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Title: The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on cancer diagnosis based on pathology notifications: A comparison across the Nordic countries during 2020

Short title: COVID-19 and Nordic cancer notification

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Abbreviations:

CI: Confidence Interval

COVID-19: Coronavirus disease 2019

ICD-O: International Classification of Diseases for Oncology

NORPAT: Norwegian Pathology codes

PC: Percentage Change

RR: Relative rate

SNOMED: Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine

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NOVELTY AND IMPACT

This is the first international comparison of cancer notification rates during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, including six countries with similar tax-funded healthcare systems and population-based cancer reporting. Our findings suggest that, despite differences in pandemic mitigation efforts, the severity of the pandemic may have had a larger effect on cancer detection than strict societal restrictions. In all countries, it is of importance to monitor future trends in late-stage cancer incidence and survival.

ABSTRACT

The severity of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent mitigation strategies have varied across the Nordic countries. In a joint Nordic population-based effort, we compared patterns of new cancer cases and notifications between the Nordic countries during 2020. We used pathology notifications to cancer registries in Denmark, the Faroe Islands, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden to determine monthly numbers of pathology notifications of malignant and in-situ tumors from January to December 2020 compared to 2019 (2017-2019 for Iceland and the Faroe Islands). We compared new cancer cases per month based on unique individuals with pathology notifications. In April and May 2020, the numbers of new malignant cases declined in all Nordic countries, except the Faroe Islands, compared to previous year(s). The largest reduction was observed in Sweden (May: -31.2%, 95% CI -33.9, -28.3), followed by significant declines in Finland, Denmark and Norway, and a non-significant decline in Iceland. In Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland the reporting rates during the second half of 2020 rose to almost the same level as in 2019. However, in Sweden and Finland, the increase did not compensate for the spring decline (annual reduction -6.2% and -3.6%, respectively). Overall, similar patterns were observed for in-situ tumors. The COVID-19 pandemic led to a decline in rates of new cancer cases in Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Norway, with the most pronounced reduction in Sweden. Possible explanations include the severity of the pandemic, temporary halting of screening activities and changes in healthcare seeking behaviour.

INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic has had profound global impacts on public health and delivery of healthcare, including reports of fewer patients seeking care for life-threatening conditions.¹ For cancer, there have been reports of declines in number of newly diagnosed cases during the pandemic, patterns that are

likely to reflect postponement of seeking healthcare, lower diagnostic activity and lower attendance in outreach screening programs.²⁻⁴ Several countries temporarily halted screening activities in the first half of 2020, with effects on rates of newly diagnosed cancer cases.^{2,5-9}

Pandemic mitigation efforts, including bans on large gatherings and closing of schools, workplaces and restaurants, were implemented to varying degrees in all Nordic countries (Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland and the Faroe Islands) in March 2020 following the first reported COVID-19 cases (Supplementary Table S1). In Sweden, restrictions were mainly based on recommendations and individual responsibility without full societal lock-down, with schools remaining open for children under 17, elderly over 70 strongly recommended to shield and with employers and employees adhering to work-from-home policies. Contrary, in the other Nordic countries there were stricter assembly bans and societal lock-downs, including closing of schools and workplaces from March. All countries implemented strict domestic and international travel restrictions, including between the Nordic countries. From June to August 2020, restrictions were lifted gradually as the community transmission of COVID-19 declined in all countries, with Iceland and the Faroe Islands reporting no confirmed COVID-19 cases during some periods. However, in August, the COVID-19 rates increased again in the Faroe Islands, and also in the other countries in September and October. During this second surge, restrictions were resumed across all Nordic countries, albeit with larger regional variations, and remained in effect at the end of 2020. In Sweden, these restrictions were again based on recommendations, and in Denmark the restrictions were gradually implemented with schools, shops and restaurants not closing until late December 2020. By the end of December 2020, the COVID-19 incidence soared in Sweden and Denmark, while it was lower in the other countries.

Accepted Article

Across the Nordic countries, there were marked differences in COVID-19 incidence, hospitalisations and deaths during 2020 (Supplementary Table S2). Although testing strategies differed between the countries, Sweden had markedly higher rates of infection, hospitalisation and mortality than the other Nordic countries. By the end of 2020, more than 9,800 COVID-19 related deaths were reported in Sweden corresponding to a mortality rate of 97.2 per 100,000 compared to 22.4 (Denmark), 11.4 (Finland), 8.5 (Norway), 8.5 (Iceland) and 1.7 (the Faroe Islands) (Supplementary Table S2).

The Nordic region has a combined population of 27.2 million with an annual number of new cancer cases of 179,166 in 2019 and the five most common cancers being prostate, breast, colorectal, hematologic and lung cancer (Table 1). All Nordic countries have similar tax-funded healthcare systems, with universal access to care for all residents, including national screening programmes for breast and cervical cancer (and colorectal cancer in Denmark, the Faroe Islands and regionally in Sweden). During March-April 2020, screening activities were fully or partly halted due to impact of the pandemic in Norway, Sweden and Iceland, while they remained operational although with lower attendance rates in Denmark and Finland. The Faroe Islands reported no reductions in either screening activities or attendance during 2020.

Since the pandemic has had profound affects across all levels of healthcare, we aimed to assess both the impact on diagnostic activity and new cancer cases using data from pathology notifications. The aim of our study was therefore to compare patterns of cancer notifications and new cases during 2020, the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, across the Nordic countries that experienced marked differences in

COVID-19 infection rates and related deaths. For this purpose, we took advantage of similar systems for collection of high quality population-based cancer registry data in the Nordic region.¹⁰

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In this population-based study, we used pathology notifications to assess patterns of diagnostic activity and new cancer cases during 2020 in the Nordic countries. For this purpose, we used two separate measures: the 'number of notifications' as an indicator of diagnostic activity and the 'number of new cases' as an indicator of incidence. It should be noted that a case definition based on pathology notifications is not the same as the definition used in official cancer incidence statistics that is based on additional notifications other than pathology and includes additional quality assurance.¹⁰ Hence, in the present study the 'number of new cases' represents a proxy for cancer incidence.

In all Nordic countries, the law mandates notification of cancer to the national cancer registries. Cancer notifications originate from several clinical sources of which pathology notifications represent the most rapid data source reaching the cancer registries.¹⁰ The pathology notifications are based on cytology (including fine needle biopsy and other malignant cytology), biopsies (including core biopsy, true cut and excisions) and surgery.

