

The Irish cancer burden, costs and access to care in a European context

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Webinar at RCSI School of Population Health

March 6th, 2023



[Report link](#)



Conflicts of interest of TH: Institutional fees from RCSI to IHE for the purpose of this presentation.

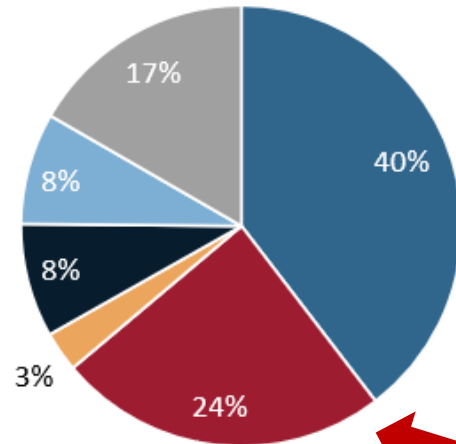
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IHE Report 2022:4 was commissioned by IPHA – The Irish Pharmaceutical Healthcare Association and funded with contributions from AbbVie, Amgen, Astellas, Bayer, BMS, Daiichi Sankyo, GSK, Janssen, Merck Serono, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, Servier, and Takeda. IPHA and its member organizations had no influence or editorial control over the content of this report, and the views and opinions of the authors are not necessarily those of IPHA nor of its member organizations.

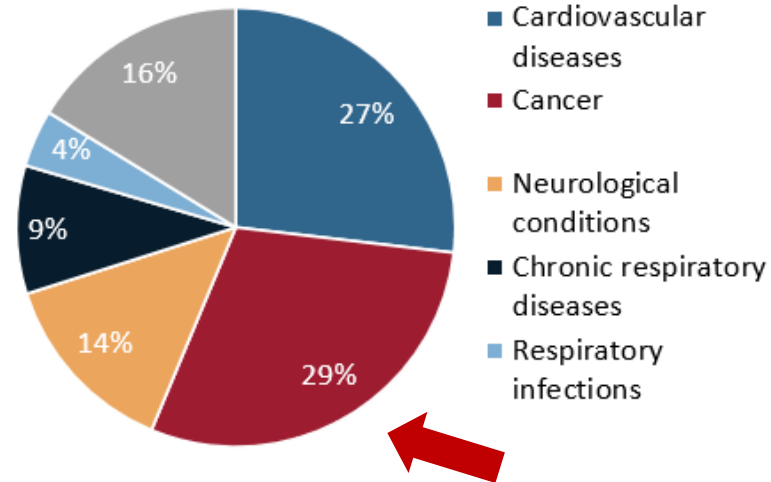
Over the past two decades, cancer has become the leading cause of death in Ireland



