Belgian Cancer Registry

Cancer Fact Sheet **Breast Cancer**

ICD10 : C50

Belgium 2021

1. Cancer Incidence
1.1. Number of new diagnoses and incidence rates

Table 1: Female Breast 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 region, 2021
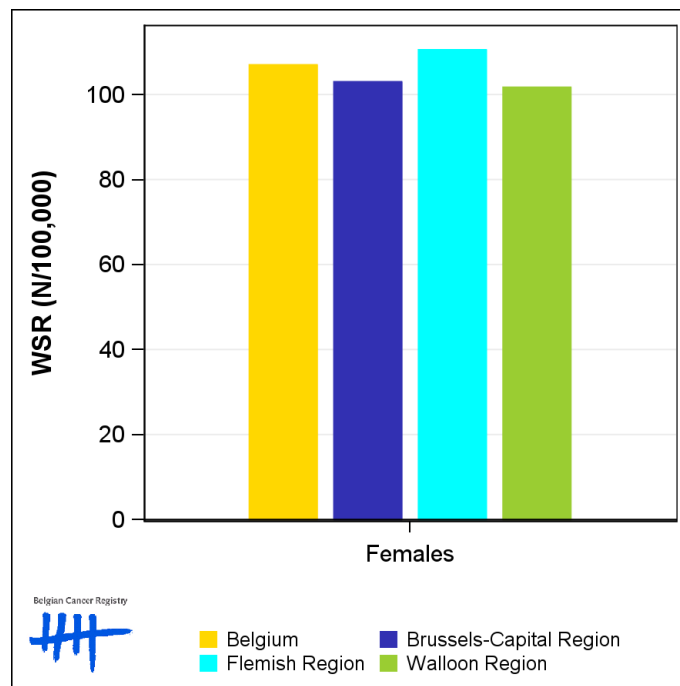
Females	Age (years)	N	CR	ESR	WSR	CRi
Belgium	**63.5**	**11,319**	**193.7**	**145.9**	**107.0**	**11.36**
Brussels-Capital Region	61.7	956	154.0	140.8	103.0	11.08
Flemish Region	63.6	6,860	204.2	150.4	110.5	11.69
Walloon Region	63.9	3,503	188.0	139.5	101.7	10.84

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: Female Breast Cancer: Age-standardised incidence rates by region, 2021
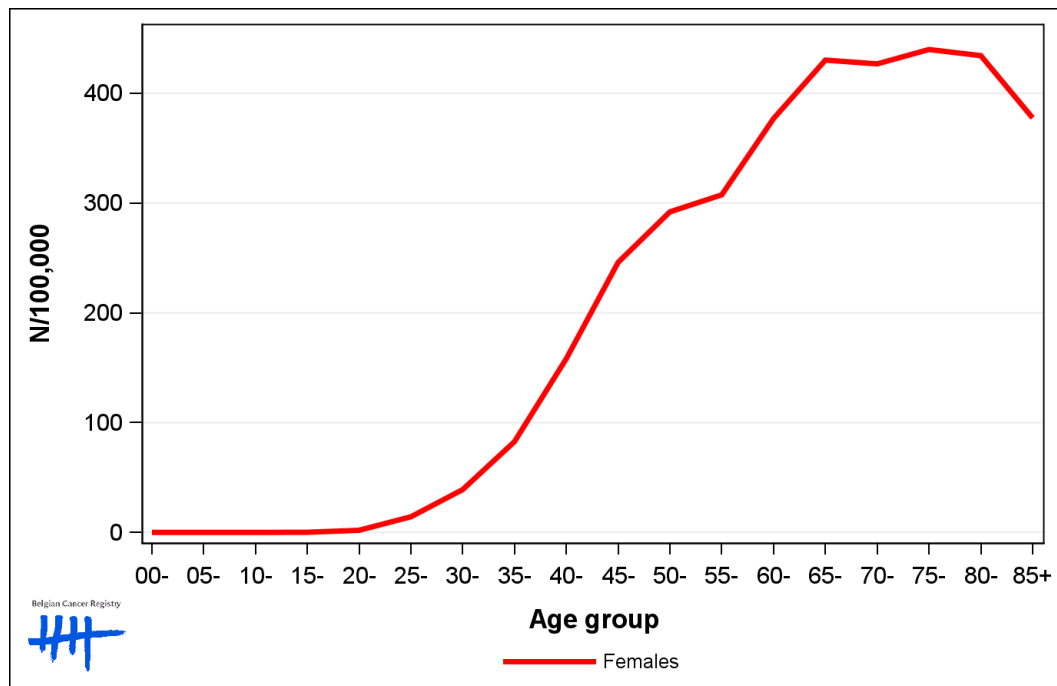
1.2. Age-specific incidence rates