We included pathology notifications to the Nordic national cancer registries covering 100% of the population in Denmark, the Faroe Islands, Finland, Iceland and Norway from 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2020. For Sweden, where national cancer registration is decentralised to six Regional Cancer

Centers, we included pathology notifications from 15 out of 31 laboratories with electronic reporting (covering approximately 55% of population), and pathological and/or clinical notifications (to cover 100% of population) to estimate new cancer cases during 2020 (Supplementary Table S3). The comparison period was from January until December 2019 for all countries except for Iceland and the Faroe Islands where average numbers across 2017-2019 were used to reduce random variation due to low numbers.

During diagnostic work-up, one cancer case may generate several pathology notifications. We used two separate counts of pathology notifications to describe the diagnostic activity and the number of new cases (Supplementary Table S3). First, the 'number of notifications' per month was counted as all pathology notifications in a given month (regardless of previous history of cancer or previous notifications in these individuals). This number included more notifications than new cases and can be viewed as a measure of the diagnostic activity and work-up intensity. Second, the 'number of new cases' per month was counted as all unique cases based on one or more pathology notifications per individual in a given month, i.e. if there were multiple notifications related to the same case, only the first was counted. For Sweden, the 'number of new cases' was based on pathology and/or clinical reports. For the 'number of new cases', we excluded cases with any malignant cancer notification within five years prior to the notification in 2020 or 2019 (2017-2019 for Iceland and Faroe Islands), except for Finland where cases with any previous pathology notification within two years prior were excluded due to technical changes made in the pathology notification database in 2017. For in-situ cases, we excluded cases with a previous notification of in-situ or malignant diagnosis within five years.

We used International Classification of Diseases for Oncology 3rd edition (ICD-O-3) or Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine (SNOMED)/Norwegian Pathology codes (NORPAT) to define the diagnosis in

the pathology notifications (Supplementary Table S3). Malignant diagnoses were defined according to ICD-O-3 as any topography (ICD-O-3: C00.0-C80.9) and morphology (ICD-O-3: 5th digit code 3, 6 or 9), excluding basal cell carcinoma (morphology codes: 80901-80983), and according to SNOMED/NORPAT as any T code and M codes M80000-M99999 with last digit 3-9, excluding basal cell carcinoma (M80901-M80999). In-situ diagnoses were defined according to ICD-O-3 as any topography (ICD-O-3: C00.0-C80.9) and morphology (ICD-O-3: 5th digit code 2), and according to SNOMED/NORPAT as any T code and M codes M80000-M99999 with last digit 2. In case of multiple diagnoses on the same notification, an invasive diagnosis had priority over an in-situ diagnosis. In-situ diagnoses for Finland were not used due to a major increase in coverage of in-situ reporting during the study period.

Statistical methods

Monthly numbers of new cases and notifications were compared between 2020 and 2019 (for Iceland and the Faroe Islands the comparison period was 2017-2019) for malignant and in-situ diagnoses. For the Faroe Islands, bimonthly intervals were used to reduce random variation. Percentage change within each country was calculated as the difference in monthly numbers (new cases, notifications) between 2020 and 2019 divided by the corresponding monthly numbers in 2019 (for Iceland and the Faroe Islands compared to the average monthly numbers 2017-2019). Ninety-five percent confidence intervals (CI) for the percentage change were estimated from a Poisson regression model for the number of new cases (notifications) for each month as outcome and including year and country as covariates (and their interaction), where the resulting rate ratio (RR) is a direct transformation of the percentage change (percentage change=[RR-1]*100) assuming same population size at risk for 2020 and 2019 (for Iceland and the Faroe Islands the population at risk was assumed the same 2017-2020). This is a reasonable assumption given that we only studied two (four) consecutive years. The monthly percentage changes

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across countries were compared with a likelihood ratio test of the models with and without the interaction of year and country. The Faroe Islands were excluded from the tests due to bimonthly intervals. Cumulative percentage change in 2020 within each country was calculated as the difference in monthly cumulative numbers (new cases, notifications) between 2020 and 2019 divided by the corresponding total number at the end of 2019 (for Iceland and the Faroe Islands compared to average monthly cumulative numbers 2017-2019 and average total numbers at end of 2017-2019). Thus, the estimated cumulative percentage change represents the change in 2020 standardized to the expected number in a reference year (2019 or 2017-2019) and is a measure of the cumulative deviation at each month from a year unaffected by the pandemic. Total annual numbers (new cases, notifications) during 2020 and the comparison year(s) were calculated by sex and age groups (18-49, 50-69, 70+ years), and the differences in absolute numbers are presented. Age groups were selected to broadly reflect screening ages and high risk groups for COVID-19.

Data were compiled and aggregated in each country, and anonymous tabulated data were analysed in Sweden. The statistical analysis was performed in Stata 17.0/BE (StataCorp. 2021. Stata Statistical Software: Release 17. College Station, TX: StataCorp LLC).

RESULTS

In all Nordic countries, except for Iceland and the Faroe Islands, there was a significant reduction in both the number of new malignant cases and notifications to the cancer registries in April and May 2020 (Table 2, Figure 1). The largest decline was observed in Sweden (malignant cases April: -25.0% and May: -31.2%) followed by Finland (April: -11.3% and May: -24.2%), while the reductions in Denmark and Norway were around 15% in both months (Denmark April: -13.6%, May: -15.7%, Norway April: -15.3%, May: -14.3%). In Iceland, there were non-significant reductions of -13.4% (Apr) and -17.2% (May), while there was no reduction in the Faroe Islands. In Iceland, there was an indication of a rebound in numbers

Accepted Article

during the second half of 2020 that largely compensated for the deficit earlier in the year, while the recovery in Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland was less pronounced. Numbers in the Faroe Islands were stable between June and August followed by a non-significant decline in number of cases and notifications between September and December coinciding with a rise of COVID-19 cases. For in-situ diagnoses, reported new cases and notifications from March and onwards largely followed the pattern for malignant diagnoses. In Sweden, the reduction in in-situ reporting was more pronounced than that for malignant reporting during the second half of 2020.

The cumulative deficit of new malignant cases and notifications to the Nordic cancer registries across months in 2020 compared to a reference year was largest in Sweden, followed by Finland (Figure 2). At the end of 2020, the total decline in new malignant cases in Sweden was -6.2% (95% CI:-7.2, -5.1) and -3.6% (-5.1,-2.1) in Finland, while there was no deficit in Denmark, Norway and the Faroe Islands, and a non-significant surplus in Iceland (+4.2%; -2.4, 11.3) (Table 2). The cumulative deficit of new in-situ cases was also largest in Sweden, with a total decline at the end of 2020 of -10.9% (-12.3, -9.4). The underlying reported monthly numbers are presented in Supplementary Figures S1 and S2.