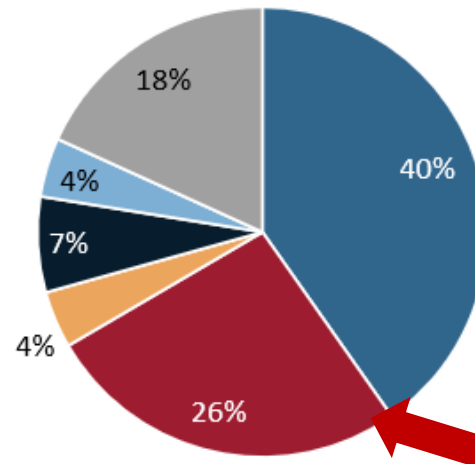
Cause of death
Ireland - 2000



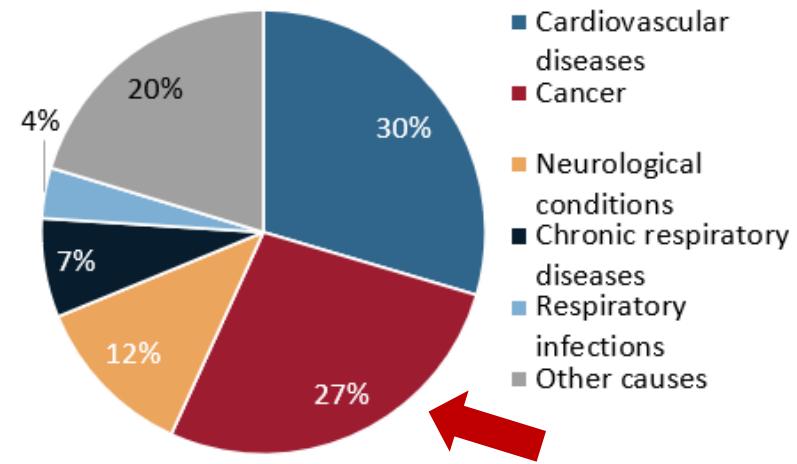
Cause of death
Ireland - 2019



Cause of death
EU-15 - 2000

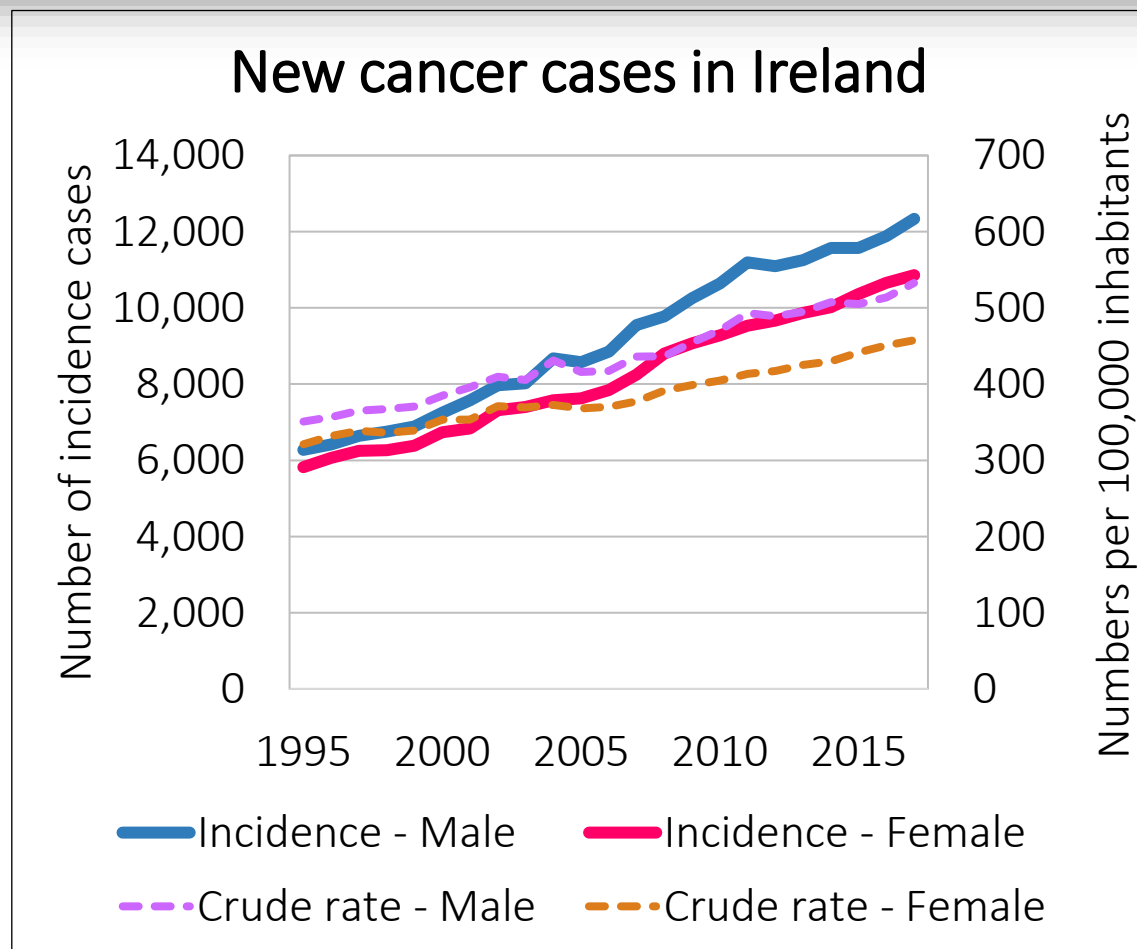


Cause of death
EU-15 - 2019



Source: WHO

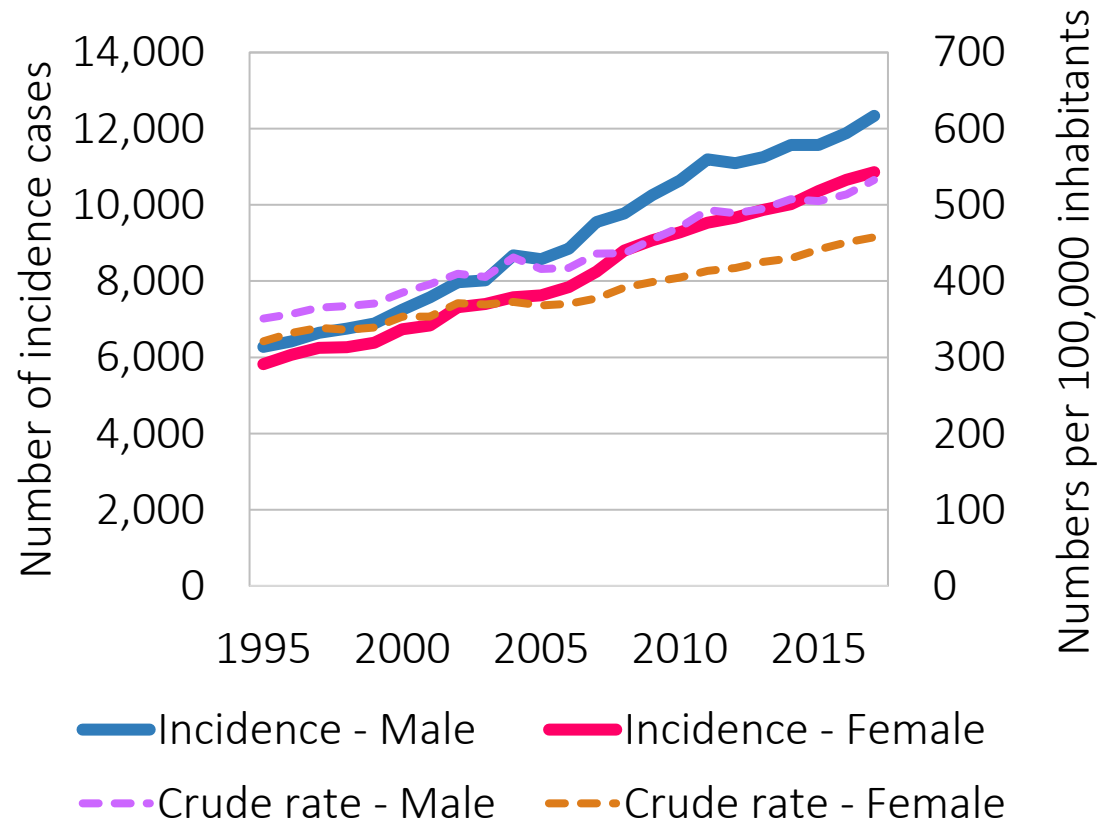
New cancer cases have doubled since 1995...



Absolute numbers: +100%
Per capita numbers: +48%

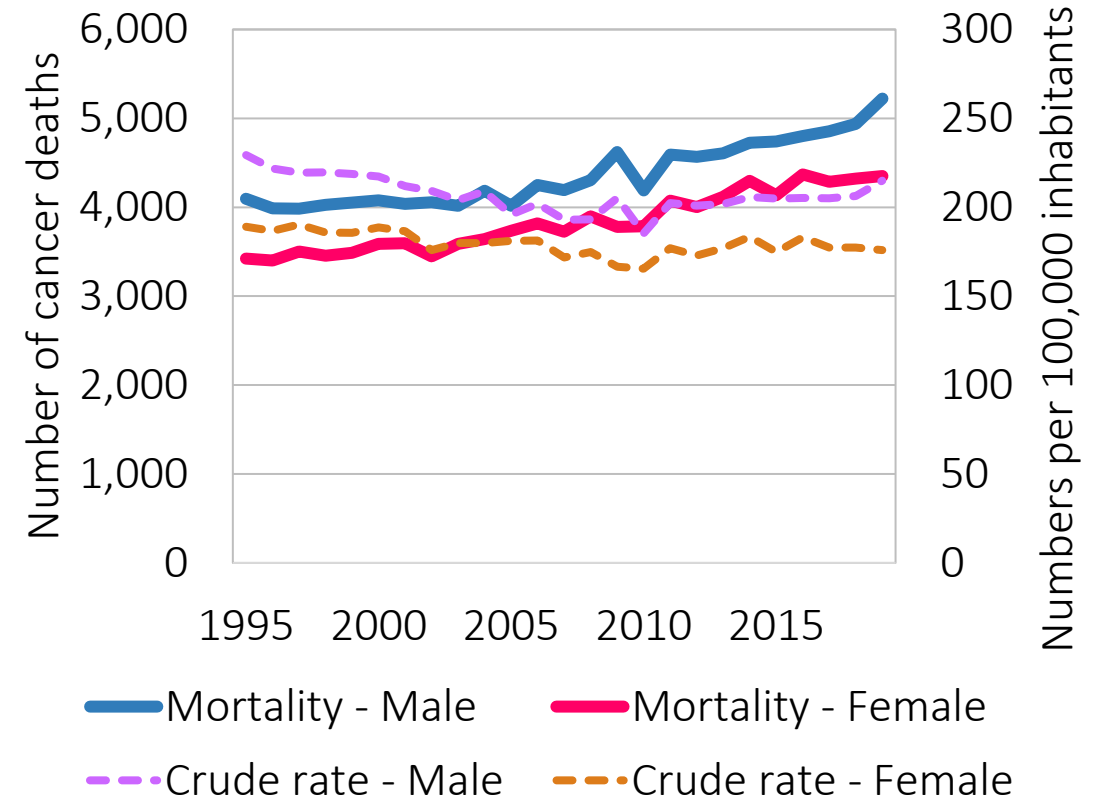
New cancer cases have doubled since 1995 ... whereas increases in cancer deaths were much less pronounced → a sign of progress!

