



Belgian Cancer Registry



Cancer Fact Sheet **Head & Neck Cancer**  
ICD10 : C00-C14, C30-C32

**Belgium 2020**

# 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, 2020

Males	Age (years)	N	CR	ESR	WSR	CRi
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>65.4</b>	<b>1,826</b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>2.17</b>
Brussels-Capital Region	64.1	131	21.9	22.4	15.5	1.84
Flemish Region	66.5	1,048	31.9	22.5	15.8	1.99
Walloon Region	63.9	647	36.3	28.5	20.4	2.57

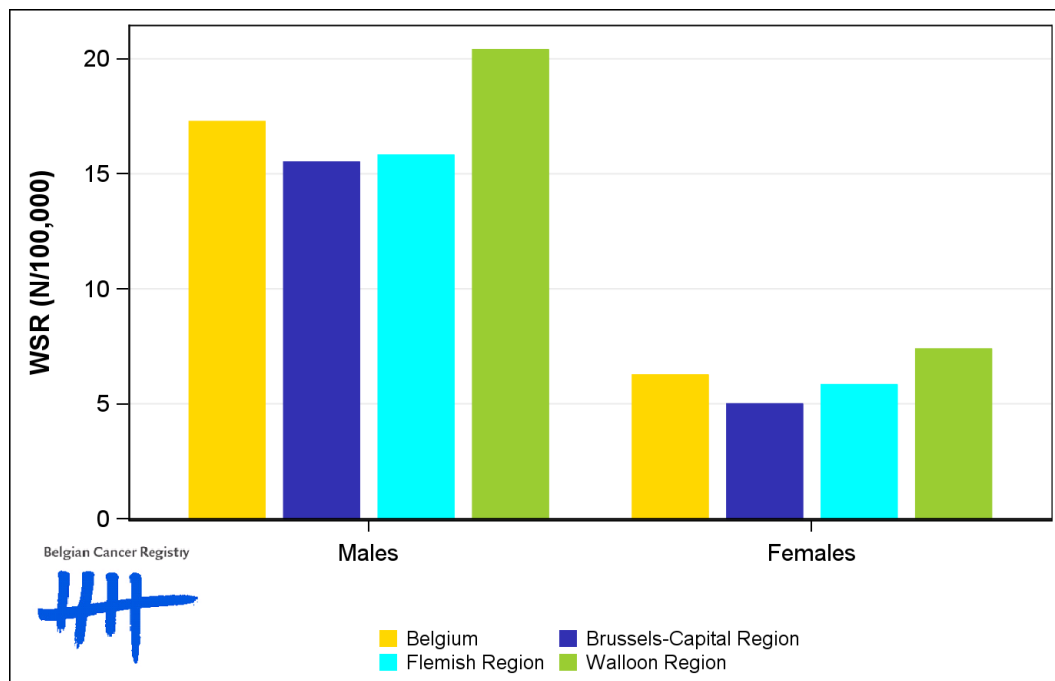
Females	Age (years)	N	CR	ESR	WSR	CRi
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>65.7</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>0.75</b>
Brussels-Capital Region	65.8	50	8.1	7.2	5.0	0.63
Flemish Region	66.7	399	11.9	8.1	5.8	0.67
Walloon Region	64.1	256	13.7	10.2	7.4	0.92