To assess how the percentage change influenced absolute numbers of new cases and notifications to the Nordic cancer registries, the total annual numbers and percentage change by sex and age groups are presented in Table 3 and Figure 3. For malignant diagnoses, there were declines in numbers of new cases among women in Norway, Sweden and Finland, and in the age group 50-69 years in both sexes combined across all countries except Iceland and the Faroe Islands. For in-situ diagnoses, there were reduced numbers of new cases in both sexes and across age groups in Denmark and Sweden. Overall, the patterns of number of notifications mimicked the patterns in number of new cases.

DISCUSSION

Main findings

Despite pronounced differences in rates of COVID-19 cases and deaths between Sweden and the other Nordic countries, we found similar marked declines in new cases of histologically verified tumours during April and May 2020 across the Nordic region, that was most pronounced in Sweden. These initial reductions were followed by rebounds closer to expected levels during the rest of 2020 in Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland. In Iceland, rates of new cases remained at higher levels throughout 2020 compared to previous years. Although based on small numbers, the pattern in the Faroe Islands was different, with no apparent decline in cancer reporting during the first wave of the pandemic followed by a decline in from September to December 2020. The similar declines for number of notifications and new cases, as well as for malignant and in-situ diagnosis, are likely to reflect an effect of temporary halting or reductions of cancer screening and changes of healthcare seeking behaviour, rather than lower cancer diagnostic work-up intensity.

Due to demographic shifts, the number of cancer cases is expected to rise between 1.2% to 2.2% in the Nordic countries each year.¹¹ At the end of 2020, reporting in Sweden had not compensated for the spring deficit leading to an overall -6.2% decline in malignant cases for the entire year despite an expected annual increase of around 1.4%. In Denmark and Norway, with an expected yearly increase of around 1.6-2.2%, the reporting is unlikely to have been fully recovered since the yearly accumulated reporting ended around 0-1%. In Iceland, we observed a complete recovery with an increase in cancer reporting of 4.2% that was higher than expected. In Finland, with an expected annual increase of around 1.4%, the annual deficit was -3.6%. The overall patterns of reported notifications followed the patterns for cases, indicating that the reductions are likely to reflect fewer patients seeking care, reduced

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screening and lower attendance. Fewer patients seeking care will likely mostly affect the detection of malignant tumours, while lower screening activity will have the highest impact on in-situ diagnoses and early stage invasive tumours. However, in all countries, the overall patterns of reporting during 2020 was similar for malignant and in-situ tumors. Of special note was that the in-situ reporting in Sweden during the autumn of 2020 was markedly lower than the reporting of malignant tumours.

Effect of COVID-19 epidemic on cancer healthcare in the Nordic countries

While the available data did not allow for a direct assessment of COVID-19 related factors (severity of pandemic, mitigation efforts) that might have affected similarities and dissimilarities in cancer incidence and diagnostic work-up, a descriptive comparison between the Nordic countries may yet provide some insights. In Norway, Sweden and Iceland, screening programs were temporarily halted and attendance lower when resumed during the first surge of the pandemic, whereas screening remained open in Denmark and Finland, yet with lower attendance rates, in contrast to the Faroe Islands where attendance did not fall. Of special note is that despite re-allocation of healthcare resources, the capacity to provide care for individuals seeking healthcare for cancer related symptoms appears to have been largely upheld in all Nordic countries during the pandemic. In Sweden, there were few or no delays in start of treatment in newly diagnosed cancer patients.¹² The rebound in cancer reporting during the second surge in COVID-19 infections in the autumn of 2020 may reflect changes in patient perceptions of the safety of seeking care. Furthermore, our results indicate that the restrictions implemented in Norway and later in Denmark during the fourth quarter of 2020 appear to have had little or no impact on cancer detection. In all Nordic countries, healthcare services remained opened and available to non-COVID-19 related conditions, although fewer patients sought healthcare in particular in the early phase of the

pandemic. In Sweden, the number of visits to hospital emergency services declined by 16% from March to September 2020 compared to 2017-2019.¹² Declines were also observed in other Nordic countries.^{13,14}

Other settings outside the Nordic region

Our findings corroborate previous reports of cancer reporting patterns in the Nordic countries and are also broadly in line with results from other countries.¹⁶⁻²² In both Europe and the U.S., there have been reports of marked reductions in the number of newly diagnosed cancer cases, particularly during the first phase of the pandemic between March and May 2020.^{2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 23-30} Reductions in number of reported cases of breast and cervical cancer have been suggested to reflect not only temporary halting of screening programs, but also lower attendance rates that have remained also after screening programs were resumed.^{2, 5-9, 31} Furthermore, there are reports that rates of PSA testing for prostate cancer in asymptomatic men have declined,^{3, 32} which are likely to reflect hesitancy to contact healthcare during surges in COVID-19 transmission. Previous Nordic national reports have shown particular sharp declines in newly reported cases of cervical cancer in situ, prostate cancer and breast.^{16, 19, 22} In Iceland, the temporary reductions have mainly been observed for cancers of the breast, colorectum and skin.¹⁷

Only a few studies have compared the stage distribution of newly diagnosed cancer before, during and following the first wave of the pandemic. In the Netherlands, marked reductions were observed for in-situ (cTis, DCIS) and early stage (cT1, stage I) breast tumours early in the pandemic with no evidence of a shift to advanced stage breast cancer in early autumn 2020 following restart of screening.³³ Similarly, Dutch data on colorectal cancer found decreases in incidence, particularly for stage I tumours.³⁴ From the UK, a shift towards more advanced breast cancer stages was reported between May and October

2020 after a substantial drop from 43.8% to 9.2% screen-detected cases compared to 2019.³⁵ Another study from the UK reported reductions in number of low-stage cases of cervical cancer in the early phase of 2020,³⁶ while no difference in pathological stage of skin cancer was found in the autumn of 2020 (Oct-Dec) when referral rates were back to normal levels.³⁷ In Denmark, a recent study did not find any significant changes in stage distribution across seven major cancer sites between 2019 and 2020.²²