New cancer cases in Ireland



Absolute numbers: +100%
Per capita numbers: +48%

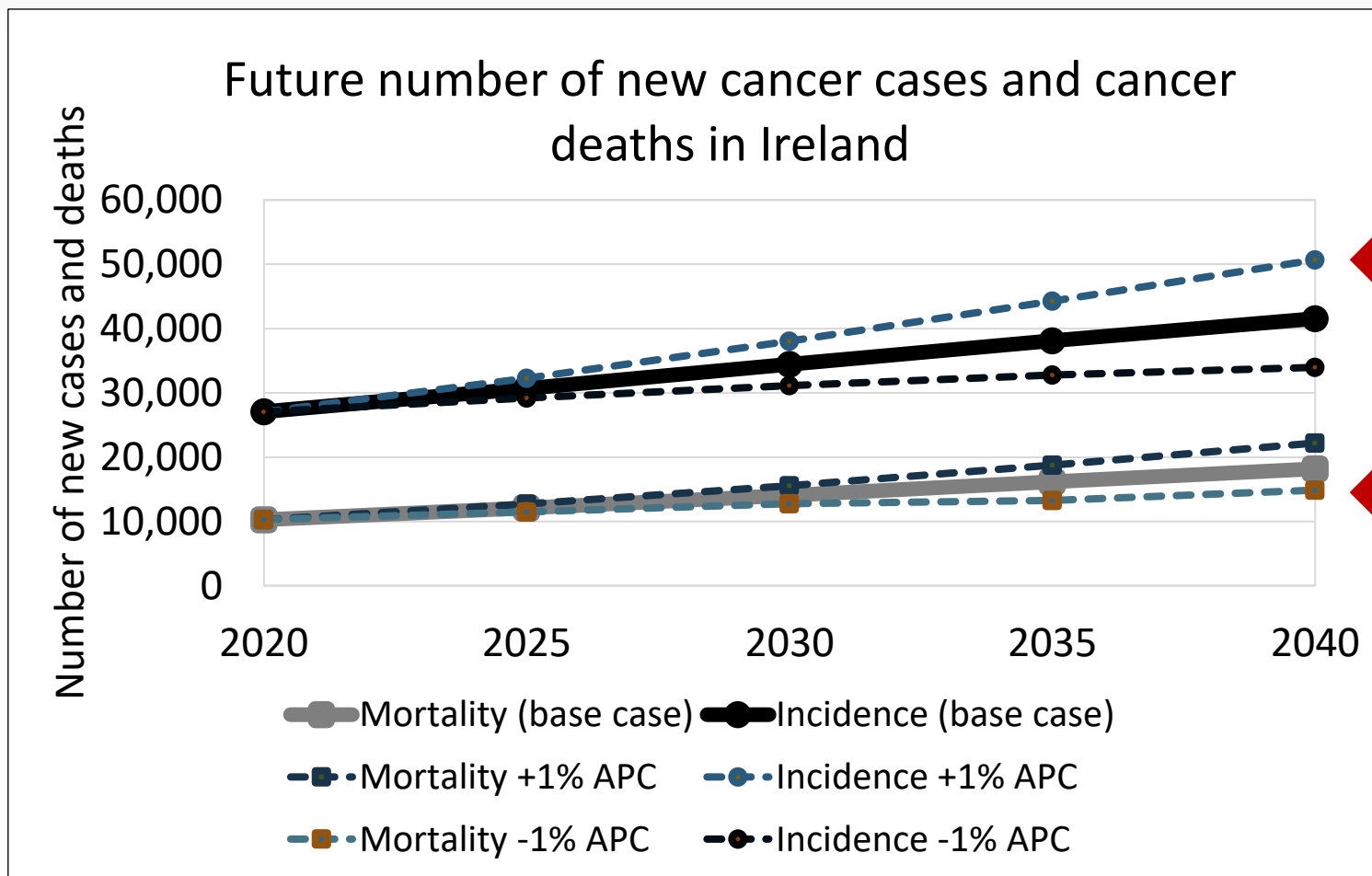
Cancer deaths in Ireland



Absolute numbers: +23%
Per capita numbers: -8%

Source: NCRI, CSO,
WHO, Eurostat

Improvements in cancer care are needed to avert at least some of the additional 15,000 yearly new cancer cases and 8,000 cancer deaths predicted to occur in Ireland by 2040

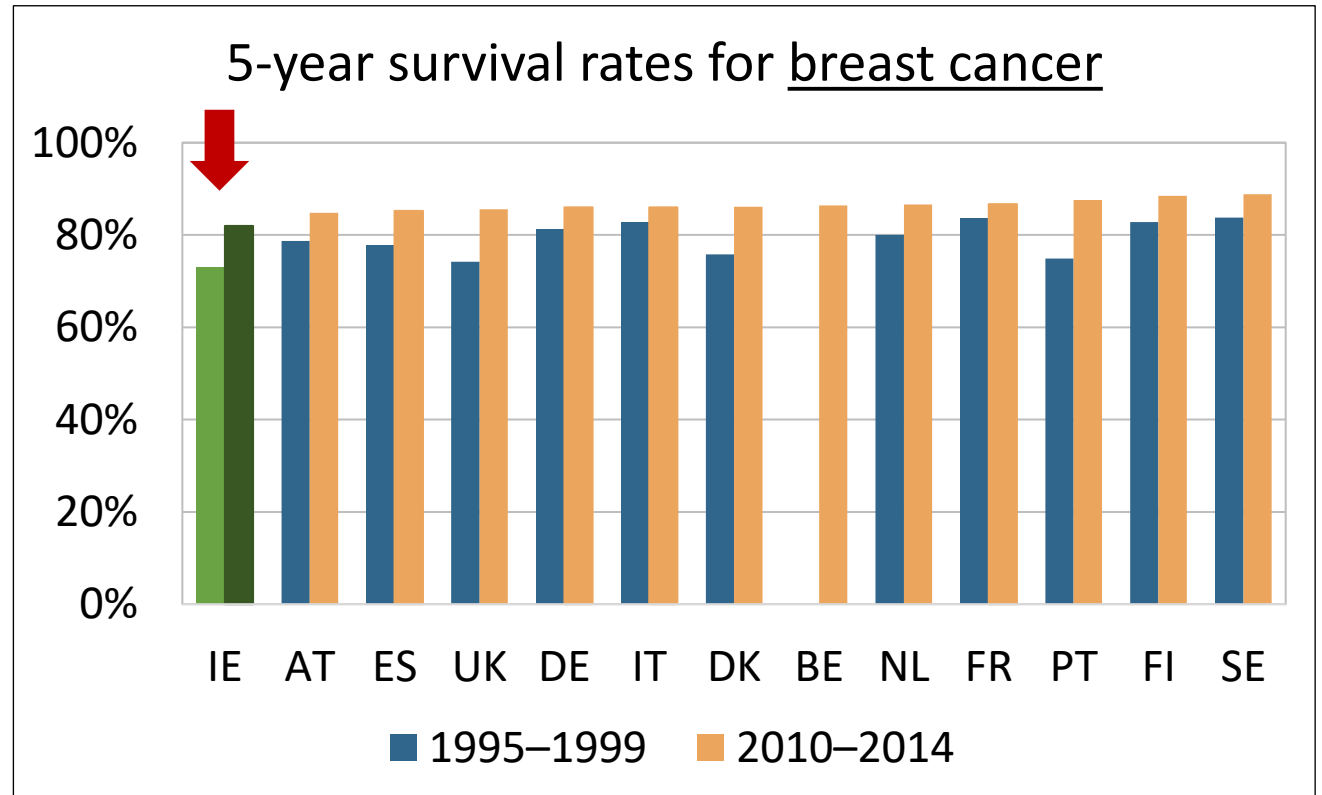
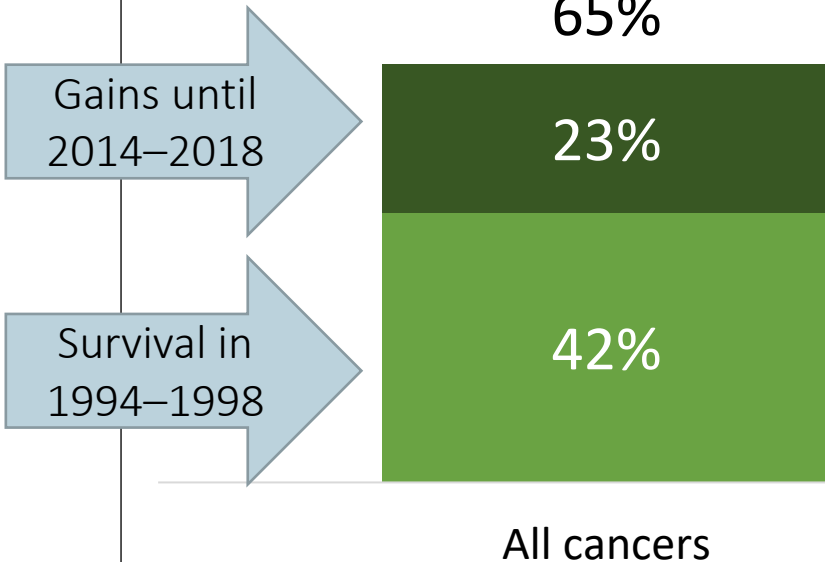