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, 2020



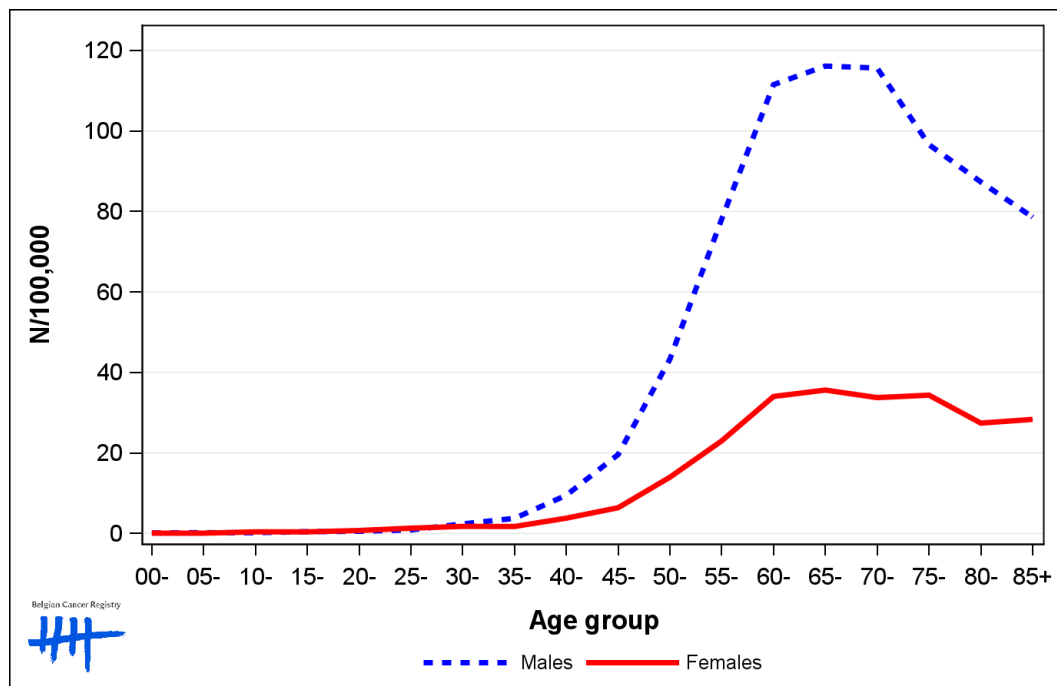
## 1.2. Age-specific incidence rates

**Table 2:** Head and Neck Cancer: Age-specific incidence rates, crude rate (CR) and age-standardised incidence rates (ESR and WSR) by sex, Belgium 2020

	00-	05-	10-	15-	20-	25-	30-	35-	40-	45-	50-	55-	60-	65-	70-	75-	80-	85+	CR	ESR	WSR
Males	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	1.3	2.7	2.9	7.3	19.1	34.5	63.4	95.6	101.3	109.4	105.7	83.7	76.2	32.3	24.4	17.3
Females	0.0	0.3	0.6	0.0	0.6	1.1	1.9	1.6	5.2	5.8	15.9	18.6	35.4	31.8	31.5	37.5	25.4	25.5	12.1	8.7	6.3

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, 2016-2020



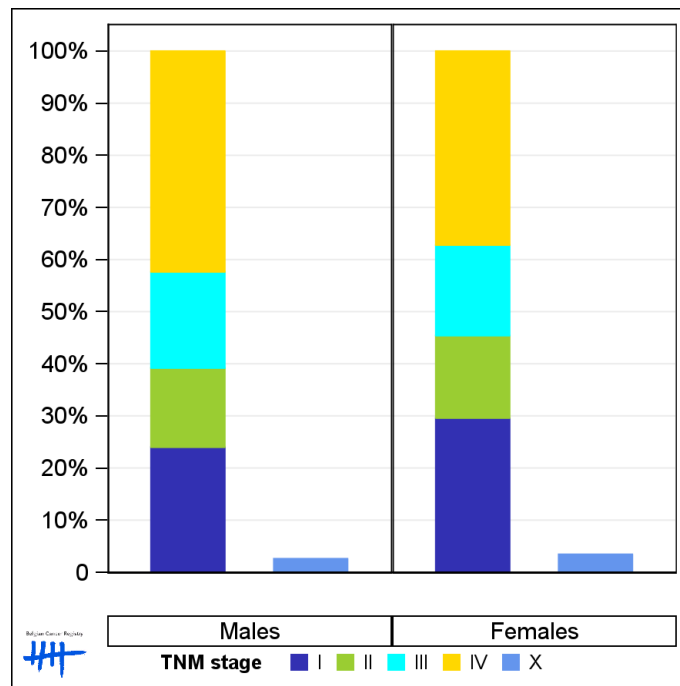
### 1.3. Combined stage

**Table 3:** Head and Neck Cancer: Distribution of combined stage by sex, Belgium 2020

	Stage I	Stage II	Stage III	Stage IV	Stage X	Stage NA	Total
<b>Males</b>							
N	414	262	318	730	46	56	1,826
%	22.7	14.3	17.4	40.0	2.5	3.1	100
<b>Females</b>							
N	191	102	112	240	23	37	705
%	27.1	14.5	15.9	34.0	3.3	5.2	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 2020