Table 2: Female Breast Cancer: Age-specific incidence rates, crude rate (CR) and age-standardised incidence rates (ESR and WSR), Belgium 2021

	00-	05-	10-	15-	20-	25-	30-	35-	40-	45-	50-	55-	60-	65-	70-	75-	80-	85+	CR	ESR	WSR
Females	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8	12.9	45.2	77.6	159.7	258.6	293.9	315.4	378.7	447.2	421.4	481.1	446.5	397.8	193.7	145.9	107.0

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)

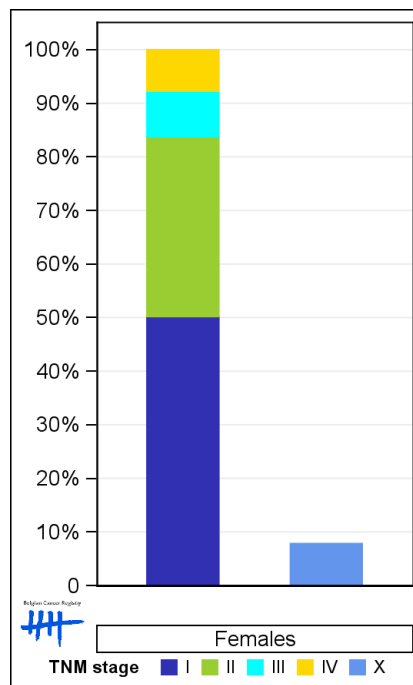*Figure 2:* Female Breast Cancer: Age-specific incidence rates, 2017-2021

1.3. Combined stage

Table 3: Female Breast Cancer: Distribution of combined stage, Belgium 2021

	Stage I	Stage II	Stage III	Stage IV	Stage X	Stage NA	Total
Females							
N	5,226	3,497	885	802	883	26	11,319
%	46.2	30.9	7.8	7.1	7.8	0.2	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: Female Breast Cancer: Bar chart of known combined stage, Belgium 2021
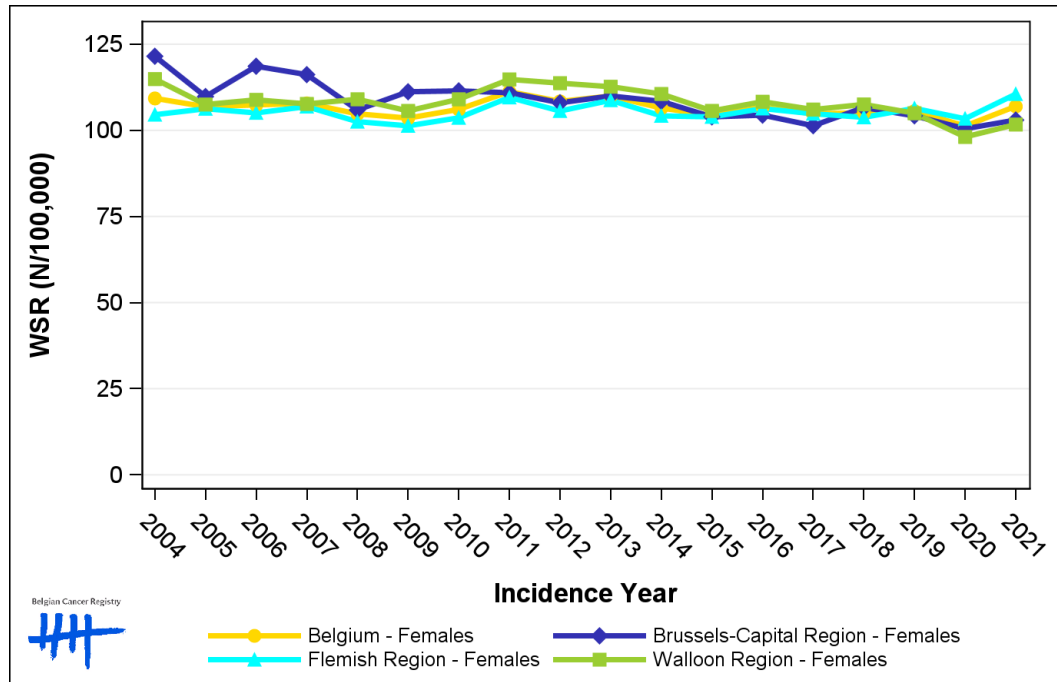
1.4. Trends in incidence