Likely if past trends continue

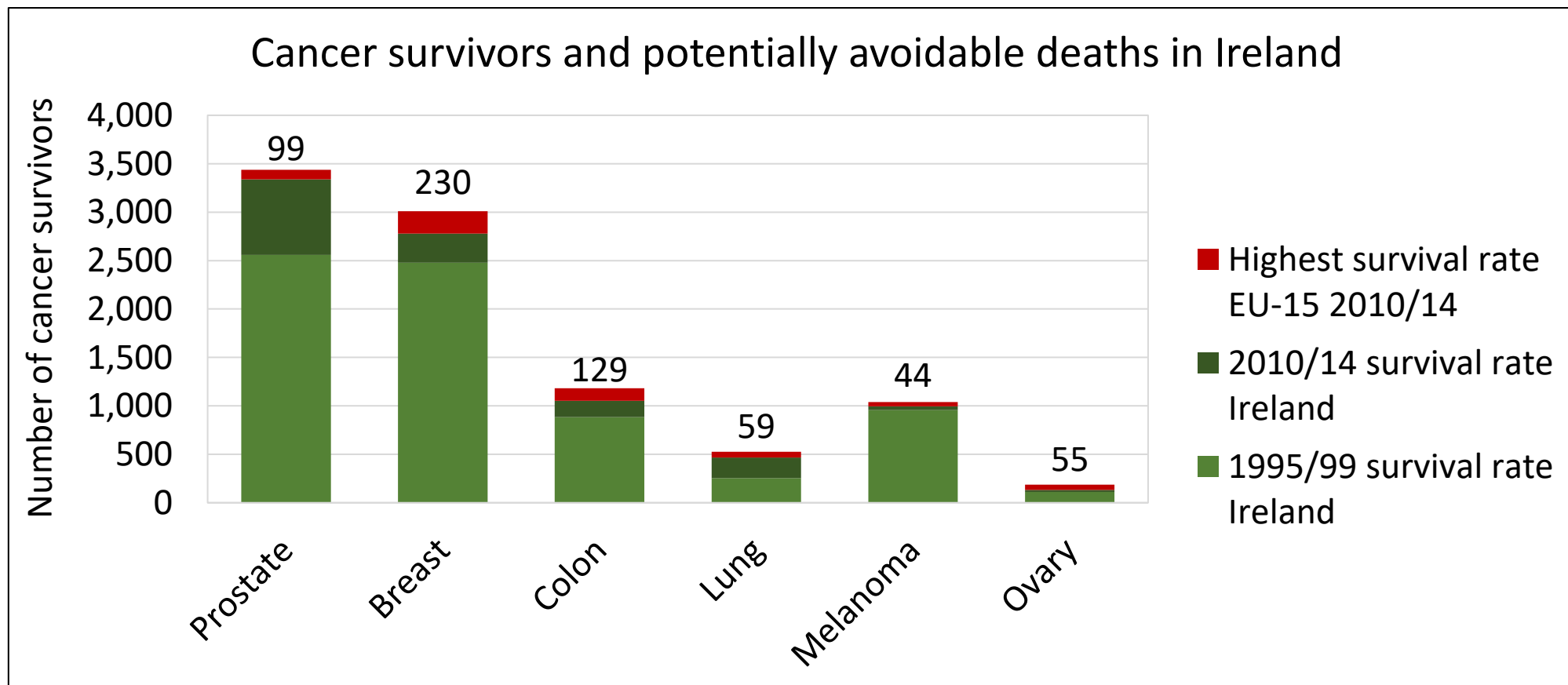
Likely if past trends continue

Cancer survival has improved in Ireland and in the EU-15

5-year survival rates in Ireland (in 2014–2018)

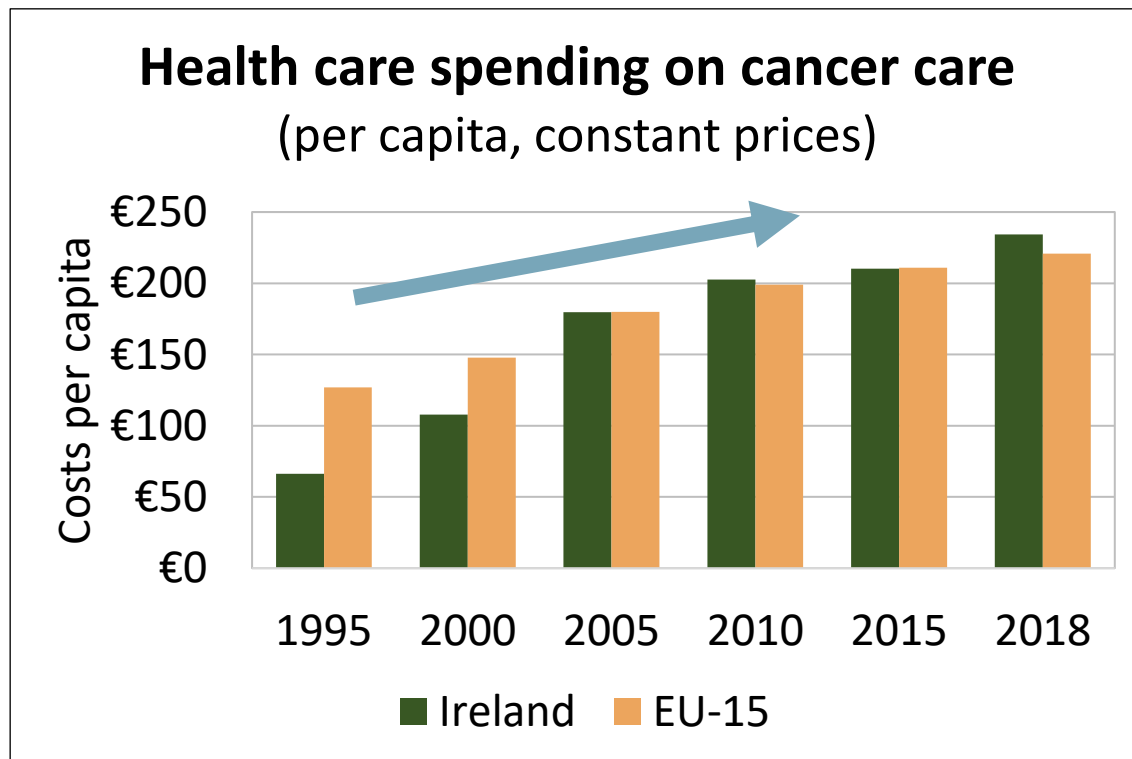


If survival rates in Ireland were on par with the best-performing EU-15 countries, hundreds of deaths could be avoided every year



Ireland has been spending more on cancer care, and the economy is benefiting indirectly from healthier, cured cancer patients

