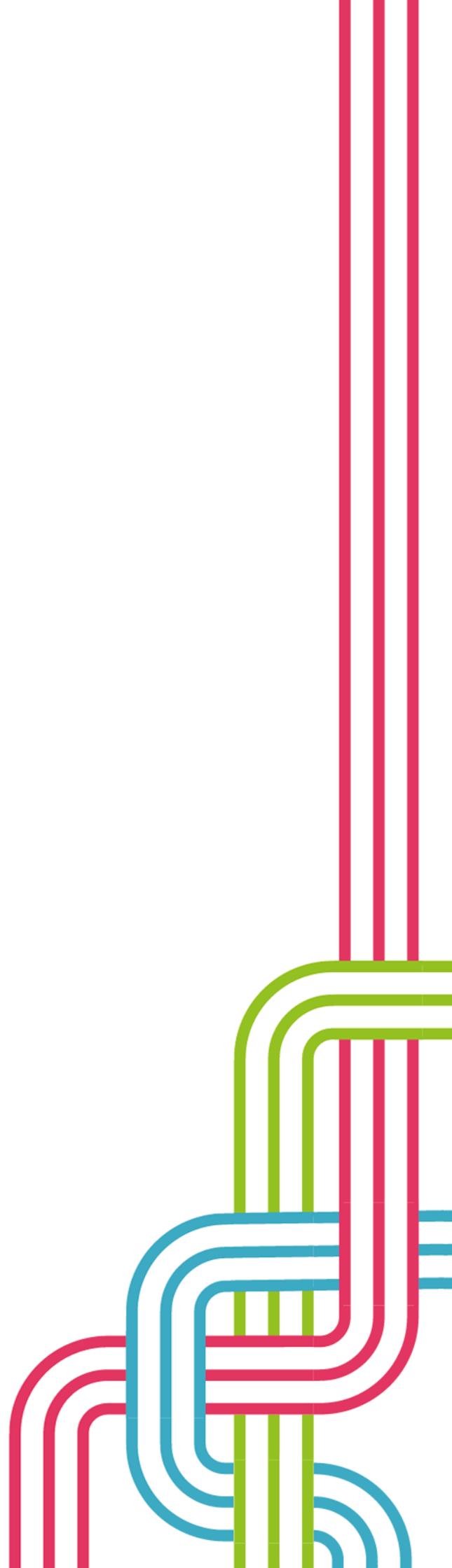


Cancer prevalence Suffolk 2023



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Key points

1. Suffolk and North East Essex (SNEE) ICB has a statistically significant higher prevalence of cancer for patients recorded on practice disease registers than the England average. At 4.0%, this higher prevalence means that individuals within SNEE ICB are living for longer with the disease.
2. Cancer prevalence for SNEE ICB residents has almost doubled, increasing statistically significantly since 2012/13 from 2.2% in 2012/13 to 4.0% in 2021/22. This increase again coincides with improvements in cancer survival outcomes for SNEE residents over the last 15 years.
3. Analysis of cancer prevalence to Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) score (how deprived an area is) shows that cancer prevalence is higher in more affluent areas. This could be due to better screening coverage and uptake in more affluent parts of the county, meaning individuals are more likely to find out they have a cancer diagnosis, earlier, and survive for longer.

An introduction to cancer prevalence

Cancer prevalence counts the number of people living with and beyond a cancer diagnosis at a fixed point in time. Cancer prevalence is a product of both cancer incidence, as well as survival – a cancer with high incidence of new diagnoses but poor survival rates could have a similar prevalence to less common cancers that have higher survival rates. Prevalence data has been sourced from two locations:

1. **The Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF)**– describes the proportion of all patients with cancer as recorded on practice disease registers (excluding non-melanotic skin cancers) from the 1st of April 2003.
 - **Reported at ICB and sub-ICB level. Also, general practice level, which has allowed for analysis by PCN (primary care network) area.**

2. **CancerData – Prevalence.** This counts the number of individuals diagnosed with cancer who were still alive on the index date 31st December 2019. Prevalence includes any individual who had been diagnosed with a cancer since 1995 until the index date.
 - **This data is reported for Suffolk local authority areas, but not for Suffolk as a whole.**