## 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

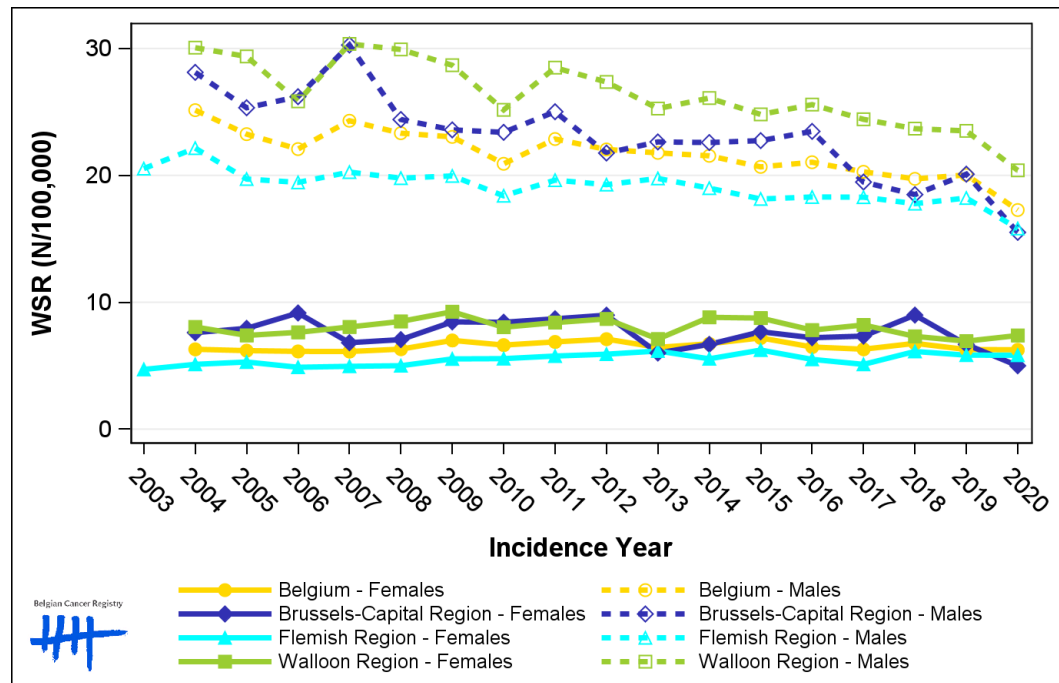
Males	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	AAPC	95% CI
<b>Belgium</b>	22.1	24.3	23.3	23.0	20.9	22.9	22.0	21.8	21.5	20.7	21.0	20.3	19.7	20.0	17.3	-1.7	[-2.2; -1.1]
Brussels-Capital Region	26.2	30.3	24.4	23.6	23.4	25.0	21.8	22.6	22.6	22.7	23.5	19.5	18.5	20.1	15.5	-3.0	[-4.0; -1.9]
Flemish Region	19.5	20.3	19.8	20.0	18.4	19.6	19.3	19.8	19.0	18.1	18.3	18.3	17.8	18.2	15.8	-1.1	[-1.6; -0.7]
Walloon Region	25.8	30.4	29.9	28.7	25.2	28.5	27.4	25.3	26.1	24.8	25.6	24.4	23.7	23.5	20.4	-1.9	[-2.6; -1.1]

Females	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	AAPC	95% CI
<b>Belgium</b>	6.1	6.1	6.3	7.0	6.6	6.9	7.1	6.4	6.7	7.2	6.5	6.3	6.8	6.3	6.3	0;0.1	[-0.5; 0.6]
Brussels-Capital Region	9.2	6.8	7.1	8.5	8.4	8.7	9.0	6.0	6.7	7.7	7.2	7.3	9.0	6.7	5.0	-1.7	[-3.7; 0.4]
Flemish Region	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.5	5.6	5.8	5.9	6.2	5.5	6.2	5.5	5.1	6.1	5.8	5.8	1.2	[0.5; 1.9]
Walloon Region	7.6	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	-0.3	[-1.3; 0.7]

WSR=Age-Standardised Rate, using the World Standard Population (N/100,000 person-years)  
 AAPC = Average Annual Percentage Change over the 2006-2020 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

