



# Finnish Cancer Registry Cancer Society of Finland

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# Welcome

**STATISTICS AND RESEARCH**

The Finnish Cancer Registry maintains the national registry of all the diagnosed cancer cases since 1953. It is also a statistical and epidemiological research institute that does active collaboration both nationally and internationally.

**STATISTICS**

Cancer statistics are used to monitor the incidence of new cancer cases and the survival and mortality of cancer patients. The statistics of the Mass Screening Registry are used in evaluation and quality control of cancer screening.

**Statistics in a nutshell**

<b>3 359</b> new cases of bowel cancer, 2017	<b>4 947</b> new cases of breast cancer, 2017	<b>5 446</b> new cases of prostate cancer, 2017
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**Cancer Society of Finland**

The Cancer Society of Finland is a strong and competent organisation, the overall aim of which is to ensure a good quality of life for everyone, free from cancer and regardless of cancer. The organisation offers people information, support and hope.

[Read more about organisation](#)

# Finnish Cancer Registry (FCR)

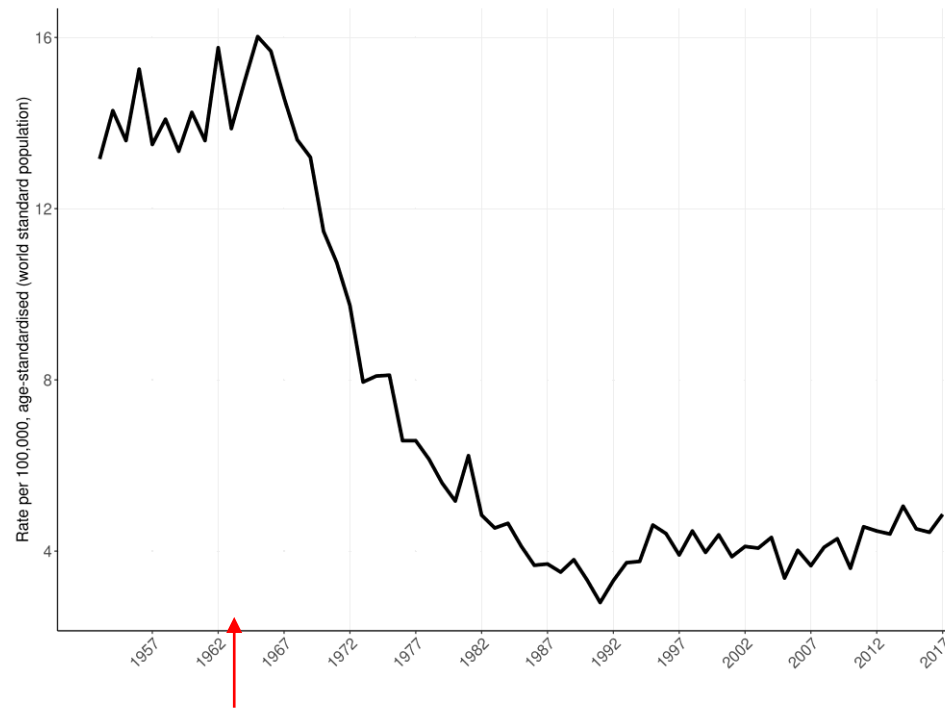
- Institute for Statistical and Epidemiological Cancer Research since 1952
- A research institute of the Cancer Society of Finland
- The FCR takes care of the **national cancer register** and **two national cancer screening registers**
- the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (**THL**) is controller of data
- Cancer registration started in **1953** and data on screening is electronically available from c. **1990**
- Reporting is mandatory and based on specific legislation