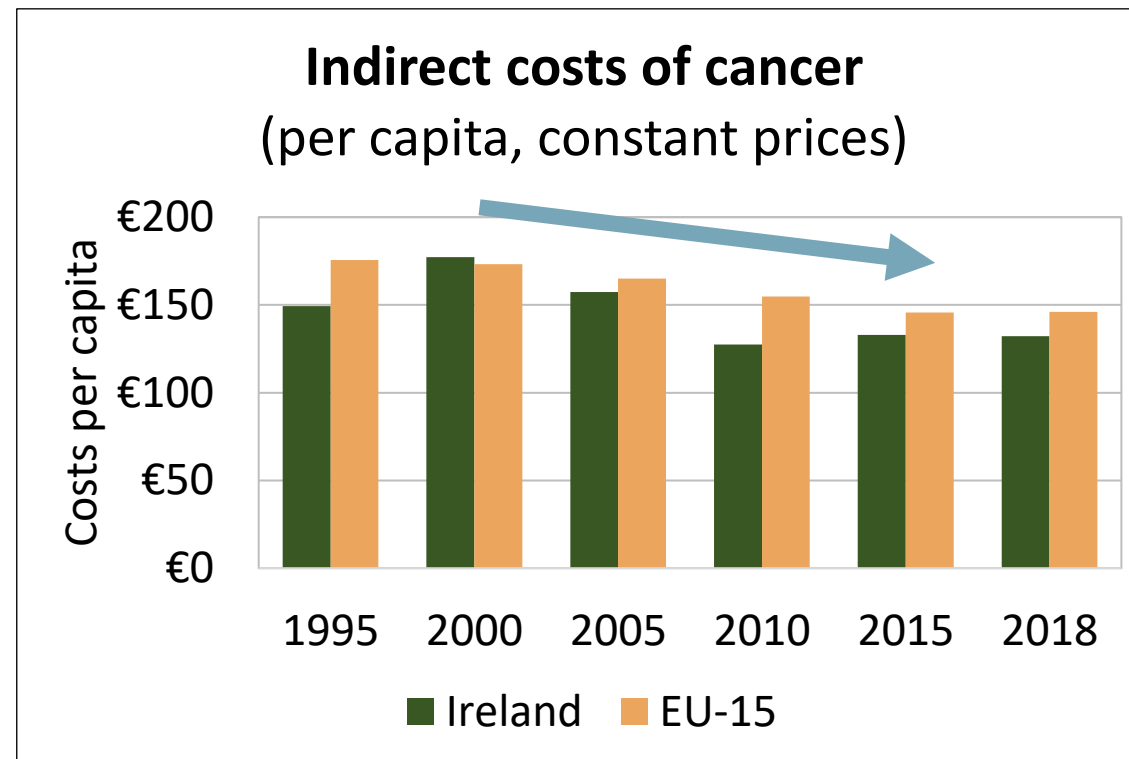
Health care costs: €1139 million in 2018



Notes: (€, 2018 prices and exchange rates)

