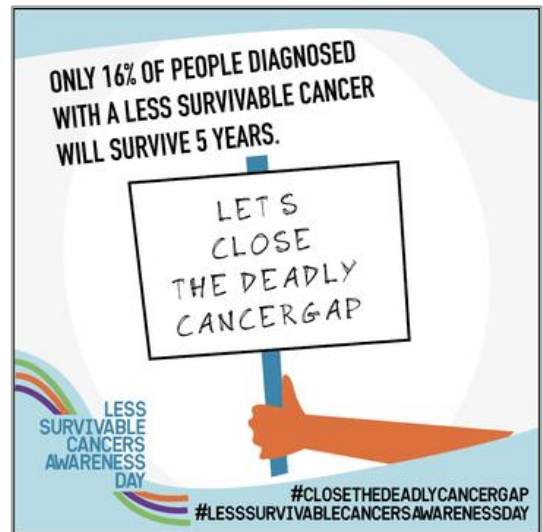




Less Survivable Cancers Awareness Day, 11 January 2024: Brief for MSs

Thank you for supporting Less Survivable Cancers Awareness Day. The day is organised by the Less Survivable Cancers Taskforce (LSCT), representing the six less survivable common cancers: cancers of the **lungs, liver, brain, oesophagus, pancreas and stomach**. Unacceptably, these have an average five-year survival rate of just 16%.

More than **4,400 people will be diagnosed each year in Wales** with one of these 6 cancers and, because of the short prognosis for these cancers, **they make up over 40% of all deaths from cancer each year**.



We believe that existing pan-cancer commitments, ambitions and targets have led to less survivable cancers being overlooked and under-resourced. Dedicated action and investment are urgently needed.

How you can help

Share our messages on social media

Today we are highlighting concerning data that shows that the Wales is falling behind international standards on the less survivable cancers.

Data shows that out of 33 countries of comparable wealth and income levels, Wales ranks as low as 32nd for five year survival for stomach cancer and 31st for pancreatic and lung cancers. This rises to 21st for both liver cancer and oesophageal cancer and 12th for brain cancer. This poor survivability for less survivable cancers is similar across all UK nations. We need your help in sharing symptoms messages to your constituents on social media and with your local media. You can share posts from our [Twitter - @LessSurvivable](#), [Instagram - LessSurvivable](#), or search “Less Survivable Cancers” on [Facebook](#), or you can use suggested text:

Today, I'm pleased to be supporting #LessSurvivableCancersAwarenessDay

Cancers of the brain, liver, lung, stomach, oesophagus, and pancreas can be hard to spot – but early diagnosis is vital.

Learn more about them here: <https://tinyurl.com/36yebzd6>

Let's close the #DeadlyCancerGap

We also have draft press releases available for you to share with your local media outlets, outlining your support for Less Survivable Cancers Awareness Day and encouraging constituents to seek medical attention if they experience symptoms – copies will be sent to you along with photos from the drop-in event.

Support the call for the roll-out of the lung screening programme

The Less Survivable Cancers Taskforce, Tenovus Cancer Care and many other organisations are calling for the urgent roll-out of targeted lung cancer screening in Wales. The screening programme would invite people aged 55-74 to be screened if they have a high-risk of lung cancer, similar to the programme being rolled out in England. Pilots have proved this approach is successful in diagnosing people earlier and at a more treatable stage.

Please share the [public petition - https://petitions.senedd.wales/petitions/245901](https://petitions.senedd.wales/petitions/245901) on your social media feeds and speak out in favour of a targeted lung cancer screening in Wales.