In Denmark, Norway and Sweden, we found particularly large cumulative annual declines of malignant cases in screening ages 50-69 years, indicating that the large reductions in the spring were not fully compensated during the summer and autumn with lower COVID-19 infection rates. By the end of 2020, there was a deficit in the number of new malignant cases in both sexes in Sweden, while the reduction of in-situ cases was confined to women, representing a substantial deficit of undetected cases in line with a previous national report.¹⁶ Breast cancer and cervical cancer screening was temporarily halted or reduced, albeit with large regional variations within Sweden. Following resumption of services, several breast cancer screening units in Sweden reported remaining back-logs in the autumn 2020.³⁸

In December 2020, ten out of 21 Swedish healthcare regions reported cervical cancer screening deficits (personal communication). Similarly, six regions reported a decline of more than 30% of screen-detected breast cancer in 2020.¹⁶ In the Nordic countries, approximately a third of breast cancers are detected by screening, with a higher proportion in Sweden where the screening age range is 40-74 years.³⁹⁻⁴¹ Data based on clinical registers indicate no or minor changes in the detection rates of colorectal cancer in Sweden in 2020 compared to earlier years.⁴² For colorectal cancer, incidence rates during the past ten years have been relatively stable in all Nordic countries, with the exception of declining rates in Denmark and Norway in recent years.⁴³ The decline in Denmark is likely to reflect the introduction of a national screening program between 2014 and 2017.

The strengths of our study included the use of data from essentially complete pathology notification registration across a region with more than 27 million inhabitants. The Nordic cancer registries are based on robust national systems for cancer reporting with a high degree of completeness and timeliness. In addition, the Nordic countries have similar tax-funded national healthcare systems aiming to ensure equal access to care, including national cancer screening programs at low out-of-pocket cost for the individual.

A limitation of our study was the ecological study design. The available data cannot explain the observed intra- and intercountry differences, but merely provide a perspective in relation to the development of the pandemic and mitigation efforts undertaken in each country. A major limitation was that the numbers by tumour site was unavailable in the dataset at hand, since tumour location was not consistently included in pathology notifications in all countries. Also, no data was available on tumour stage. We used the difference in reporting between 2020 and 2019 (for Iceland and the Faroe Islands: 2017-2019) as a measure of pandemic impact, an approach that assumes stable rates (of notifications) over years if there was no pandemic, i.e. everything else held equal across calendar years. Since the cancer burden continuously increases with 1.2-2.2% new cases per year because of demographic changes (increasing population size, aging population), the observed deficits are likely to be underestimated, and in particular so for Iceland and the Faroe Islands where the comparison period was an average over three years. Additionally, the percentage change across the compared years assumes stable underlying incidence rates; however, since the comparison covers a short period the impact of long-term trends should be minor. Number of cancer notifications are not comparable to official incidence, as one case can give rise to multiple notifications. For number of notifications, we counted all notifications, regardless of previous cancer diagnosis. This represents an indirect measure of diagnostic work-up activity, and will thus only be comparable over calendar time if the rates of second

cancer or recurrence (secondary cancer) are similar across years. For number of new cases, the lack of nationwide timely data on pathology notifications in Sweden was a limitation. For that reason, the assessment of number of new cases in Sweden was based on available data on pathological and/or clinical notifications. Since clinical reporting is less rapid this is likely to have led to an underestimation of monthly numbers at the end of 2020. For Finland, the number of new cases was restricted to patients with no previous cancer within two years, compared to five years for the other countries, meaning that numbers for Finland are likely over-estimated compared to the other countries. For Finland, we also did not extract pathology notifications of in-situ diagnoses due to a major increase in coverage between 2019 and 2020. In addition, new cancer cases based on pathology notifications alone are not directly comparable to official incidence, since it does not include confirmatory clinical notifications or have undergone quality checks by cancer registry staff. Some comparisons, in particular those based on data from Iceland and the Faroe Islands, were hampered by low numbers and random variation. However, internal comparisons within countries should be valid since coding and reporting practices were similar within each country during the study period.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, despite marked differences between the Nordic countries regarding the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic and mitigation efforts, similar patterns with the largest declines in cancer notification were observed during April and May of 2020, with the most pronounced reduction observed in Sweden. Of note was the minimal impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the two island nations Iceland and the Faroe Islands, where containment strategies were easier to implement, yet due to smaller numbers in these two countries the reported findings are subject to more uncertainty, and it cannot be excluded that findings are due to chance. In all Nordic countries, the monthly variations in the number of

cancer notifications are likely to reflect combined effects of societal restrictions, temporary halting on screening activities, and public perceptions of risk of infection with fewer individuals seeking care when COVID-19 infection rates were high. A remaining whole-year deficit in Sweden, the country with the highest rates of COVID-19 cases and deaths, may be explained by continued high community transmission of COVID-19 throughout 2020 with a remaining hesitancy to seek healthcare. Our findings may suggest that the severity of the pandemic has had larger effect on cancer detection than strict societal restrictions. In all countries, the consequences of the pandemic include risks of diagnostic delays that may lead to future increased rates of late-stage cancer with poorer prognosis in cancer patient subgroups.^{44,45}

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Author Contributions

ALVJ, SL, CWS, MFK, LT, JP, TT, GU, and ML conceived and designed the study. SL, CWS, MFK, TT, LT, and ML compiled the national data from their respective countries. ALVJ analysed the aggregated Nordic data. ALVJ, SL, CWS, MFK, JP, TT, LT, GU, and ML interpreted the data and results. ALVJ and ML wrote the first draft of the paper. SL, CWS, MFK, JP, TT, LT, GU, LSM, SF, TBJ, TÅM, AS, DP, HB, AV, and NM critically reviewed and edited the manuscript. All authors approved the final manuscript. The work reported in the article has been performed by the authors, unless clearly specified in the text.

Conflict of Interest

We declare no competing interests.

Data Availability Statement

This study was based on national and regional cancer registry data. The data are available from each national and regional cancer registry under the use of appropriate ethical and legal permissions, including the GDPR. Further details and other data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon request.

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Ethics Statement

Denmark: Legal approval to use data was obtained from The Danish Health Data Authority. Ethical review is not required for register-based studies in Denmark.

The Faroe Islands: The data collection for this project has been approved by the Faroese Data Protection Authority.

Finland: The Finnish Cancer Registry (FCR) provided statistical data for this study. The FCR has permission to collect, process and report statistical data without the need to seek consent.

Iceland: The Icelandic Cancer Registry (ICR) provided statistical data for this study. The ICR has permission to collect, process and report statistical data without the need to seek consent.

Norway: The Norwegian Cancer Registry provided statistical data for this study. The CRN has permission to collect, process and report statistical data without the need to seek consent. This project also has an ethical permission in Norway (REK 136 767).

