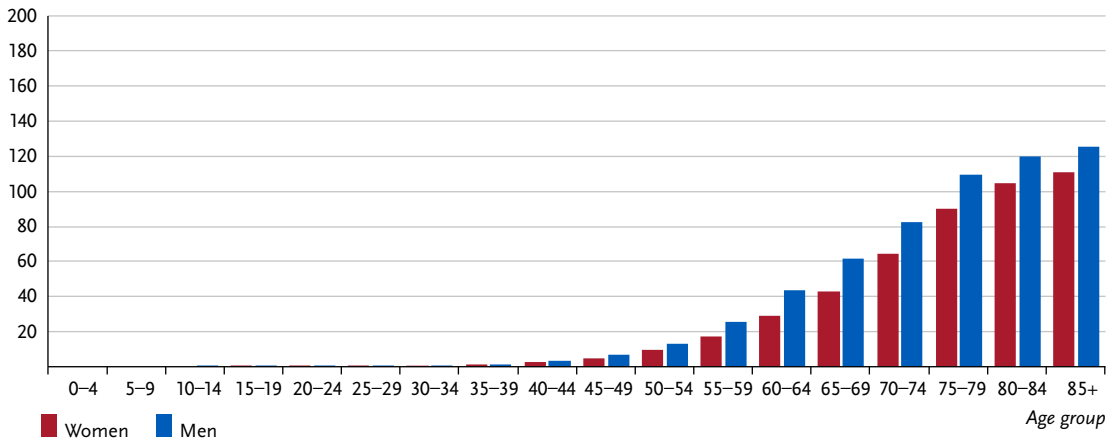


Table 3.10.2
Cancer incidence and mortality risks in Germany by age and sex, ICD-10 C25, database 2019

Women aged	Risk of developing cancer				Mortality risk			
	in the next 10 years		ever		in the next 10 years		ever	
35 years	< 0.1 %	(1 in 4,700)	1.9 %	(1 in 52)	< 0.1 %	(1 in 11,400)	1.9 %	(1 in 54)
45 years	0.1 %	(1 in 1,300)	1.9 %	(1 in 52)	0.1 %	(1 in 2,000)	1.9 %	(1 in 54)
55 years	0.2 %	(1 in 440)	1.9 %	(1 in 53)	0.2 %	(1 in 540)	1.8 %	(1 in 54)
65 years	0.5 %	(1 in 190)	1.7 %	(1 in 58)	0.5 %	(1 in 210)	1.7 %	(1 in 57)
75 years	0.8 %	(1 in 120)	1.4 %	(1 in 73)	0.8 %	(1 in 120)	1.4 %	(1 in 69)
Lifetime risk			1.9 %	(1 in 52)			1.8 %	(1 in 54)
Men aged	in the next 10 years		ever		in the next 10 years		ever	
35 years	< 0.1 %	(1 in 4,100)	1.9 %	(1 in 52)	< 0.1 %	(1 in 8,200)	1.9 %	(1 in 53)
45 years	0.1 %	(1 in 970)	1.9 %	(1 in 52)	0.1 %	(1 in 1,300)	1.9 %	(1 in 53)
55 years	0.3 %	(1 in 300)	1.9 %	(1 in 53)	0.3 %	(1 in 360)	1.9 %	(1 in 54)
65 years	0.7 %	(1 in 150)	1.7 %	(1 in 58)	0.6 %	(1 in 170)	1.7 %	(1 in 57)
75 years	0.9 %	(1 in 110)	1.3 %	(1 in 75)	0.9 %	(1 in 110)	1.4 %	(1 in 70)
Lifetime risk			1.9 %	(1 in 52)			0.4 %	(1 in 54)

Figure 3.10.3
Distribution of UICC stages at diagnosis by sex, ICD-10 C25, Germany 2019 – 2020
(top: incl. missing data and DCO cases; bottom: valid values only)