Cancer: Quality Outcomes Framework (QOF) prevalence (all ages)

Cancer is a clinical priority in all four countries of the UK. It is recognised that the principal active management of cancers occurs in the secondary care setting. General practice often has a key role in the referral and subsequent support of cancer patients and in ensuring that care is appropriately co-ordinated. Table 1 of this chapter shows the percentage of patients with cancer, as recorded on practice disease registers (register of patients with a diagnosis of cancer excluding non-melanotic skin cancers from 1st April 2003). Individual PCN data is aggregated from all known lower geography values.

QOF prevalence by ICB sub-location

Table 1 shows the cancer prevalence as recorded within the QOF for each ICB sub-location across Suffolk compared to England. Each of Suffolk's ICB sub-locations report statistically significant higher cancer prevalence than the national average (3.3%) in 2021/22, with West Suffolk sub-ICB having a cancer prevalence 30.3% higher than the national average. Higher cancer prevalence in an area can be a positive, if this is driven by patients surviving for longer, meaning they live with the disease for a longer period.

It is important to note that while Norfolk and Waveney have a greater count of individuals with cancer on their practice disease register than East Suffolk and West Suffolk sub-ICBs, only a small proportion of the ICB area covers Suffolk. This cannot be broken down to any lower levels at present.

Table 1. ICB sub-location and England data for cancer prevalence recorded on practice disease registers within the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF), 2021/22.

Area/sub-ICB location	Count	QOF cancer prevalence %	Difference to England
England	2,058,852	3.3%	
Suffolk & North East Essex ICB	42,391	4.0%	21.2% higher 
Norfolk & Waveney ICB	44,757	4.1%	24.2% higher 
West Suffolk sub-ICB	11,273	4.3%	30.3% higher 
Ipswich & East Suffolk sub-ICB	16,566	4.0%	21.2% higher 

Compared to England (statistically significantly):

 Lower
  Similar
  Higher

Source: [Quality and Outcomes Framework, 2021-22](#)

QOF prevalence by PCN

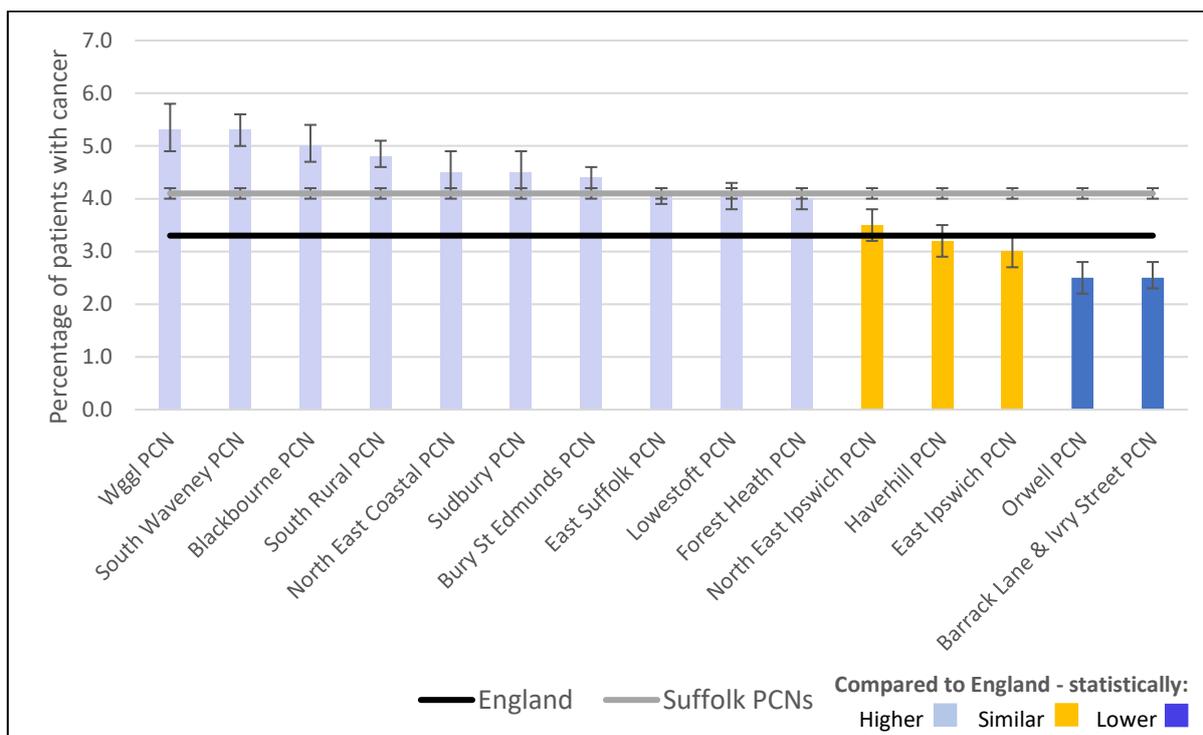
Figure 1 shows the cancer prevalence as recorded within the QOF for each PCN across Suffolk compared to England. Based on QOF data, in 2021/22 there were 31,501 patients across Suffolk's PCN areas registered with cancer.