# Mass screening registry

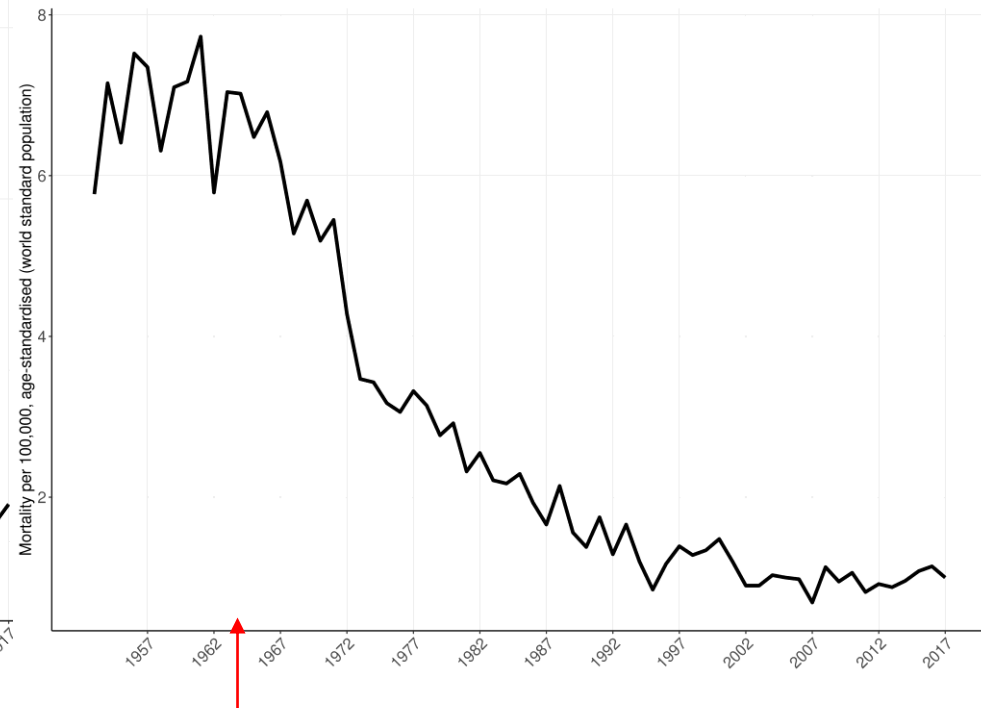
- Part of the FCR since 1968
  - National cervical cancer screening since 1963
  - National breast cancer screening since 1987
  - Implementation of colorectal cancer screening in 2004-2016 and from 2019
- Screening and cancer **data linked** on individual basis for evaluation
- Follow-up close to complete

# Incidence and mortality from cervical cancer in Finland 1953-2017

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BREAST CANCER SCREENING PROGRAMME IN FINLAND



## ANNUAL REVIEW 2018

MASS SCREENING REGISTRY 50 YEARS



The breast cancer screening programme has been under way for 30 years and has proved to be effective. Altogether 315,000 cancer were detected. Participation in screening reduced by one third.

### COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING

The purpose of screening for colorectal cancer is to detect colorectal cancer at an early stage, when it is more likely to be cured. The aim of screening is to reduce deaths caused by colorectal cancer.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Screening can also detect polyps which are not cancers but some of which may develop into cancers. Polyps can be removed, in which case cancer does not develop. Thus, screening can also prevent cancer.

#### SCREENING TEST

The test used for colorectal cancer screening is called FIT. It is an immunochemical test used to find hidden blood in stool. Those invited to screening get an invitation letter, a sampling tool and detailed instructions for taking the sample. The screening sample is taken at home by brushing the test stick in the stool. The sample for examination is posted to the screening laboratory

#### SCREENING TEST RESULT

The screening test result is posted to the participant within about one month of returning the sample. The result can be negative or positive. A negative or normal result means that no blood was detected in the sample. A positive result means that the screening sample contained blood.

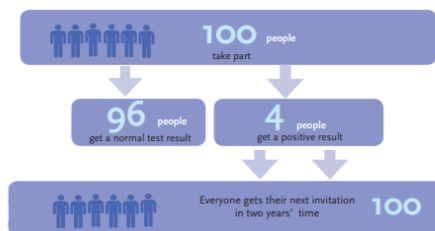
At the outset, a colorectal tumour may bleed slightly, which isn't visible to the naked eye. The screening test can reveal hidden blood in stool. In consequence, the disease can be detected at an early stage and treated before the cancer develops further.

The target group for colorectal cancer is people 60–74 years old, because colorectal cancer is the most common in this age group. Screening begins in 2019 with the youngest age groups and is gradually expanded to cover the entire target group. An invitation to screening is sent every two years. Screening should be repeated regularly, as one test only reflects the current situation. Screening is part of your own municipality's health care.

The test is in the prepaid cardboard envelope enclosed in the package. The screening centre examines the sample in the laboratory.

**DID YOU KNOW?** The screening test is free of charge.

The result is normal in over nine out of ten tests. The result does not warrant further examinations. The next invitation to screening will come in two years until you are 74 years of age. However, a doctor should always be contacted if any continuous symptoms in bowel function are noticed.



CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING PROGRAMME IN FINLAND

## ANNUAL REVIEW 2018

MASS SCREENING REGISTRY 50 YEARS



The cervical cancer screening programme has been underway for over 50 years and has been effective. Despite the excellent results, there is still need for screening. Cervical cancer screenings focus specifically on precancerous lesions. When these are treated, the cancer itself can be averted completely.

#### SUMMARY

In all, 273,000 women were invited to the cervical cancer screening programme in 2016. Of those invited, 191,000 attended the screening. This is 70% of all invitations. Approximately 94% of those screened received a normal test result, 5% received a recommendation for follow-up screening, and 1.2% were referred to colposcopy or other further examinations.

Despite the high-quality screening programme, the number of precancerous lesions of cervical cancer have not decreased. The numbers of precancerous lesions detected through the programme have even increased slightly, so screening is still needed.

Thank you for your attention