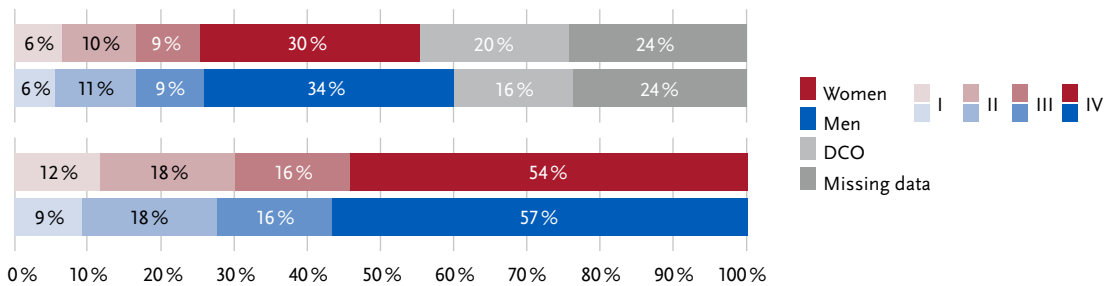


Figure 3.10.4
Absolute and relative survival rates up to 10 years after diagnosis, by sex, ICD-10 C25, Germany 2019 – 2020

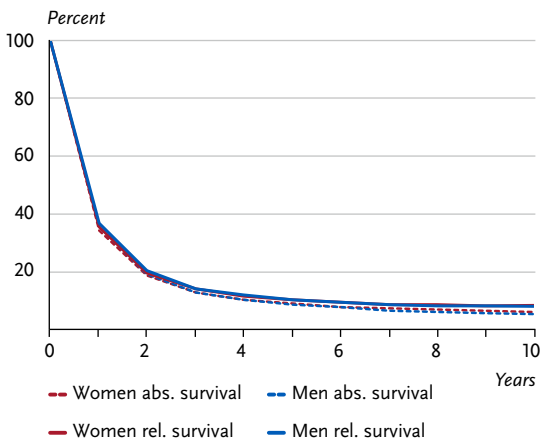


Figure 3.10.5
Relative 5-year survival by histology and sex, ICD-10 C25, Germany 2019 – 2020

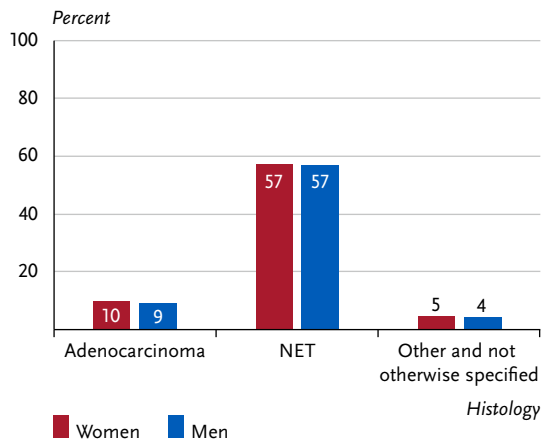


Figure 3.10.6
 Age-standardised incidence and mortality rates in German federal states by sex, ICD-10 C25, 2019 – 2020
 per 100,000 (old European Standard)