- Suffolk has a statistically significant higher cancer prevalence (4.1%) than the England average at 3.3%.
- There is also statistically significant variation (2.5% - 5.3%) by Suffolk PCN area, with WGGL (Clare Guildhall, Glemsford, Long Melford, Wickhambrook surgeries), South

Waveney, Blackbourne, South Rural, North East Coastal, Sudbury and Bury St Edmunds PCNs all above the Suffolk and England averages, experiencing higher prevalence of cancers within GP practice populations.

- Only Orwell and Barrack Lane & Ivry Street PCNs have a statistically significantly lower cancer prevalence than the county and England average, which may be bad if driven by later diagnosis and poorer survival outcomes.

Figure 1. Suffolk Primary Care Networks (PCN) and England data for cancer prevalence recorded on practice disease registers within the Quality Outcomes Framework (QOF), 2021/22.



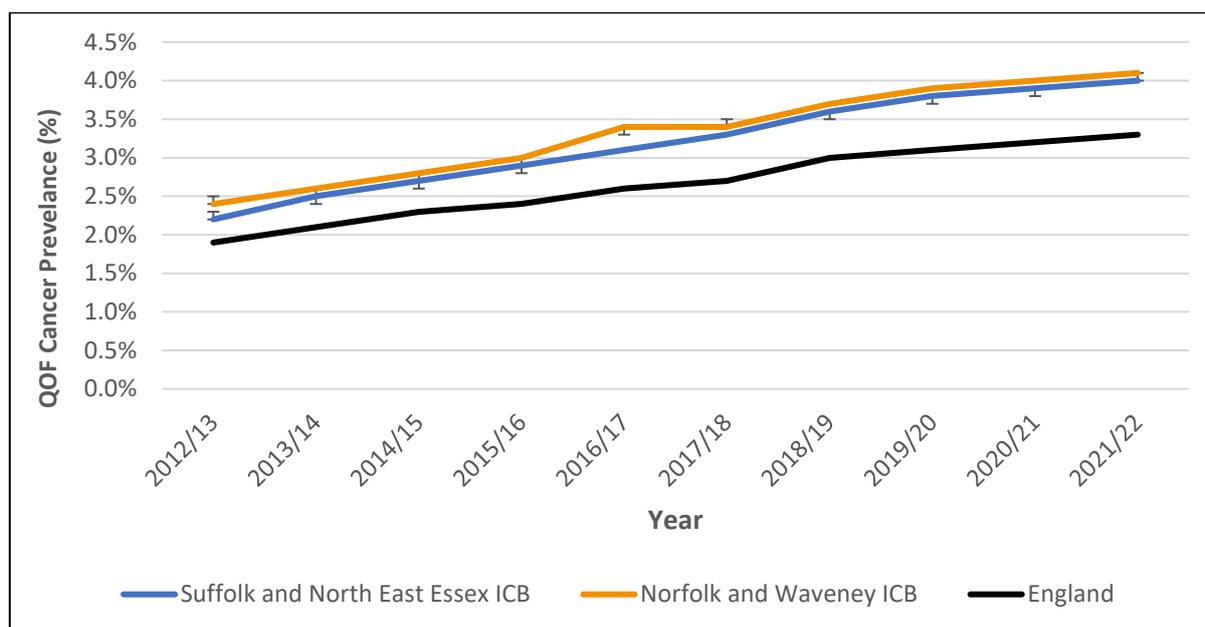
Source: [Quality and Outcomes Framework, 2021-22](#)