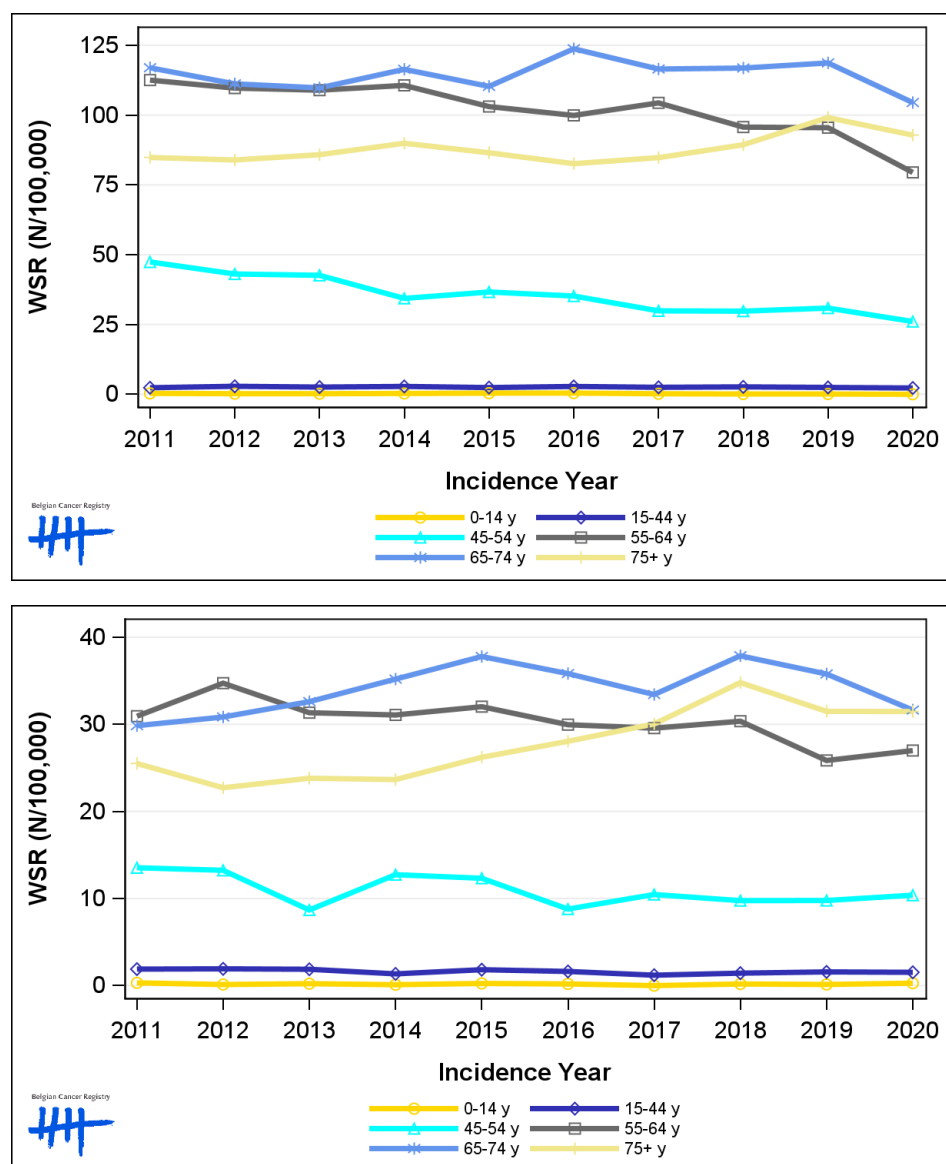
**Table 5:** Head and Neck Cancer: Number of new diagnoses and age-standardised incidence rates (WSR) by broad age groups and incidence year by sex, Belgium