IE: increase 250%

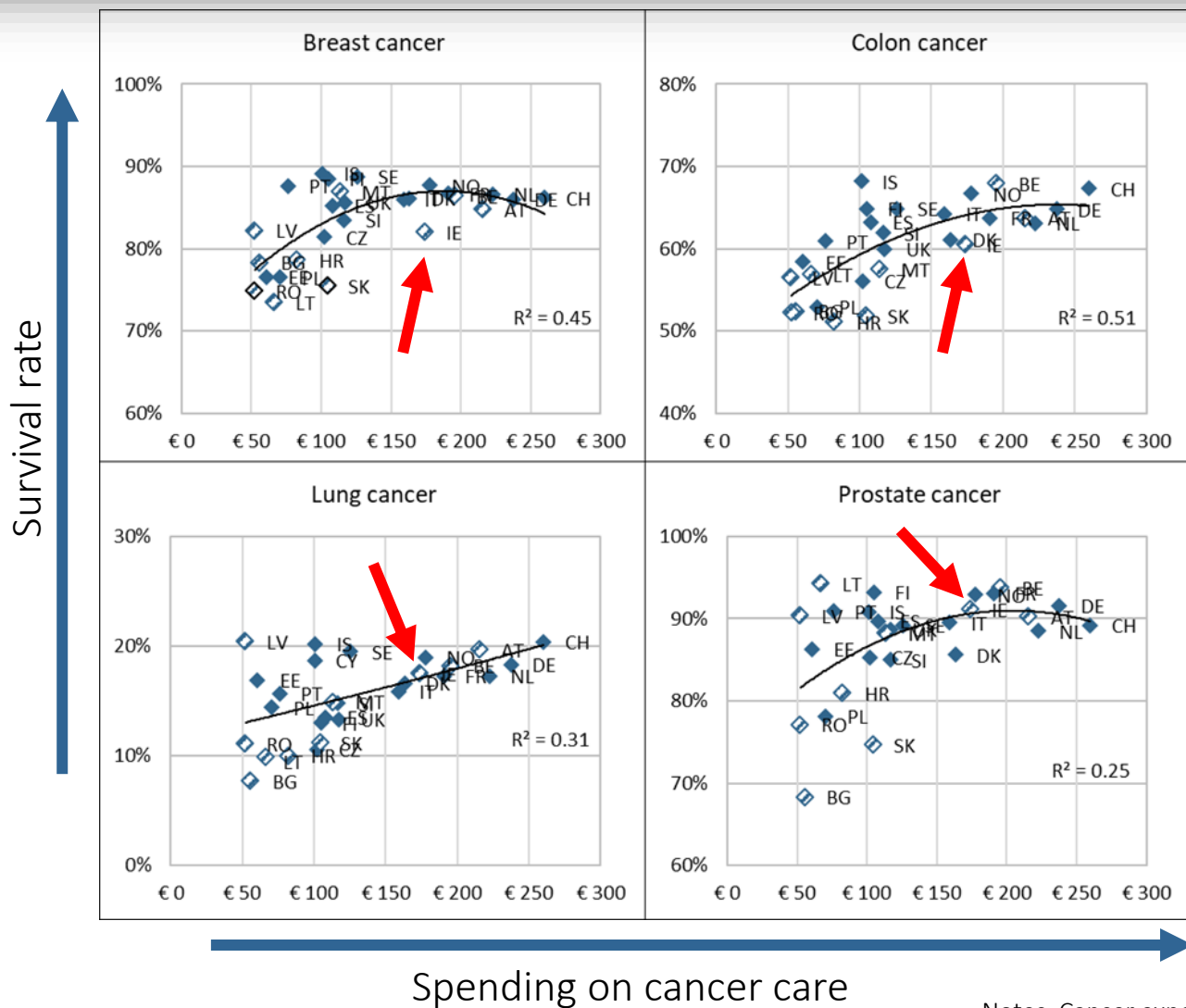
Indirect costs: €639 million in 2018



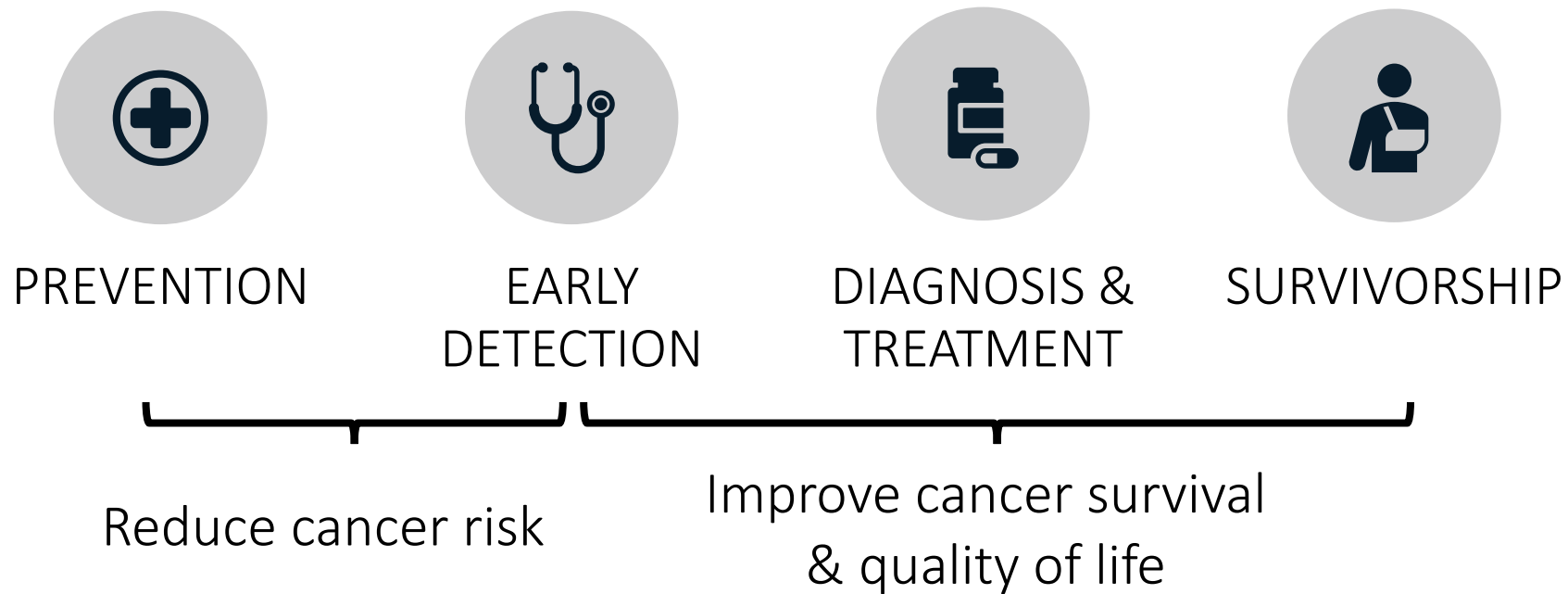
Indirect costs = Productivity loss from
(1) premature mortality and
(2) morbidity / sick leave / disability
in patients of working age.

IE: decrease 12%

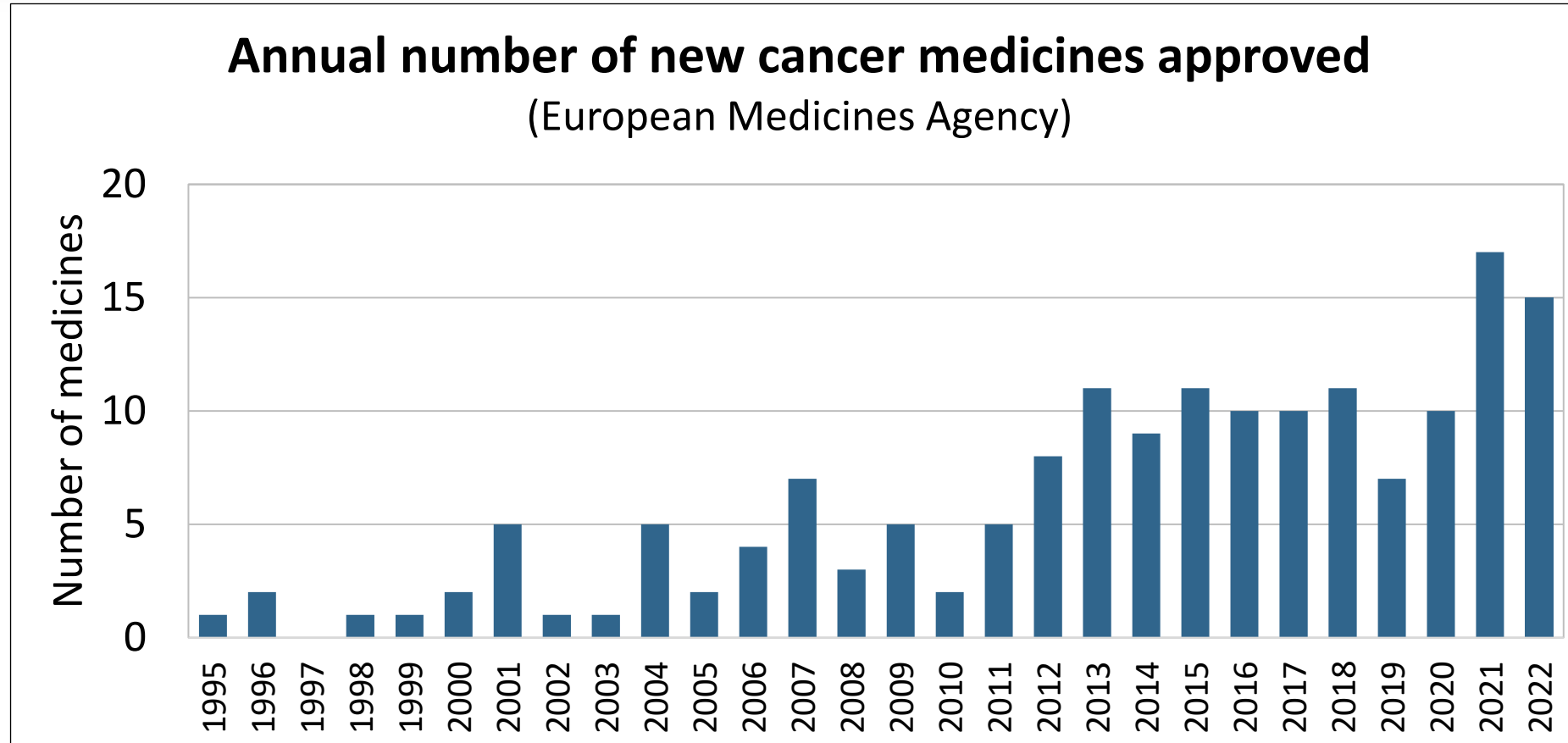
There is a clear pattern of countries spending more on cancer care achieving higher survival rates, but spending in Ireland appears less efficient



