# Macmillan Report Reveals UK Cancer Survival Rates Lag Behind Scandinavian Countries



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Recent analysis by Macmillan Cancer Support reveals that the UK’s cancer survival rates for prostate, bowel, breast, and cervical cancer are significantly behind those of countries like Sweden, Norway, and Denmark. This data indicates that the UK’s survival rates are comparable to levels that these Scandinavian countries reached in the early 2000s.

For women diagnosed with bowel cancer in England, the current five-year survival rate is 57.6%, whereas in Denmark, it's 72.7%, in Norway 71.7%, and in Sweden 70.6%. The disparity for men is similar, with 57.6% survival in England versus 73.2% in Denmark, 70% in Norway, and 69.4% in Sweden. Prostate cancer survival rates in England are also behind, standing at 88.5% compared to Sweden’s 95%, Norway's 94.8%, and Denmark’s 90.2%.

Breast cancer survival in England is a decade behind Sweden and Denmark, while cervical cancer survival is 25 years behind Norway.

Macmillan’s Chief Executive Officer, Gemma Peters, emphasized the urgency for a comprehensive, long-term strategy to improve cancer care across the UK. In response, an NHS spokesperson highlighted ongoing efforts to increase cancer diagnoses at earlier stages and expand innovative screening programs.

The data confirms that the UK's cancer survival rates have consistently been among the worst in Europe and underscores the need for immediate improvements in cancer care delivery.