Table 4: Female Breast Cancer: Age-standardised incidence rates (WSR) and average annual percentage change (AAPC) by incidence year and region

Females	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	AAPC	95% CI
Belgium	**107.8**	**104.8**	**103.6**	**106.1**	**111.2**	**108.4**	**110.0**	**106.5**	**104.4**	**106.7**	**104.8**	**105.1**	**105.6**	**101.3**	**107.0**	**-0.2**	**[-0.5; 0.1]**
Brussels-Capital Region	116.2	105.9	111.2	111.5	110.9	108.0	110.0	108.4	103.9	104.4	101.4	106.6	104.2	100.5	103.0	-0.7	[-1.0; -0.4]
Flemish Region	106.9	102.5	101.3	103.6	109.6	105.6	108.7	104.2	103.9	106.3	104.8	103.8	106.4	103.4	110.5	0.1	[-0.2; 0.5]
Walloon Region	107.7	109.0	105.7	109.0	114.8	113.7	112.7	110.6	105.7	108.3	106.1	107.5	105.0	98.1	101.7	-0.4	[-0.7; -0.1]

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: Female Breast Cancer: Age-standardised incidence rates (WSR) by incidence year and region
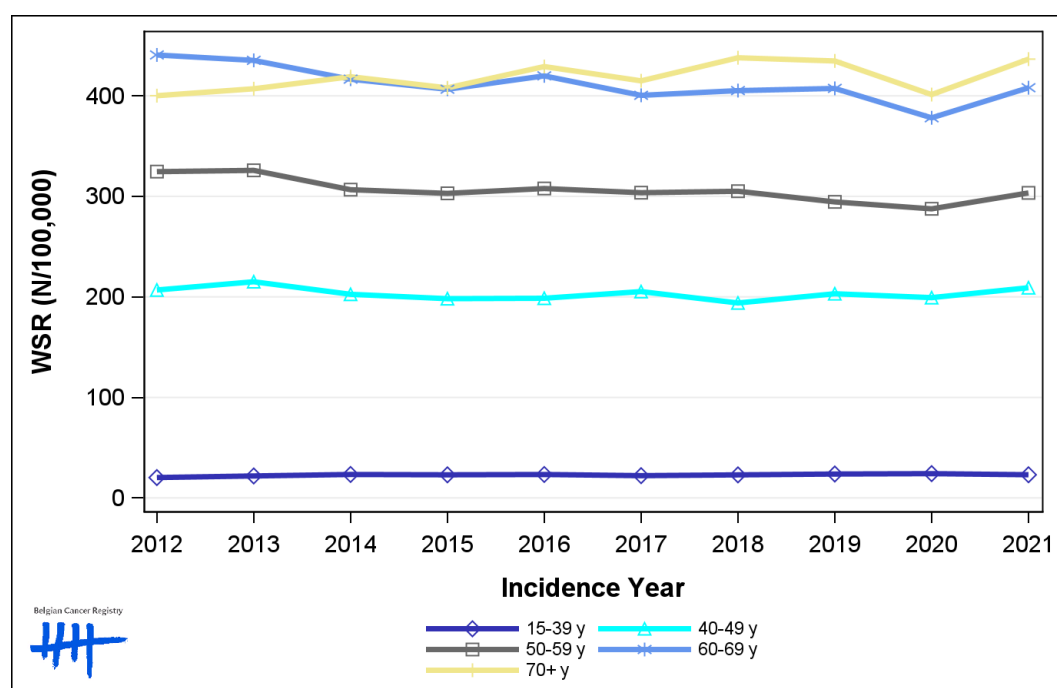
1.5. Incidence by broad age groups