Cancer needs to be tackled comprehensively

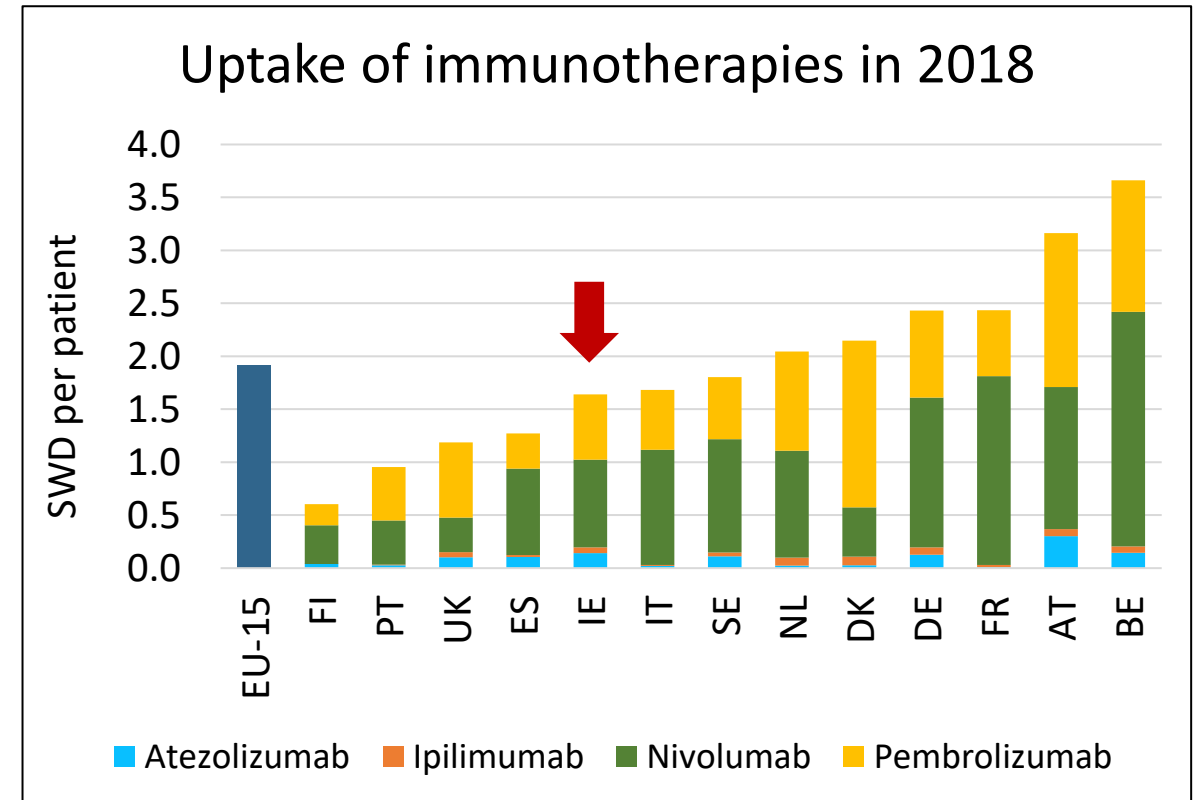
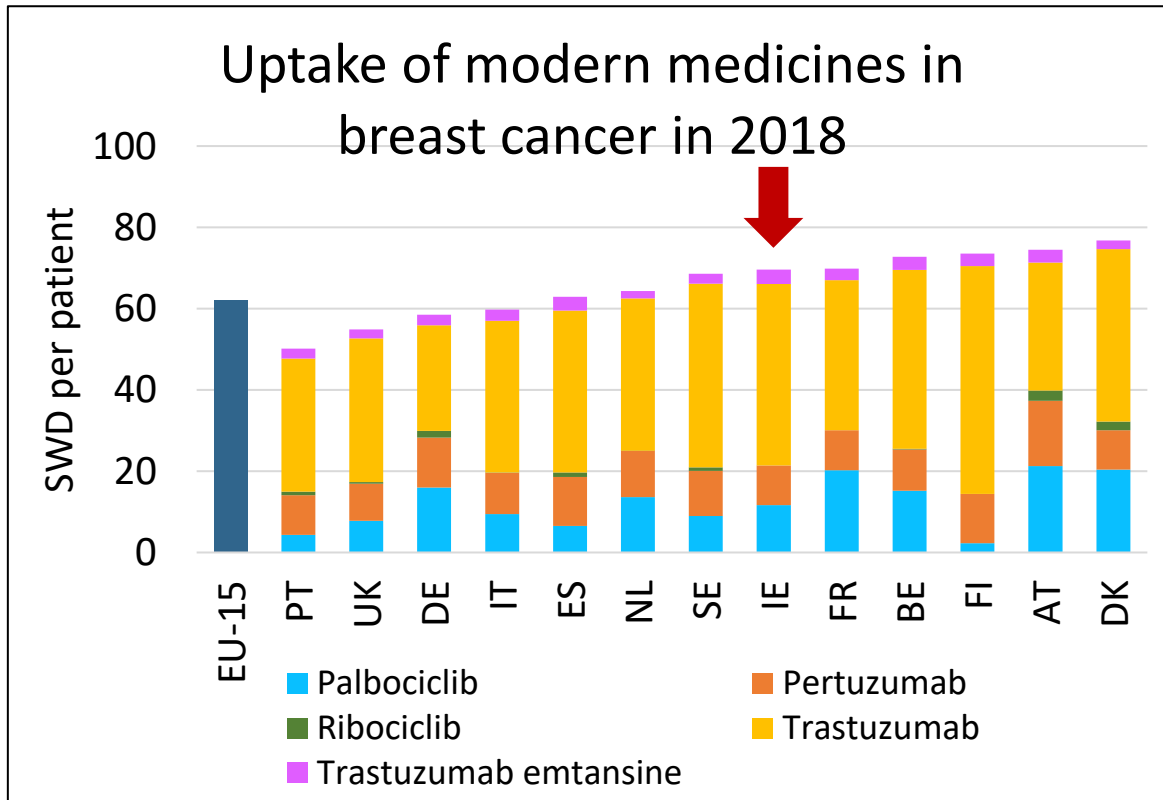


The last decade has witnessed a distinct increase in new cancer medicines approved by the EMA



Source: EMA

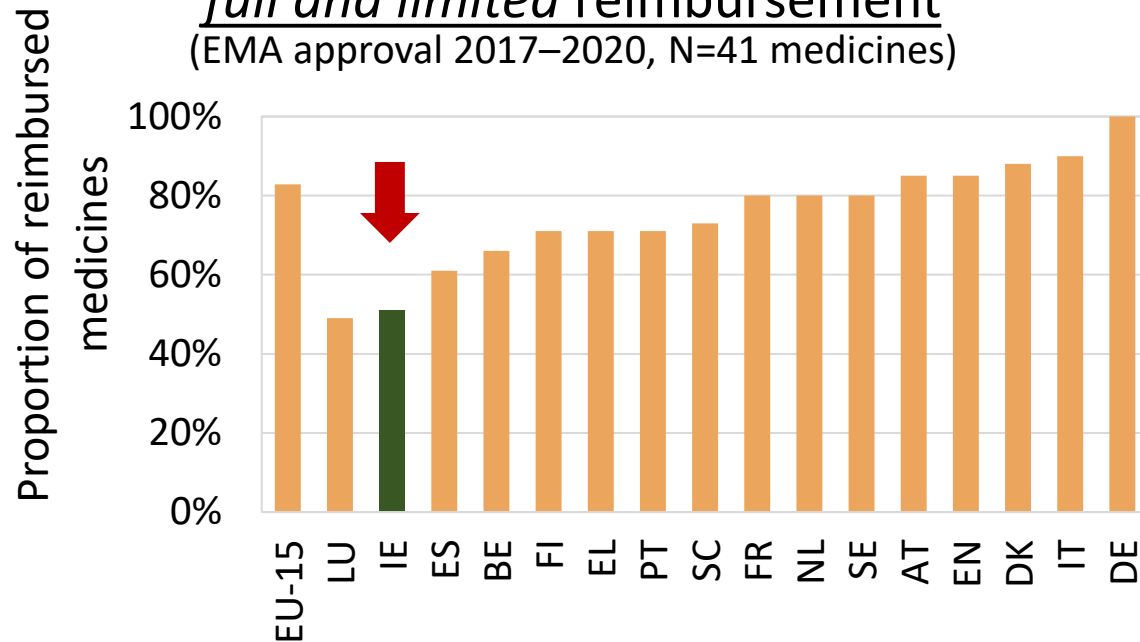
Once reimbursed by the HSE, the use of modern cancer medicines in Ireland is close to the EU-15 average