Support the creation of a national register of Barrett's oesophagus in Wales

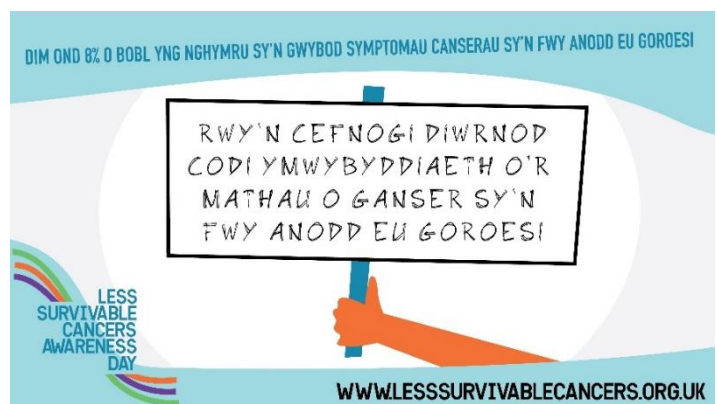
In 2023, Tenovus Cancer Care published a report on improving oesophageal and stomach cancers in Wales, '[A Burning Issue](#)'. It makes several recommendations, including the need to expand awareness of these cancers' vague symptoms through interventions in pharmacies, expanding endoscopy service capacity in Wales, and creation a national register of people with Barrett's oesophagus, a precursor condition to oesophageal cancer.

Please write to the Minister for Health and Social Services outlining your support for these interventions. You can contact us at the email address below for a draft letter.

The action Wales needs:

Improving outcomes for the less survivable cancers requires the highest quality of care at each stage of the patient pathway. We need the following action:

- **Specific commitments and targets** for the less survivable cancers to drive forward the transformational changes we need in diagnosis, treatments and care required in these cancer areas.
- A major focus on **improving early diagnosis** of these cancers including the full roll out of targeted lung cancer screening, expanding endoscopy service capacity in Wales, creating a national register of people with Barrett's oesophagus, cancer symptoms awareness campaigns, improving liver disease monitoring, exploring AI research into GP red-flags, and investment in biomarkers such as saliva or blood tests.
- **Dedicated research funding** to support the early diagnosis groups and to make progress with tests / screening to help earlier diagnosis, and to improve treatment options.
- **Timed, optimal pathways** looking at diagnosis, treatment, support and care should be developed and implemented for all 6 less survivable cancers.
- **Significant workforce investment** to ensure that every person with a less survivable cancer be assigned to a clinical nurse specialist with expertise in their cancer, and to ensure the full diagnostic and care pathway is sufficiently staffed to avoid delays and backlogs.



www.lessurvivablecancers.org.uk

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Wales survival ranks among the worst in the world for deadliest cancers



Wales and the whole of the UK lag woefully behind other countries for cancer survival according to data shared today by the Less Survivable Cancers Taskforce (LSCT).

The Taskforce, which represents six less survivable cancers: lung, liver, brain, oesophageal, pancreatic and stomach, with an average five-year survival rate of just 16%, has released the findings on Less Survivable Cancers Awareness Day to highlight the loss of life caused by this deadly cancer gap.

The findings released today are based on a new analysis of existing data and the world survival rankings of cancers of the lung, liver, brain, oesophagus, pancreas and stomach. Wales, and the UK, ranks below most other countries for these six cancers.

The data shows that out of 33 countries of comparable wealth and income levels, Wales ranks as low as 32nd for five-year survival for stomach cancer and 31st for pancreatic cancer and lung cancers. This rises to 21st for liver and oesophageal cancers and 12th for brain cancer. This poor survivability for less survivable cancers is similar across all UK nations.

The reasons behind the UK's lethal gap in survival are complex and experts believe they are likely to be a mix of delayed diagnosis and slow access to treatment. Many patients with a less survivable cancer will only be diagnosed after an emergency admission to hospital or an urgent GP referral after symptoms have become severe.

The less survivable cancers make up nearly half of all common cancer deaths in the UK and over 90,000 people are diagnosed with one of the less survivable cancers in the UK every year. Despite their prevalence, the less survivable cancers receive a fraction (16.6%) of research funding of more survivable cancers.

Cyfraddau goroesi yng Nghymru ymhlith y gwaethaf yn y byd ar gyfer y canserau mwyaf marwol



Yn ôl data a rennir heddiw gan y Tasglu Canserau Llai Goroeadwy (LSCT), mae Cymru a'r DU gyfan ar ei hôl hi'n sylweddol o ran cyfraddau goroesi cancer o gymharu â gwledydd eraill.