QOF cancer prevalence trend

Figure 2 shows the cancer prevalence trend as recorded in the QOF for ICBs across Suffolk, compared to England. The percentage of patients with cancer recorded on practice disease registers within Suffolk and North East Essex and Norfolk and Waveney ICBs have statistically significantly increased since 2012/13 to 4.1% for Norfolk and Waveney, and 4.0% for SNEE in 2021/22 – also statistically significantly above the England average of 3.3%.

This is likely due to improvements in survival outcomes over recent years (more information can be seen in the survival chapter). For instance, 1-year survival has improved for SNEE ICB residents from 67.6% in 2005, to 74.3% in 2020, meaning more individuals are living with the disease for longer.

Figure 2. Suffolk and North East Essex and Norfolk and Waveney ICB's cancer Quality Outcomes Framework (QOF) prevalence trends between 2012/13 to 2021/22.



Source: [Quality and Outcomes Framework, 2021-22](#)

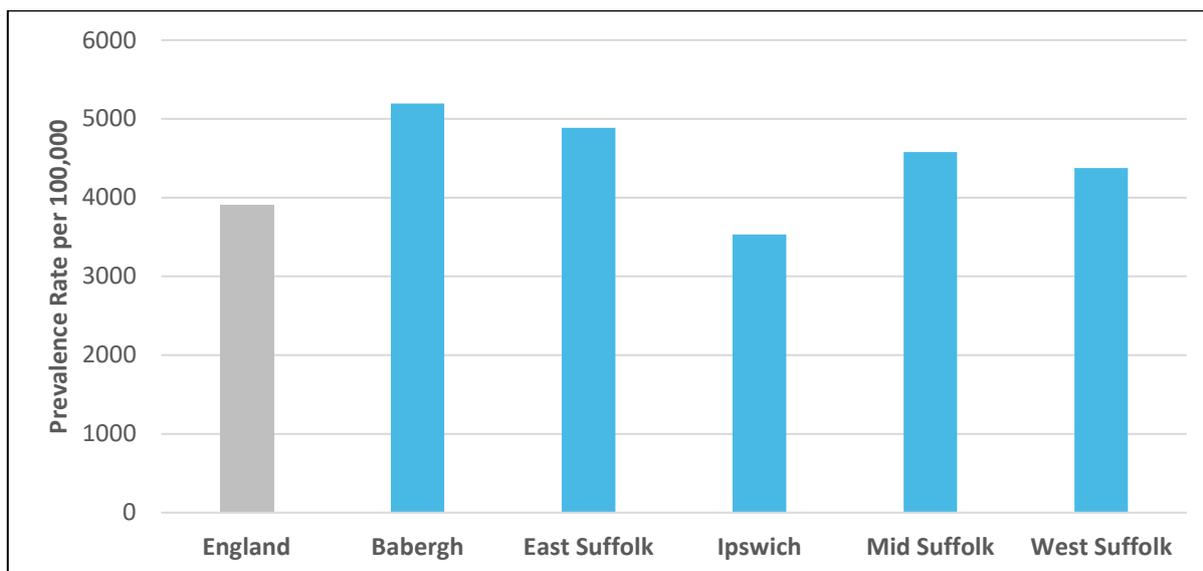
People living with and beyond cancer in England and Suffolk Local Authorities

Data used within this section for prevalence counts the number of individuals diagnosed with a cancer who were still alive on a given index date - the 31st of December 2019. The data within the national publication includes cancers between 1995-2019. 10-year prevalence includes any cancers diagnosed between 2010-19, and 5-year prevalence includes any cancers diagnosed between 2015-19. The below prevalence is for all cancers excluding C44 (non-melanoma skin cancer).