	N										WSR									
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Males</b>																				
All ages	2,027	1,966	1,997	2,015	1,963	2,020	2,005	1,995	2,070	1,826	22.9	22.0	21.8	21.5	20.7	21.0	20.3	19.7	20.0	17.3
0-14 y	3	2	2	3	4	4	2	1	1	0	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.2	<0.1	<0.1	0.0
15-44 y	63	72	68	73	61	71	64	67	63	56	2.3	2.9	2.6	2.8	2.4	2.8	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.2
45-54 y	392	358	361	290	309	298	251	251	260	212	47.4	43.1	42.6	34.3	36.6	35.2	29.9	29.8	30.9	26.1
55-64 y	751	738	738	757	715	703	747	694	704	595	112.5	109.7	108.9	110.7	103.1	99.9	104.4	95.7	95.5	79.5
65-74 y	506	497	506	550	536	620	604	629	648	588	117.0	111.2	109.8	116.4	110.3	123.8	116.5	116.9	118.7	104.5
75+ y	312	299	322	342	338	324	337	353	394	375	84.8	83.9	85.8	89.9	86.5	82.6	84.8	89.4	99.1	92.8
<b>Females</b>																				
All ages	667	694	652	683	739	696	703	761	712	705	6.9	7.1	6.4	6.7	7.2	6.5	6.3	6.8	6.3	6.3
0-14 y	3	1	2	1	2	2	0	2	1	3	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.3
15-44 y	46	50	46	33	45	37	28	32	40	38	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.3	1.8	1.6	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.5
45-54 y	109	110	72	105	100	73	86	80	79	84	13.5	13.2	8.7	12.7	12.3	8.8	10.5	9.8	9.8	10.4
55-64 y	211	238	218	218	227	214	216	225	194	204	30.9	34.7	31.3	31.1	32.0	30.0	29.6	30.4	25.9	27.0
65-74 y	146	156	167	184	202	197	191	219	213	193	29.8	30.8	32.6	35.2	37.8	35.8	33.4	37.9	35.8	31.6
75+ y	152	139	147	142	163	173	182	203	185	183	25.5	22.7	23.8	23.7	26.2	28.1	30.0	34.8	31.5	31.5

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 2016-2020

	5-year relative survival 2016-2020 (%)					
	Males			Females		
	N at risk	estimate	95% CI	N at risk	estimate	95% CI
<b>Overall</b>	9,560	53.4	[51.9, 54.8]	3,463	58.5	[56.1, 60.9]
<b>Age group</b>						
15-49 years	694	69.6	[65.3, 73.5]	295	79.2	[72.9, 84.2]
50-74 years	7,125	52.4	[50.8, 54.0]	2,268	59.7	[56.9, 62.4]
75+ years	1,746	50.8	[46.2, 55.4]	903	47.9	[41.9, 54.0]
<b>Region</b>						
Brussels-Capital Region	730	54.4	[49.2, 59.5]	310	58.2	[50.0, 65.9]
Flemish Region	5,351	56.8	[54.9, 58.7]	1,860	59.6	[56.2, 62.9]
Walloon Region	3,479	48.0	[45.7, 50.4]	1,293	56.9	[53.1, 60.6]