Sweden: The project was conducted under ethical permission from the Swedish Ethical Review Authority (Dnr. 2020-0427, 2020-07218, 2021-03041), which granted the use of the data for research purposes, including combining Nordic data. The Swedish data was compiled and aggregated by the Regional Cancer Center West, Göteborg, Sweden.

All countries: Fully anonymized aggregated data were shared with and analysed by ALVJ.

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FIGURE LEGENDS AND FOOTNOTES

Figure 1. Percentage change (monthly) of new malignant and in-situ cases and notifications to the Nordic cancer registries comparing 2020 to 2019. Both men and women, ages 18+. The bars at the bottom of each panel represents the incidence of COVID-19 (per 100,000) per month.

Footnotes Figure 1:

Panels A-F: Population sizes are 5,792,203 (Denmark), 5,421,242 (Norway), 10,099,270 (Sweden), 5,540,718 (Finland), 341,250 (Iceland), 52,305 (Faroe Islands).

Panel C (Sweden): Notifications from both malignant and in-situ tumours. Cases of COVID-19 from Supplementary Table S2. Panel E (Iceland): Comparison to average numbers 2017-2019.

Panel F (Faroe Islands): Comparison to average numbers 2017-2019 in bimonthly intervals (Jan/Feb, Mar/Apr, May/Jun, Jul/Aug, Sep/Oct, Nov/Dec).

Figure 2. Cumulative percentage change of malignant and in-situ cases and notifications to the Nordic cancer registries at each month 2020 compared to total number 2019. Both men and women, ages 18+.

Footnotes Figure 2:

Panels A-F: Population sizes are 5,792,203 (Denmark), 5,421,242 (Norway), 10,099,270 (Sweden), 5,540,718 (Finland), 341,250 (Iceland), 52,305 (Faroe Islands).

Panel C (Sweden): Notifications from both malignant and in-situ tumours.

Panel E (Iceland): Comparison to average numbers 2017-2019.

Panel F (Faroe Islands): Comparison to average numbers 2017-2019 in bimonthly intervals (Jan/Feb, Mar/Apr, May/Jun, Jul/Aug, Sep/Oct, Nov/Dec).

Figure 3. Percentage change (Jan-Dec) of new malignant and in-situ cases reported to the Nordic cancer registries in 2020 compared to 2019. Total and by sex and age.

Footnotes Figure 3:

Panels A-F: Population sizes are 5,792,203 (Denmark), 5,421,242 (Norway), 10,099,270 (Sweden), 5,540,718 (Finland), 341,250 (Iceland), 52,305 (Faroe Islands).

Panel E (Iceland): Comparison to average numbers 2017-2019.

Panel F (Faroe Islands): Comparison to average numbers 2017-2019.

Accepted Article

Table 1. Population size, most common and annual number of cancer cases and screening programs in the Nordic countries

	Denmark	Norway	Sweden	Finland	Iceland	Faroe Islands
Population size ^a	5,792,203	5,421,242	10,099,270	5,540,718	341,250	52,305
Annual new cancer cases ^b	44,349	35,228	62,541	35,038	1,774	236
Top 5 common cancer types ^b	Breast, prostate, lung, colorectal, hematologic malignancies	Prostate, breast, colorectal, lung, hematologic malignancies	Prostate, breast, colorectal, hematologic malignancies, skin melanoma	Prostate, breast, colorectal, hematologic malignancies, lung	Breast, prostate, hematologic malignancies, colorectal, lung	Colorectal, prostate, breast, lung, hematologic malignancies
National Screening programs, age range ^c	Breast 50-69 Cervical 23-64 Colorectal 50-74	Breast 50-69 Cervical 25-69	Breast 40-74 Cervical 23-64 Colorectal 60-69 ^d	Breast 50-69 Cervical 30-60	Breast 40-69 Cervical 23-64	Breast 50-69 Cervical 23-64 Colorectal 50-74
COVID-19 impact on screening in 2020	Screening was never halted or reduced, although attendance was lower	Screening was halted in March, resumed in June, fully operational in Aug	Screening was halted in some regions in March, resumed in May with regional variations, delays throughout 2020 mainly in metropolitan regions	No national restrictions on cancer screening, but some municipalities temporarily suspended screening programs	Screening was halted in some regions in March, resumed in May	Screening was never halted or reduced

^a Total population numbers 2020 from GLOBOCAN (<https://gco.iarc.fr>). Accessed June 15, 2021.

^b New cancer cases 2019 from NORDCAN, 2019 (<https://nordcan.iarc.fr>). Accessed Jan 23, 2022.

^c Lundberg et al, Trends in cancer survival in the Nordic countries 1990-2016: the NORDCAN survival studies. *Acta Oncol* 2020 Nov;59(11):1266-1274.

^d Only a few Swedish regions have implemented colorectal cancer screening, national implementation is ongoing.

Table 2. Monthly percentage change of new cases and pathology notifications to the Nordic cancer registries, comparing 2020 versus 2019. Both men and women, ages 18+.