Figure 3 shows the cancer prevalence rates for all persons diagnosed between 1995 and 2019 across Suffolk districts compared to England. For all-cancer prevalence, all persons (anybody who has been diagnosed with a cancer excluding non-melanoma skin cancer between 1995-2019 and who was alive on the 31st of December 2019) - England's rate was 3,906 per 100,000. Confidence intervals are not reported with this dataset, but there were large differences between Suffolk's local authorities. Babergh's rate of 5,195 per 100,000 had the highest cancer prevalence, compared to Suffolk's lowest prevalence in Ipswich of 3,534 per 100,000.

The Cancer Prevalence Statistics dataset reports prevalence statistics as counts and crude rates per 100,000 population. As a result, Ipswich's younger population could account for this lower prevalence, as well as being more deprived. As seen later on – cancer prevalence correlates with IMD score – areas that are less deprived, are more likely to have a higher cancer prevalence (due to improved survival outcomes).

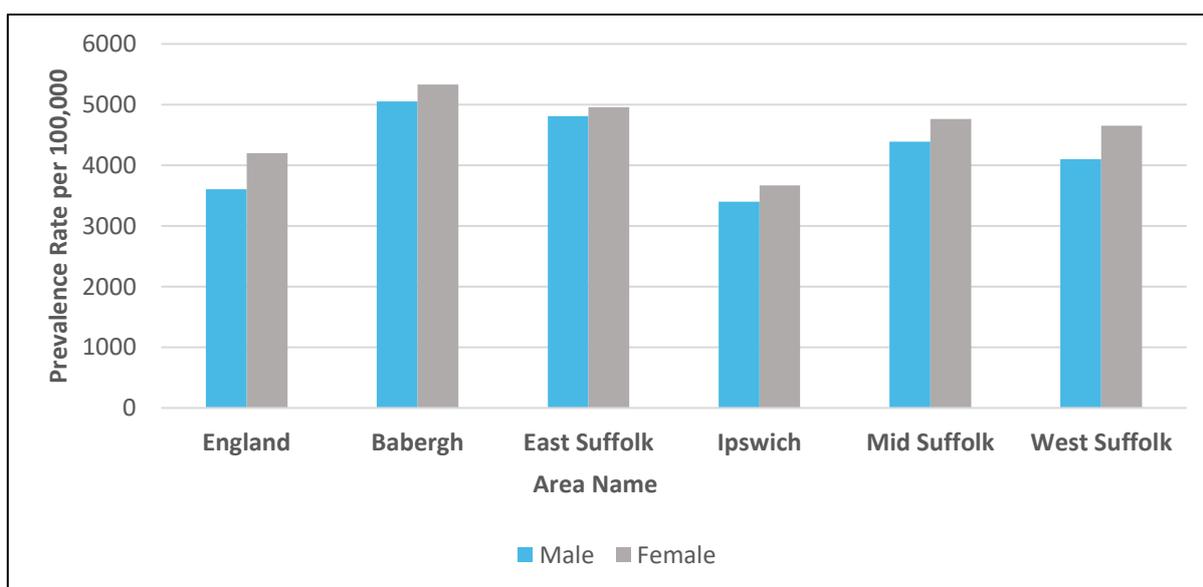
Figure 3. Cancer prevalence rates for all persons (diagnosed between 1995-2019) per 100,000 population, for Suffolk local authorities and England.



Source: [CancerData](#)

Figure 4 shows the cancer prevalence rates for females and males between 1995 and 2019 for Suffolk districts compared to England. Comparing all cancer (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC)) prevalence across all Suffolk local authorities, women have a higher prevalence of cancer per 100,000 amongst each local authority area. This may be in part due to the higher rates of breast cancer long-term survival, where nationally 97.3% of women survive their breast cancer for at least 1-year in 2020.

Figure 4. Cancer prevalence rates for females and males (diagnosed between 1995-2019) per 100,000 population for Suffolk local authorities and England.



