

EN

E-000972/2026

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.5.2026)

Cancer incidence estimates and historical data for European countries are available in the European Cancer Information System (ECIS)¹. The European Cancer Inequalities Registry², a flagship of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan³, tracks cancer disparities in the EU, Norway and Iceland. Its Data Tool integrates data from ECIS, whilst Country Cancer Profiles⁴ and EU Analytical Reports⁵ provide national analyses and EU-level comparisons.

The reported number of new cancer cases grew across Member States up to 2020. This trend continued until 2022, when 2.78 million new cancer cases were estimated, a 2.4% rise from 2020. Since 2021, cancer incidence is stabilising or increasing moderately, with 2.7 million new cases estimated in 2024. However, data enabling robust analysis from 2021 will become available in the second half of 2026, following the 2026 ECIS update where incidence data for 2021–2024 will be published.

Cancer incidence varies between Member States, with Central and Eastern European countries generally showing higher rates. However, in 2024 Denmark was estimated to rank highest for incidence (22% above the EU average) and Bulgaria lowest (26% below), in contrast to the general trend. These disparities likely stem from differences in prevalence of risk factors, population structures and ageing, existence and effectiveness of prevention and screening programmes, quality of diagnosis and treatment. From the data registration perspective, quality and completeness of cancer registries also play a role.

Finally, the Commission refers the Honourable Member to the answer to Parliamentary Question E-002078/2025⁶, detailing that there is no scientific evidence of any increase of cancer occurrence following COVID-19 vaccination.

¹ <https://ecis.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>.

² <https://cancer-inequalities.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>.

³ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/public-health/european-health-union/cancer-plan-europe_en.

⁴ <https://cancer-inequalities.jrc.ec.europa.eu/country-cancer-profiles-2025>.

⁵ <https://cancer-inequalities.jrc.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/oecd-ecir-beating-cancer-inequalities-05022024.pdf>; <https://cancer-inequalities.jrc.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/docs/ar2026/Analytical-report-2026.pdf>.

⁶ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-002078-ASW_EN.html.