

EN

E-001749/2026

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.7.2026)

The Honourable Member refers to a scientific article describing rare, retrospective, temporally associated patterns rather than rigorous, prospective, multidisciplinary research to determine causality¹. In the Commission's replies to Parliamentary Questions E-002078/2025² and E-000093/2026³, it detailed that there is no scientific evidence of any increase of cancer occurrence following COVID-19 vaccination.

Based on the official data from the European Cancer Information System (ECIS), there is no evidence either of an 'explosion' or sudden spike in cancer rates among young people since 2021. As indicated in the Commission's reply to PQ E-000972/2026⁴, data enabling robust analysis and conclusions from 2021 will only become available in ECIS in the second half of 2026, following the 2026 update with incidence data up to 2024.

Broader evidence shows so far a gradual long-term increase in some types of early-onset cancers (typically defined as cancers under age 50), with important differences by cancer type, sex, and country/registry⁵. There is no evidence of sharp discontinuity around 2021 visible in the published ECIS indicators or the broader epidemiology literature. Instead, studies show a slow upward trend over many years, often beginning well before 2020.

The Horizon Europe Cancer Mission⁶, working in synergy with Europe's Beating Cancer Plan⁷, translates evidence generated through research and innovation (R&I) into concrete solutions for people at risk of or living with and beyond cancer and supports Member States in delivering efficient cancer control strategies. This includes supporting R&I to identify environmental and lifestyle risk factors⁸ that contribute to the development of cancer in younger age groups.

¹ <https://www.oncotarget.com/article/28824/text/>.

² https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-002078-ASW_EN.html.

³ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2026-000093-ASW_EN.html.

⁴ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2026-000972-ASW_EN.html.

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

⁶ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/eu-mission-cancer_en.

⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_342.

⁸ HORIZON-MISS-2027-06-SOIL-CANCER - Living labs to monitor and mitigate carcinogenic substances in and originating from soils: Evaluating their effects on human cancer risks; HORIZON-MISS-2026-02 - CANCER-01 - Virtual Human Twin (VHT) Models for Cancer Research; HORIZON-MISS-2025-02-CANCER-02 - Understanding the effects of environmental exposure on the risk of paediatric, adolescent and young adult cancers; HORIZON-MISS-2021-CANCER-02-03 - Better understanding of the impact of risk factors and health determinants on the development and progression of cancer.