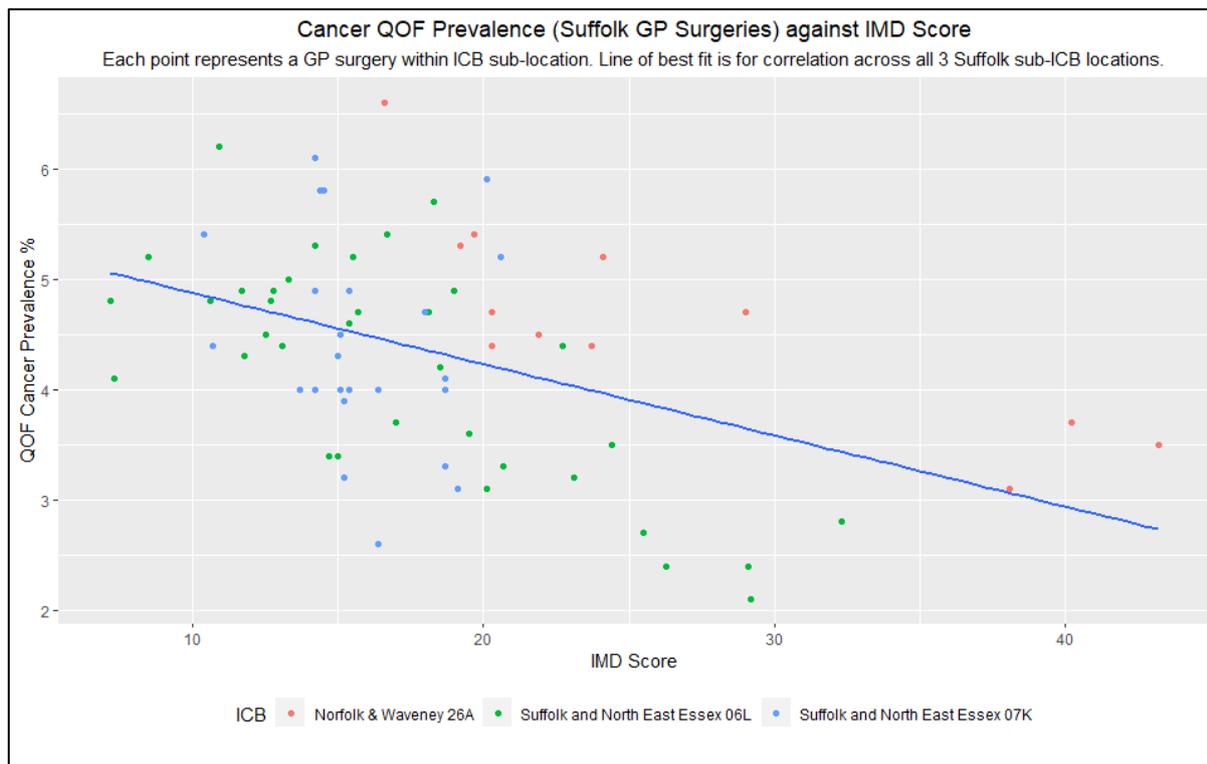
Source: [CancerData](#)

Cancer QOF Prevalence against IMD Score

The chart below includes a correlation between IMD scores (2019) for all Suffolk GP surgeries against their cancer QOF prevalence percentage (2021/22). There is a negative correlation between cancer prevalence and IMD score (R^2 -0.46) (P value <0.05).

This indicates that cancer prevalence is higher in more affluent areas – this could be due to better screening coverage and uptake in areas of lower deprivation, meaning individuals are more likely to find out they have a cancer diagnosis, earlier and survive for longer.

Figure 5. Cancer QOF prevalence (2021/22) for Suffolk GP surgeries compared with 2019 IMD score for each GP surgery location.



References

1. CancerData. Accessed February 1, 2023. <https://www.cancerdata.nhs.uk/prevalence>
2. Quality and Outcomes Framework, 2021-22 - NDRS. Accessed February 7, 2023. <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/quality-and-outcomes-framework-achievement-prevalence-and-exceptions-data/2021-22/>