Mae'r Tasglu yn cynrychioli chwe chanser llai goroeadwy: yr ysgyfaint, yr afu, yr ymennydd, oesoffagws, pancreas a'r stumog. Dim ond 16% yw'r gyfradd goroesi pum mlynedd gyfartalog ar gyfer rhain. Mae'r Tasglu wedi rhyddhau'r casgliadau ar Ddiwrnod Ymwybyddiaeth o Ganserau Llai Goroeadwy i dynnu sylw at y marwolaethau a achosir gan y bwch cancer marwol hwn.

Mae'r canfyddiadau a ryddhawyd heddiw yn seiliedig ar ddadansoddiad newydd o ddata cyfredol a chyfraddau goroesi'r byd o ran cancer yr ysgyfaint, yr afu, yr ymennydd, yr oesoffagws, y pancreas a'r stumog. Mae Cymru, a'r DU, yn is na'r rhan fwyaf o wledydd eraill ar gyfer y chwe chanser hyn.

Mae'r data'n dangos bod Cymru, allan o 33 o wledydd sydd â lefelau cyfoeth ac incwm tebyg, mor isel â 32 ar y rhestr o gyfraddau goroesi pum mlynedd ar gyfer cancer y stumog a 31 ar gyfer cancer y pancreas a chanser yr ysgyfaint. Mae hyn yn codi i 21 ar gyfer cancer yr afu a cancer yr oesoffagws a 12 ar gyfer cancer yr ymennydd. Mae'r cyfraddau goroesi gwael hyn ar gyfer canserau llai goroeadwy yn debyg ar draws holl wledydd y DU.

Mae'r rhesymau dros fwch angheuol y DU mewn cyfraddau goroesi yn gymhleth. Mae arbenigwyr yn credu mai cymysgedd o oedi wrth wneud diagnosis a mynediad araf at driniaeth sy'n debygol o fod yn gyfrifol. Dim ond ar ôl derbyniad brys i'r ysbyty neu atgyfeiriad brys gan Feddyg Teulu oherwydd symptomau difrifol y bydd llawer o gleifion â chanser llai goroeadwy yn cael diagnosis.

Mae'r canserau llai goroeadwy yn cyfrif am bron i hanner yr holl farwolaethau cancer cyffredin yn y



DU ac mae dros 90,000 o bobl yn cael diagnosis o un o'r canserau lleiaf goroesadwy yn y DU bob blwyddyn. Er gwaethaf y cyfraddau uchel, mae'r canserau llai goroesadwy yn cael dim ond ffracsiwn (16.6%) o gyllid ymchwil y canserau mwy goroesadwy.

5 year survival - world rankings:

Country	Brain rank	Liver rank	Lung rank	Oesophagus rank	Pancreas rank	Stomach rank
UK and nations rankings (out of 33 countries)						
UK	25th	21st	28th	16th	26th	28th
Wales	12th	21st	31st	21st	31st	32nd
England	27th	25th	27th	15th	25th	25th
Northern	21st	26th	30th	8th	29th	24th
Scotland	24th	12th	29th	25th	32nd	31st

Cyfraddau goresi 5 mlynedd - safleoedd ledled y byd:

Gwlad	Safle – ymennydd	Safle – Yr afu	Safle – yr ysgyfaint	Safle – yr oesoffagws	Safle – y Pancreas	Safle – y Stumog
Safle'r DU a gwledydd y DU (allan o 33 gwlad)						
UK	25	21	28	16	26	28
Cymru	12	21	31	21	31	32
Lloegr	27	25	27	15	25	25
Gogledd	21	26	30	8	29	24
Yr Alban	24	12	29	25	32	31

Please show your support: Sign up to the Statement of Opinion tables by John Griffiths MS & share the Less Survivable Cancers Awareness Day model press release in local and social media. A copy of the release will be sent to you via email along with a copy of today's photo.