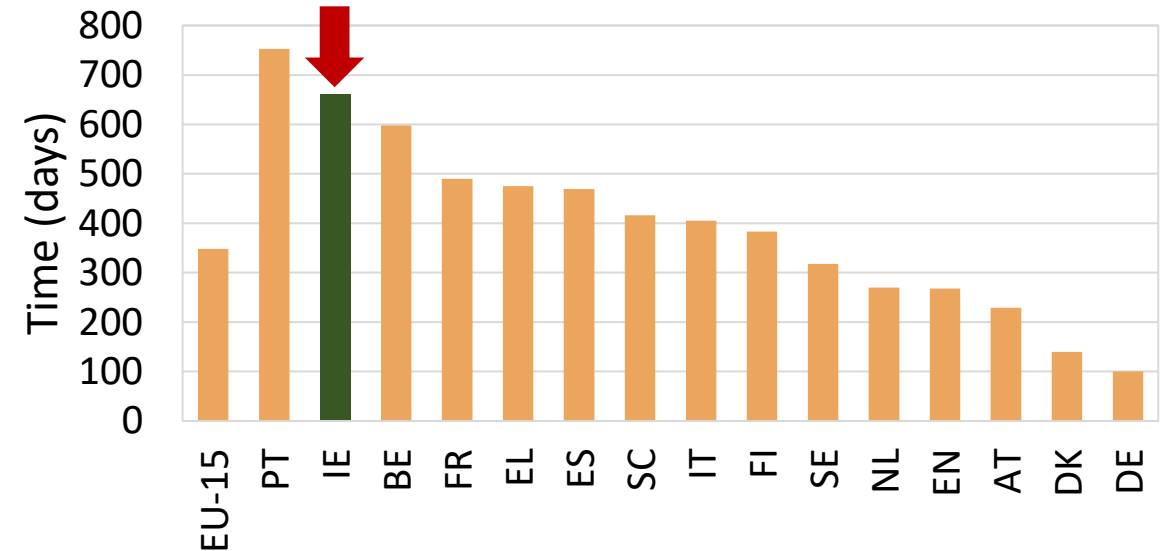
Notes: Uptake is defined as standard weekly doses (SWD) per patient. "Patient" is defined as the number of cancer deaths in the respective cancer type and country except for immunotherapies where all cancers were used.

Up to 2020, cancer patients in Ireland have waited comparatively long until they could access new medicines approved by the EMA – almost 2 years

New cancer medicines with
full and limited reimbursement
(EMA approval 2017–2020, N=41 medicines)



Average reimbursement time for
new cancer medicines
(EMA approval 2017–2020)



(Status as of January 1st, 2022)

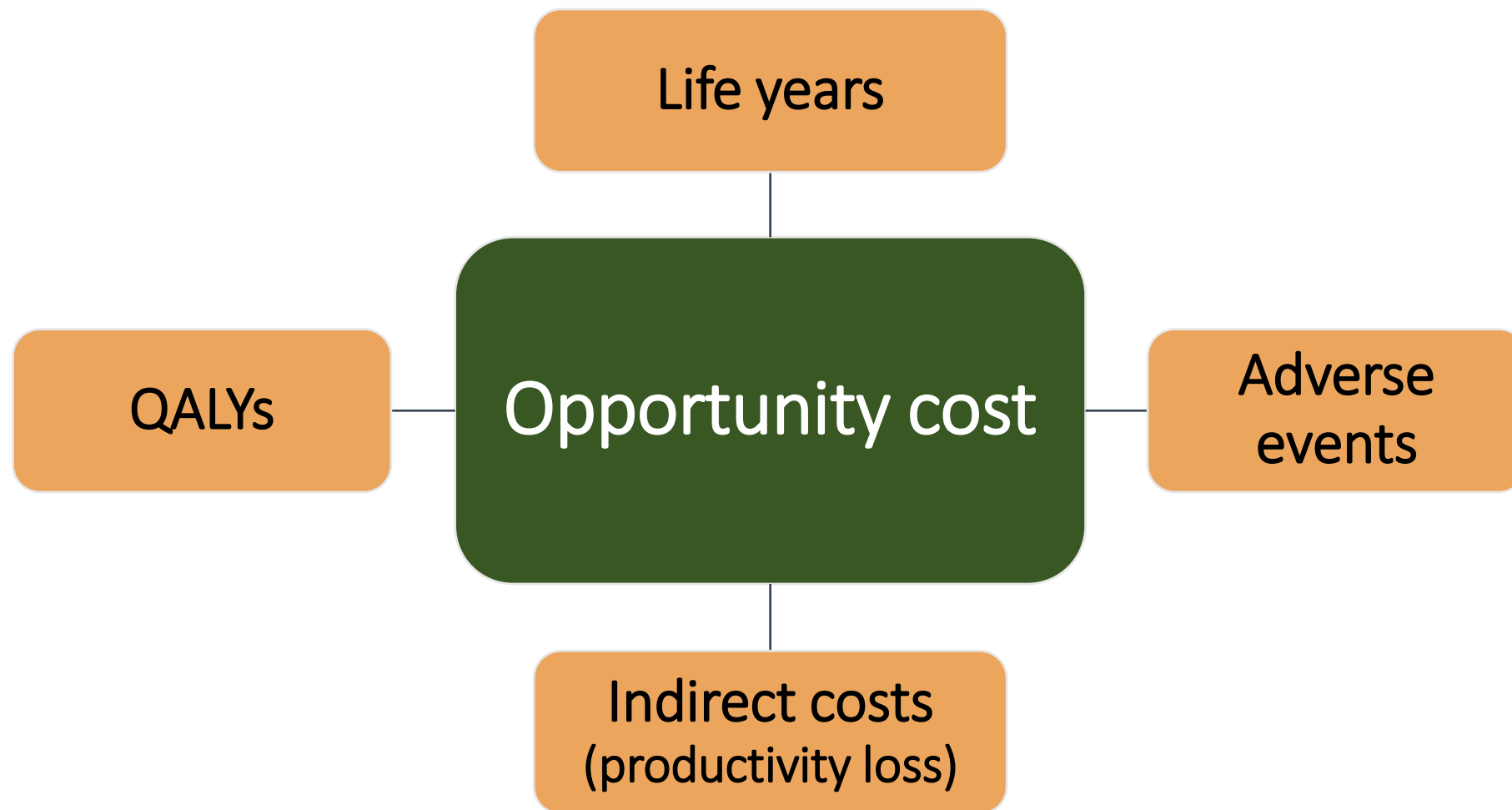
Reimbursement status of new cancer medicines approved by the
EMA in 2017–2020 on January 1st, 2022

Source: IQVIA

Average reimbursement time for new cancer medicines approved by the
EMA in 2017–2020 (cut-off for follow-up: January 1st, 2022)

Source: IQVIA

Is there a “cost” to patients waiting to access new, effective cancer medicines?



Socio-economic impact of limited and later access to new, effective cancer medicines in Ireland

Example: 11 indications of cancer medicines used across six cancer types with EMA approval in 2015-2021

- ✓ Only indications with a statistically significant gain in median overall survival (OS)
- ✓ Annual number of eligible patients for each indication (both for patients of all ages and for working-age patients 15–64 years)
- ✓ Period between EMA approval and reimbursement by the HSE for each indication

Result (based on 11 indications):

Measure	Result
Annual number of patients affected by reimbursement delays	1,567
Years of Potential Life Lost (all ages)	2,591
Years of Potential Life Lost (15-64 years)	1,049
Economic value of Years of Potential Life Lost	€34.1 million

Key points



Cancer is the leading cause of death in Ireland



The number of new cancer cases is rising sharply in Ireland



Ireland lags behind other EU-15 countries in cancer survival rates, and hundreds of cancer deaths could be avoided annually if rates were improved



There is a positive association between how much countries spend on cancer care and the survival rates they achieve



Expedited patient access to new cancer medicines seems to be an area in need of improvement in Ireland



Thank you!

Link to IHE report

Find out more about IHE's research: <https://ihe.se/en/>

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