Table 5: Female Breast Cancer: Number of new diagnoses and age-standardised incidence rates (WSR) by broad age groups and incidence year, Belgium

	N										WSR									
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Females																				
All ages	10,553	10,711	10,477	10,407	10,784	10,661	10,926	10,999	10,494	11,319	108.4	110.0	106.5	104.4	106.7	104.8	105.1	105.6	101.3	107.0
0-14 y	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
15-39 y	429	465	498	495	507	483	506	525	531	513	20.3	21.9	23.4	23.0	23.3	22.2	23.0	23.8	24.2	23.1
40-49 y	1,652	1,709	1,589	1,532	1,518	1,552	1,462	1,527	1,491	1,559	206.9	215.1	202.6	198.2	198.7	205.3	194.0	203.1	199.3	209.1
50-59 y	2,453	2,491	2,379	2,381	2,423	2,407	2,423	2,337	2,282	2,402	324.6	325.9	306.7	303.0	307.8	303.7	305.1	294.5	287.6	303.5
60-69 y	2,649	2,708	2,634	2,631	2,774	2,669	2,729	2,776	2,612	2,866	440.7	435.3	416.6	406.6	419.9	400.5	405.2	407.4	378.2	408.1
70+ y	3,370	3,338	3,377	3,368	3,562	3,550	3,806	3,834	3,578	3,979	400.2	407.1	419.1	408.0	429.2	415.0	437.9	434.7	401.3	436.5

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

Figure 5: Female Breast Cancer: Age-standardised incidence rates (WSR) versus incidence year by broad age groups, Belgium

2. Relative survival

Table 6: Female Breast Cancer: 5-year relative survival proportion by age group and region, Belgium 2017-2021

	5-year relative survival 2017-2021 (%)		
	Females		
	N at risk	estimate	95% CI
Overall	54,282	92.1	[91.6, 92.5]
Age group			
15-49 years	10,116	94.5	[93.9, 95.1]
50-69 years	25,449	94.5	[94.1, 95.0]
70+ years	18,717	86.7	[85.5, 87.9]
Region			
Brussels-Capital Region	4,655	92.3	[90.6, 93.8]
Flemish Region	32,257	92.2	[91.6, 92.7]
Walloon Region	17,370	91.8	[91.0, 92.6]