**Figure 6:** Head and Neck Cancer: relative survival proportion by sex, Belgium 2016-2020

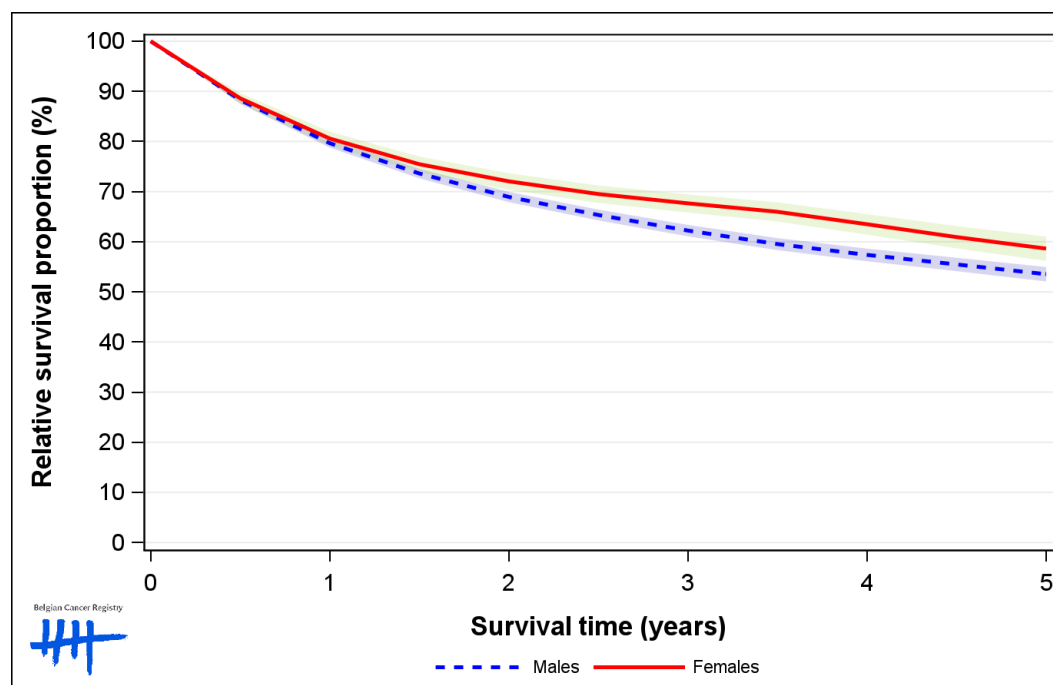


Figure 7: Head and Neck Cancer: relative survival proportion by age group in males, Belgium 2016-2020