	Denmark	Norway	Sweden†	Finland	Iceland*	Faroes**	p-value‡
	Perc. Change (95% CI)	Perc. Change (95% CI)	Perc. Change (95% CI)	Perc. Change (95% CI)	Perc. Change (95% CI)	Perc. Change (95% CI)	
Cases							
malignant							
Jan	-1.8 (-6.1,2.8)	3.5 (-1.6,8.8)	-1.7 (-5.3,1.9)	-4.2 (-9.1,0.9)	6.3 (-14.7,32.5)	-6.3 (-43.0,54.3)	0.275
Feb	4.4 (-0.5,9.6)	6.2 (0.7,12.0)	0.5 (-3.3,4.4)	2.9 (-2.6,8.6)	-4.7 (-24.6,20.6)		0.467
Mar	-1.7 (-6.2,3.1)	0.9 (-4.4,6.4)	-4.3 (-7.9,-0.6)	6.3 (0.8,12.1)	-13.4 (-31.7,9.8)	29.2 (-24.2,120.1)	0.019
Apr	-15.7 (-20.0,-11.3)	-15.3 (-20.0,-10.4)	-25.0 (-28.1,-21.9)	-11.3 (-16.1,-6.3)	-17.2 (-35.6,6.5)		<0.001
May	-13.6 (-17.6,-9.4)	-14.3 (-18.8,-9.5)	-31.2 (-33.9,-28.3)	-24.2 (-28.2,-20.0)	-10.1 (-27.9,12.2)	17.7 (-30.0,97.9)	<0.001
Jun	12.6 (7.4,18.0)	9.1 (3.5,15.0)	-1.6 (-5.5,2.4)	-1.9 (-7.0,3.5)	19.3 (-5.1,49.9)		<0.001
Jul	3.0 (-1.9,8.2)	-2.0 (-7.5,3.8)	-9.3 (-13.0,-5.3)	-1.1 (-6.4,4.5)	10.7 (-13.7,41.9)	29.4 (-31.3,143.7)	0.002
Aug	5.4 (0.5,10.6)	0.3 (-5.1,6.1)	-4.5 (-8.4,-0.5)	-9.6 (-14.3,-4.6)	8.5 (-14.6,37.9)		<0.001
Sep	9.1 (4.2,14.1)	-2.5 (-7.5,2.7)	5.3 (1.4,9.3)	1.5 (-3.5,6.8)	12.2 (-10.1,40.2)	-42.6 (-67.8,2.6)	0.018
Oct	-3.8 (-8.1,0.7)	-0.8 (-5.8,4.3)	-6.5 (-9.8,-3.0)	-3.8 (-8.6,1.1)	5.2 (-14.3,29.1)		0.363
Nov	5.5 (0.8,10.4)	3.2 (-2.0,8.6)	4.9 (1.1,9.0)	-0.8 (-5.7,4.5)	6.7 (-13.8,32.0)	-27.7 (-59.3,28.5)	0.429
Dec	11.1 (5.8,16.6)	4.0 (-1.5,9.8)	1.5 (-2.5,5.6)	6.6 (0.9,12.7)	34.3 (6.2,69.9)		0.014
TOTAL Jan-Dec	1.1 (-0.3,2.4)	-0.7 (-2.2,0.9)	-6.2 (-7.2,-5.1)	-3.6 (-5.1,-2.1)	4.2 (-2.4,11.3)	-4.0 (-23.2,19.9)	<0.001
TOTAL Mar-Dec	1.0 (-0.5,2.6)	-1.8 (-3.5,-0.1)	-7.3 (-8.5,-6.2)	-4.2 (-5.7,-2.5)	4.9 (-2.4,12.7)	-3.4 (-24.7,23.8)	<0.001
Cases in-situ							
Jan	3.3 (-5.7,13.1)	4.0 (-3.6,12.2)	-1.1 (-6.2,4.4)	N/A	31.3 (-20.7,117.2)	N/A [§]	0.494
Feb	24.7 (12.9,37.8)	3.6 (-4.4,12.4)	7.8 (1.9,14.0)	N/A	67.8 (-4.0,193.3)		0.012
Mar	-2.0 (-10.8,7.8)	-11.8 (-18.6,-4.4)	0.6 (-4.9,6.3)	N/A	-38.6 (-65.9,10.4)	N/A [§]	0.025
Apr	-28.9 (-36.1,-20.9)	-25.1 (-31.4,-18.3)	-23.7 (-28.1,-19.0)	N/A	-51.9 (-75.2,-6.7)		0.378
May	-16.6 (-24.4,-8.1)	-16.1 (-22.6,-9.1)	-25.9 (-30.1,-21.5)	N/A	-20.5 (-54.6,39.2)	N/A [§]	0.048
Jun	2.6 (-6.5,12.6)	12.5 (4.0,21.7)	-5.7 (-11.1,-0.0)	N/A	79.0 (4.5,206.7)		<0.001
Jul	0.0 (-10.6,11.8)	-2.2 (-11.6,8.1)	-19.2 (-24.8,-13.1)	N/A	11.1 (-41.2,110.0)	N/A [§]	0.002
Aug	-3.7 (-12.5,6.1)	-12.6 (-19.5,-5.1)	-17.9 (-23.0,-12.5)	N/A	-11.5 (-49.5,55.0)		0.060
Sep	14.0 (4.0,25.0)	7.9 (0.2,16.1)	-6.5 (-11.4,-1.2)	N/A	9.1 (-30.3,70.8)	N/A [§]	<0.001
Oct	-7.9 (-16.1,1.0)	-3.4 (-10.0,3.7)	-19.2 (-23.4,-14.7)	N/A	18.8 (-25.8,90.0)		<0.001
Nov	2.8 (-5.9,12.3)	3.3 (-3.9,11.1)	-12.6 (-17.3,-7.8)	N/A	-5.3 (-39.9,49.4)	N/A [§]	<0.001
Dec	7.7 (-2.8,19.4)	11.7 (2.6,21.6)	-6.8 (-12.3,-1.1)	N/A	-12.9 (-53.7,63.8)		0.003
TOTAL Jan-Dec	-0.8 (-3.5,2.0)	-2.5 (-4.7,-0.2)	-10.9 (-12.3,-9.4)	N/A	3.3 (-11.4,20.4)	45.7 (-30.8,207.0)	<0.001
TOTAL Mar-Dec	-3.4 (-6.3,-0.4)	-3.7 (-6.1,-1.3)	-13.8 (-15.3,-12.1)	N/A	-4.0 (-18.9,13.6)	87.5 (-20.5,342.2)	<0.001
Dec							
Notifications							
malignant							
Jan	-1.2 (-4.3,2.1)	4.4 (1.1,7.9)	-0.3 (-3.0,2.4)	-5.8 (-9.2,-2.3)	15.9 (-2.1,37.1)	-7.0 (-39.5,43.1)	<0.001
Feb	3.9 (0.3,7.5)	6.6 (2.9,10.3)	1.0 (-1.8,3.9)	2.7 (-1.2,6.7)	7.4 (-10.4,28.7)		0.201