Figure 6: Female Breast Cancer: relative survival proportion, Belgium 2017-2021
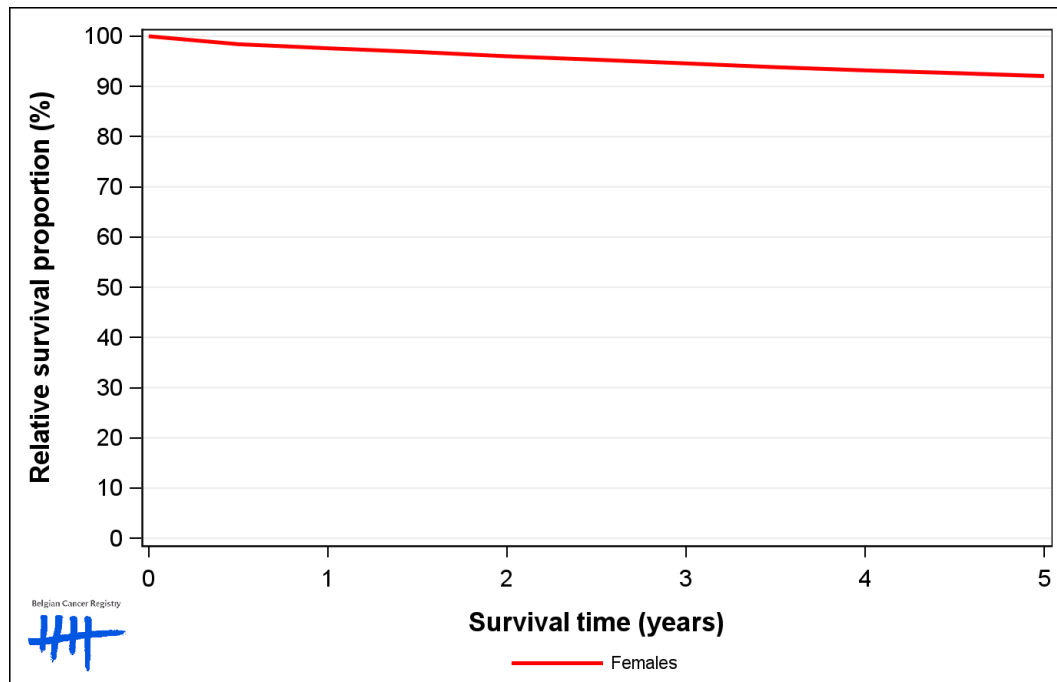
Figure 7: Female Breast Cancer: relative survival proportion by age group, Belgium 2017-2021
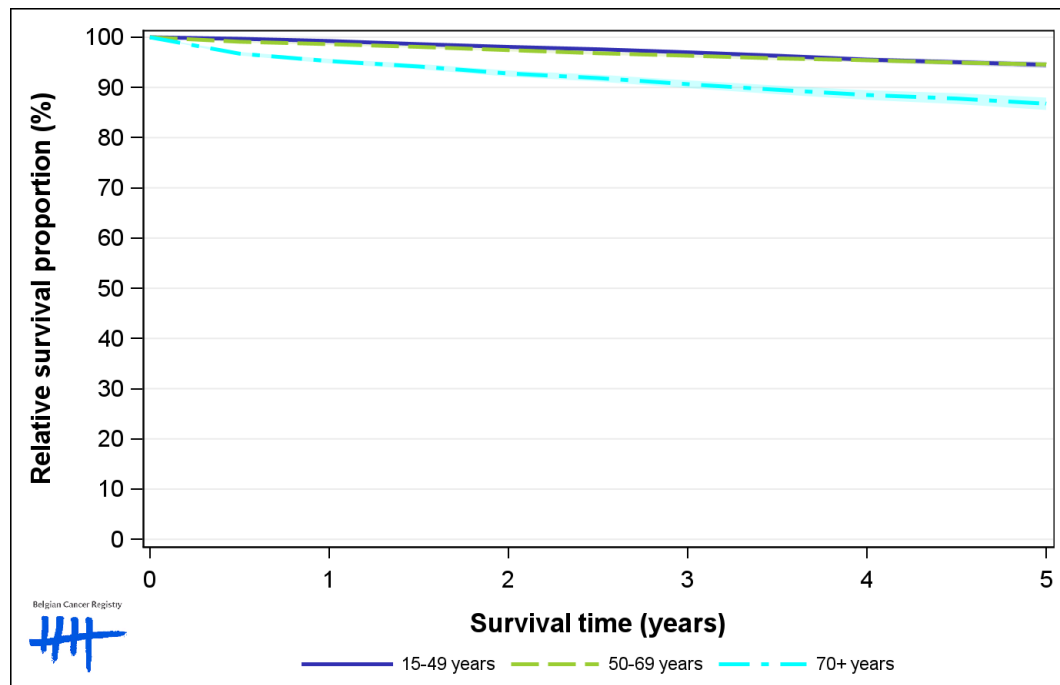

Figure 8: Female Breast Cancer: relative survival proportion by region, Belgium 2017-2021