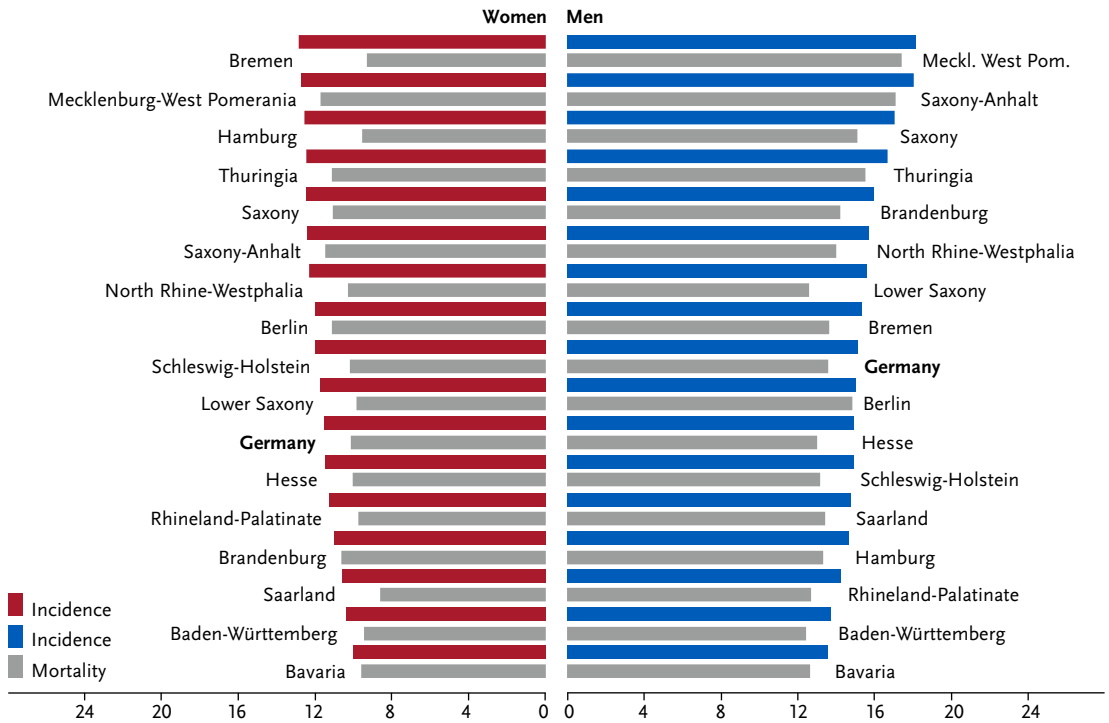
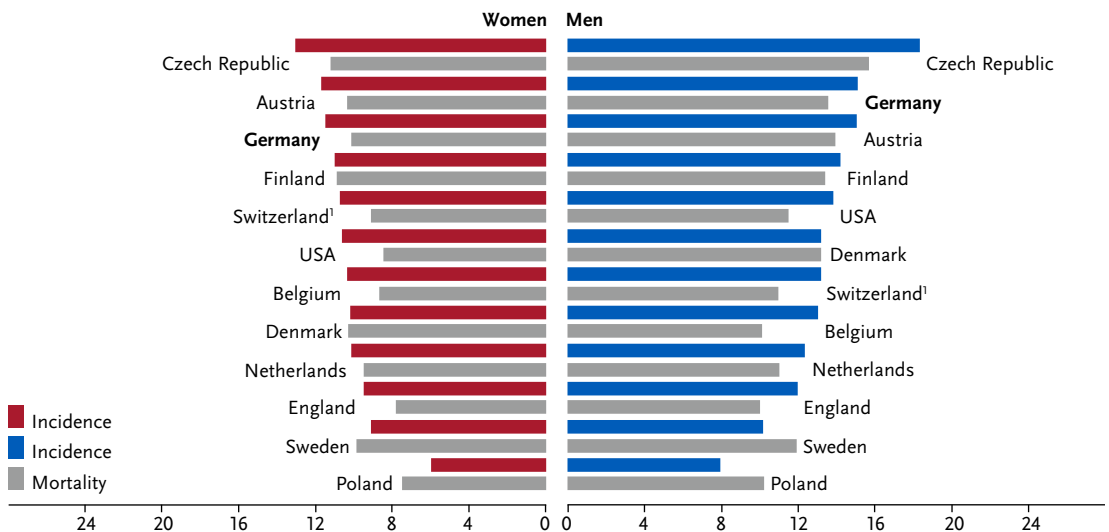


Figure 3.10.7
 International comparison of age-standardised incidence and mortality rates by sex,
 ICD-10 C25, 2019 – 2020 or latest available year (details and sources, see appendix)
 per 100,000 (old European Standard)



¹ Switzerland: incidence data for 2015 – 2019