Mar	2.1 (-1.2,5.6)	7.3 (3.7,11.0)	0.6 (-2.2,3.4)	0.2 (-3.6,4.0)	-5.8 (-21.3,12.9)	46.7 (-7.3,132.2)	0.026
Apr	-10.8 (-14.0,-7.5)	-9.7 (-12.8,-6.4)	-16.3 (-18.7,-13.8)	-8.7 (-12.2,-5.1)	-3.5 (-20.4,17.0)		0.001
May	-15.2 (-18.1,-12.2)	-8.6 (-11.7,-5.5)	-25.9 (-28.0,-23.6)	-25.8 (-28.7,-22.9)	-11.5 (-25.5,5.2)	22.2 (-21.3,89.9)	<0.001
Jun	10.4 (6.7,14.1)	5.0 (1.5,8.6)	-4.5 (-7.3,-1.7)	-7.1 (-10.5,-3.5)	27.7 (7.0,52.5)		<0.001
Jul	2.1 (-1.4,5.7)	1.0 (-2.6,4.7)	-11.6 (-14.3,-8.8)	-6.8 (-10.3,-3.1)	21.8 (0.8,47.2)	14.1 (-34.3,98.1)	<0.001
Aug	3.2 (-0.2,6.8)	1.6 (-2.0,5.3)	-8.0 (-10.7,-5.1)	-13.5 (-16.8,-10.0)	10.0 (-8.7,32.7)		<0.001
Sep	9.1 (5.6,12.7)	-2.6 (-5.9,0.7)	5.7 (2.8,8.7)	7.2 (3.4,11.2)	19.5 (0.8,41.6)	-31.8 (-57.1,8.4)	<0.001
Oct	-5.6 (-8.6,-2.5)	-7.9 (-10.8,-4.8)	-11.2 (-13.6,-8.8)	-4.1 (-7.5,-0.6)	12.0 (-4.5,31.3)		0.001
Nov	4.3 (0.9,7.7)	6.2 (2.7,9.8)	-3.0 (-5.6,-0.2)	-6.6 (-10.0,-3.0)	4.9 (-11.0,23.7)	-33.6 (-59.2,8.0)	<0.001
Dec	12.8 (8.9,16.7)	7.0 (3.3,10.9)	5.3 (2.2,8.4)	0.1 (-3.8,4.1)	32.9 (11.0,59.1)		<0.001
TOTAL Jan-Dec	1.1 (0.1,2.1)	0.7 (-0.3,1.7)	-5.8 (-6.6,-5.1)	-5.9 (-6.9,-4.8)	10.3 (4.8,16.0)	-2.3 (-19.1,18.0)	<0.001
TOTAL Mar-Dec	1.1 (-0.0,2.1)	-0.3 (-1.4,0.8)	-7.1 (-7.9,-6.3)	-6.7 (-7.8,-5.6)	9.9 (4.0,16.2)	-1.1 (-19.9,22.0)	<0.001
Notifications in-situ							
Jan	0.8 (-5.6,7.7)	5.8 (0.5,11.5)	N/A	N/A	50.0 (0.2,124.5)	N/A [§]	0.106
Feb	19.6 (11.2,28.5)	4.2 (-1.4,10.2)	N/A	N/A	74.2 (12.0,170.9)		0.002
Mar	0.3 (-6.3,7.4)	-6.2 (-11.2,-0.9)	N/A	N/A	-25.6 (-53.6,19.3)	N/A [§]	0.183
Apr	-22.3 (-28.0,-16.1)	-16.7 (-21.4,-11.6)	N/A	N/A	-40.5 (-64.5,-0.3)		0.176
May	-15.0 (-20.9,-8.7)	-12.5 (-17.2,-7.5)	N/A	N/A	-26.8 (-54.3,17.2)	N/A [§]	0.641
Jun	8.7 (1.6,16.4)	4.6 (-1.0,10.5)	N/A	N/A	60.8 (3.7,149.5)		0.120
Jul	2.6 (-5.1,11.0)	-9.8 (-15.8,-3.3)	N/A	N/A	50.0 (-12.5,157.3)	N/A [§]	0.014
Aug	3.3 (-3.6,10.7)	-17.9 (-22.5,-13.0)	N/A	N/A	-15.9 (-48.2,36.7)		<0.001
Sep	9.6 (2.5,17.1)	-2.8 (-7.8,2.4)	N/A	N/A	41.6 (-0.2,100.9)	N/A [§]	0.004
Oct	-5.7 (-11.8,0.8)	-12.1 (-16.5,-7.5)	N/A	N/A	23.3 (-15.5,79.9)		0.069
Nov	4.3 (-2.2,11.2)	-3.0 (-7.9,2.1)	N/A	N/A	18.9 (-17.5,71.3)	N/A [§]	0.141
Dec	14.9 (6.9,23.5)	5.7 (-0.3,12.1)	N/A	N/A	7.8 (-32.3,71.5)		0.216
TOTAL Jan-Dec	1.4 (-0.6,3.5)	-5.1 (-6.6,-3.6)	N/A	N/A	16.4 (2.9,31.7)	57.9 (-21.9,219.2)	<0.001
TOTAL Mar-Dec	-0.1 (-2.2,2.2)	-7.2 (-8.8,-5.5)	N/A	N/A	8.6 (-5.2,24.4)	88.9 (-15.8,323.7)	<0.001

* Iceland: Comparison to average numbers 2017-2019.

** Faroes: Comparison to average numbers 2017-2019 in bimonthly intervals (Jan/Feb, Mar/Apr, May/June, Jul/Aug, Sep/Oct, Nov/Dec).

† Sweden: Cases from malignant and in-situ tumours separately. Notifications from combined malignant and in-situ tumours.

‡ Tests excluding the Faroe Islands, due to bimonthly intervals.

§ Faroes: Bi-monthly numbers of cases and notifications of in-situ diagnoses not presented due to small numbers.

N/A: Not available.

Table 3. Total numbers and difference in numbers of new malignant and in-situ cases and notifications to the Nordic cancer registries, Jan-Dec 2020 vs 2019. Total and by sex and age.