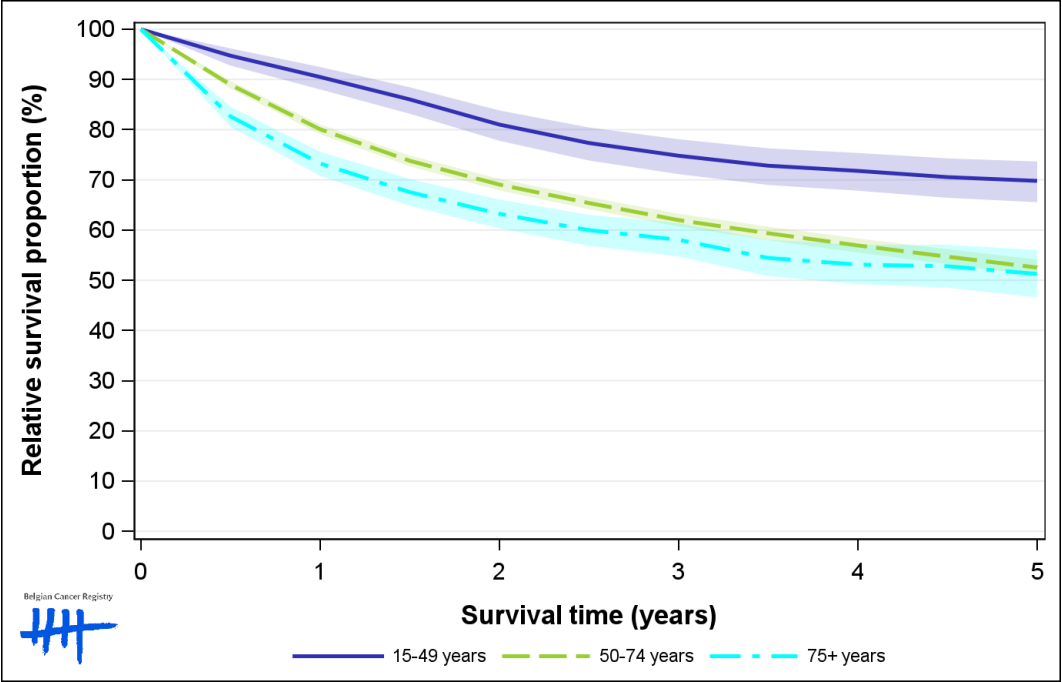
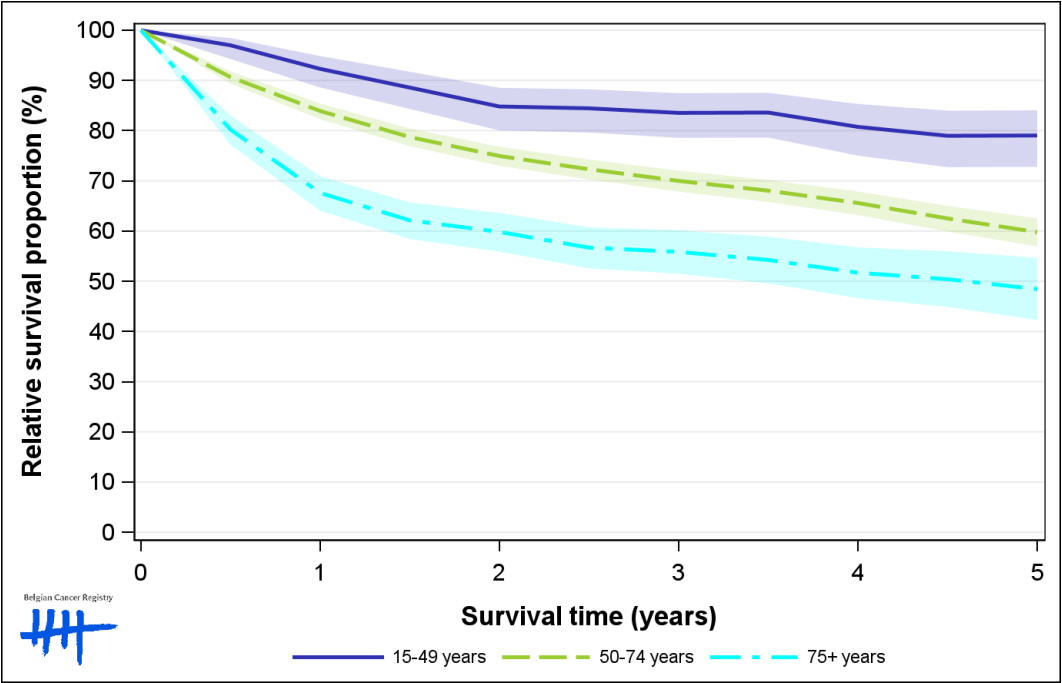
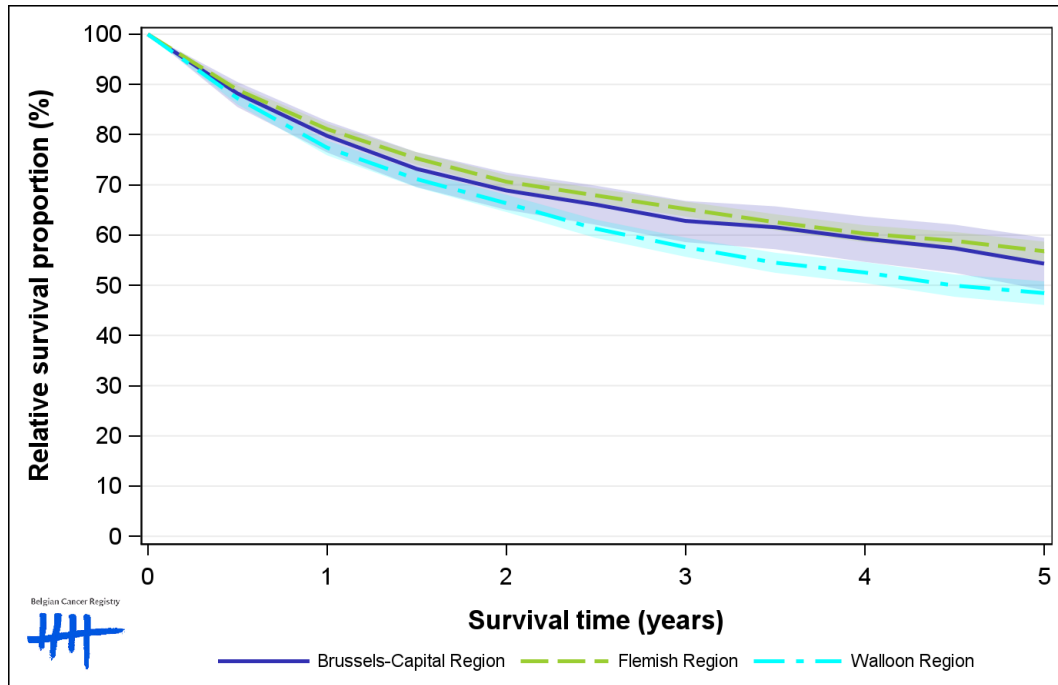


Figure 8: Head and Neck Cancer: relative survival proportion by age group in females, Belgium 2016-2020





**Figure 9:** Head and Neck Cancer: relative survival proportion by region in males, Belgium 2016-2020



**Figure 10:** Head and Neck Cancer: relative survival proportion by region in females, Belgium 2016-2020