	Denmark		Norway		Sweden	
	2020/2019 N/N	Diff N (PC)	2020/2019 N/N	Diff N (PC)	2020/2019 N/N	Diff N (PC)
Cases, malignant						
Total	41387 / 40956	431 (1.1)	32192 / 32411	-219 (-0.7)	58786 / 62649	-3863 (-6.2) [†]
Men	20678 / 20524	154 (0.8)	17079 / 16831	248 (1.5)	30358 / 32856	-2498 (-7.6) [†]
Women	20709 / 20432	277 (1.4)	15113 / 15580	-467 (-3.0) [†]	28428 / 29793	-1365 (-4.6) [†]
18-49	3661 / 3618	43 (1.2)	3536 / 3606	-70 (-1.9)	5509 / 5741	-232 (-4.0) [†]
50-69	16626 / 17078	-452 (-2.6) [†]	12514 / 13324	-810 (-6.1) [†]	20910 / 22548	-1638 (-7.3) [†]
70+	21100 / 20260	840 (4.1) [†]	16142 / 15481	661 (4.3) [†]	32367 / 34360	-1993 (-5.8) [†]
Cases, in-situ						
Total	9892 / 9973	-81 (-0.8)	14372 / 14734	-362 (-2.5) [†]	26218 / 29417	-3199 (-10.9) [†]
Men	3666 / 3492	174 (5.0) [†]	3585 / 3731	-146 (-3.9)	6919 / 7556	-637 (-8.4) [†]
Women	6226 / 6481	-255 (-3.9) [†]	10787 / 11003	-216 (-2.0)	19299 / 21861	-2562 (-11.7) [†]
18-49	2957 / 3161	-204 (-6.5) [†]	5871 / 6033	-162 (-2.7)	10942 / 12713	-1771 (-13.9) [†]
50-69	3396 / 3587	-191 (-5.3) [†]	3644 / 3852	-208 (-5.4) [†]	6391 / 6884	-493 (-7.2) [†]
70+	3539 / 3225	314 (9.7) [†]	4857 / 4849	8 (0.2)	8885 / 9820	-935 (-9.5) [†]
Notifications, malignant						
Total	81251 / 80389	862 (1.1) [†]	78638 / 78098	540 (0.7)	110071 / 116889	-6818 (-5.8) [†]
Men	40118 / 39570	548 (1.4)	40662 / 37776	2886 (7.6) [†]	45278 / 47318	-2040 (-4.3) [†]
Women	41133 / 40819	314 (0.8)	37976 / 40322	-2346 (-5.8) [†]	64793 / 69571	-4778 (-6.9) [†]
18-49	6633 / 6665	-32 (-0.5)	8367 / 8734	-367 (-4.2) [†]	21515 / 24023	-2508 (-10.4) [†]
50-69	33179 / 34246	-1067 (-3.1) [†]	31060 / 32861	-1801 (-5.5) [†]	35720 / 37698	-1978 (-5.2) [†]
70+	41439 / 39478	1961 (5.0) [†]	39211 / 36503	2708 (7.4) [†]	52836 / 55168	-2332 (-4.2) [†]
Notifications, in-situ						
Total	19255 / 18988	267 (1.4)	29315 / 30900	-1585 (-5.1) [†]	N/A	N/A
Men	7215 / 6758	457 (6.8) [†]	7509 / 7896	-387 (-4.9) [†]	N/A	N/A
Women	12040 / 12230	-190 (-1.6)	21806 / 23004	-1198 (-5.2) [†]	N/A	N/A
18-49	5417 / 5783	-366 (-6.3) [†]	12055 / 12527	-472 (-3.8) [†]	N/A	N/A
50-69	6201 / 6337	-136 (-2.1)	6870 / 7877	-1007 (-12.8) [†]	N/A	N/A
70+	7637 / 6868	769 (11.2) [†]	10390 / 10496	-106 (-1.0)	N/A	N/A
Finland						
	2020/2019 N/N	Diff N (PC)	Iceland		Faroes	
			2020/2017-2019* N/N	Diff* N (PC)	2020/2017-2019* N/N	Diff* N (PC)
Cases, malignant						
Total	31984 / 33186	-1202 (-3.6) [†]	1809 / 1735.7	73.3 (4.2)	152 / 158.3	-6.3 (-4.0)
Men	16388 / 16995	-607 (-3.6) [†]	876 / 847.0	29.0 (3.4)	83 / 82.3	0.7 (0.8)
Women	15596 / 16191	-595 (-3.7) [†]	933 / 888.7	44.3 (5.0)	69 / 76.0	-7.0 (-9.2)
18-49	2532 / 2631	-99 (-3.8)	198 / 233.7	-35.7 (-15.3)	11 / 15.0	-4.0 (-26.7)
50-69	12205 / 13030	-825 (-6.3) [†]	776 / 754.3	21.7 (2.9)	53 / 65.3	-12.3 (-18.9)
70+	17247 / 17525	-278 (-1.6)	859 / 754.3	104.7 (13.9) [†]	88 / 78.0	10.0 (12.8)
Cases, in-situ						
Total	N/A	N/A	333 / 322.3	10.7 (3.3)	17 / 11.7	5.3 (45.7)
Men	N/A	N/A	107 / 105.7	1.3 (1.3)	14 / 4.0	10.0 (250.0) [†]
Women	N/A	N/A	225 / 218.3	6.7 (3.1)	3 / 7.7	-4.7 (-60.9)
18-49	N/A	N/A	44 / 55.3	-11.3 (-20.5)	9 / 4.0	5.0 (125.0)
50-69	N/A	N/A	106 / 97.7	8.3 (8.5)	2 / 4.0	-2.0 (-50.0)
70+	N/A	N/A	185 / 167.7	17.3 (10.3)	6 / 3.7	2.3 (63.6)
Notifications, malignant						
Total	61902 / 65773	-3871 (-5.9) [†]	3137 / 2845.3	291.7 (10.3) [†]	213 / 218.0	-5.0 (-2.3)
Men	28731 / 29984	-1253 (-4.2) [†]	1483 / 1334.7	148.3 (11.1) [†]	110 / 113.7	-3.7 (-3.2)
Women	33171 / 35789	-2618 (-7.3) [†]	1654 / 1510.7	143.3 (9.5) [†]	103 / 104.3	-1.3 (-1.3)
18-49	5327 / 5675	-348 (-6.1) [†]	369 / 375.7	-6.7 (-1.8)	19 / 17.0	2.0 (11.8)
50-69	24444 / 27168	-2724 (-10.0) [†]	1377 / 1277.7	99.3 (7.8)	68 / 85.7	-17.7 (-20.6)
70+	32131 / 32930	-799 (-2.4) [†]	1391 / 1192.0	199.0 (16.7) [†]	126 / 115.3	10.7 (9.2)
Notifications, in-situ						
Total	N/A	N/A	547 / 470.0	77.0 (16.4) [†]	20 / 12.7	7.3 (57.9)
Men	N/A	N/A	156 / 149.3	6.7 (4.5)	15 / 4.3	10.7 (246.2) [†]
Women	N/A	N/A	391 / 320.7	70.3 (21.9) [†]	5 / 8.3	-3.3 (-40.0)
18-49	N/A	N/A	68 / 66.0	2.0 (3.0)	10 / 4.3	5.7 (130.8)
50-69	N/A	N/A	180 / 156.7	23.3 (14.9)	2 / 4.0	-2.0 (-50.0)

70+	N/A	N/A	299 / 247.3	51.7 (20.9) [†]	8 / 4.3	3.7 (84.6)
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* Iceland and Faroes: Comparison to average numbers 2017-2019.

[†] Significant difference (p-value<0.05)

PC=Percentage change





