



UNITED KINGDOM  
LUNG CANCER COALITION

# Reflections on 20 years of the UKLCC: *a personal perspective*

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**Specialist Advisor, Cancer Research UK**



*Celebrating 20 years of the UK Lung Cancer Coalition*

**#UKLCC2025**



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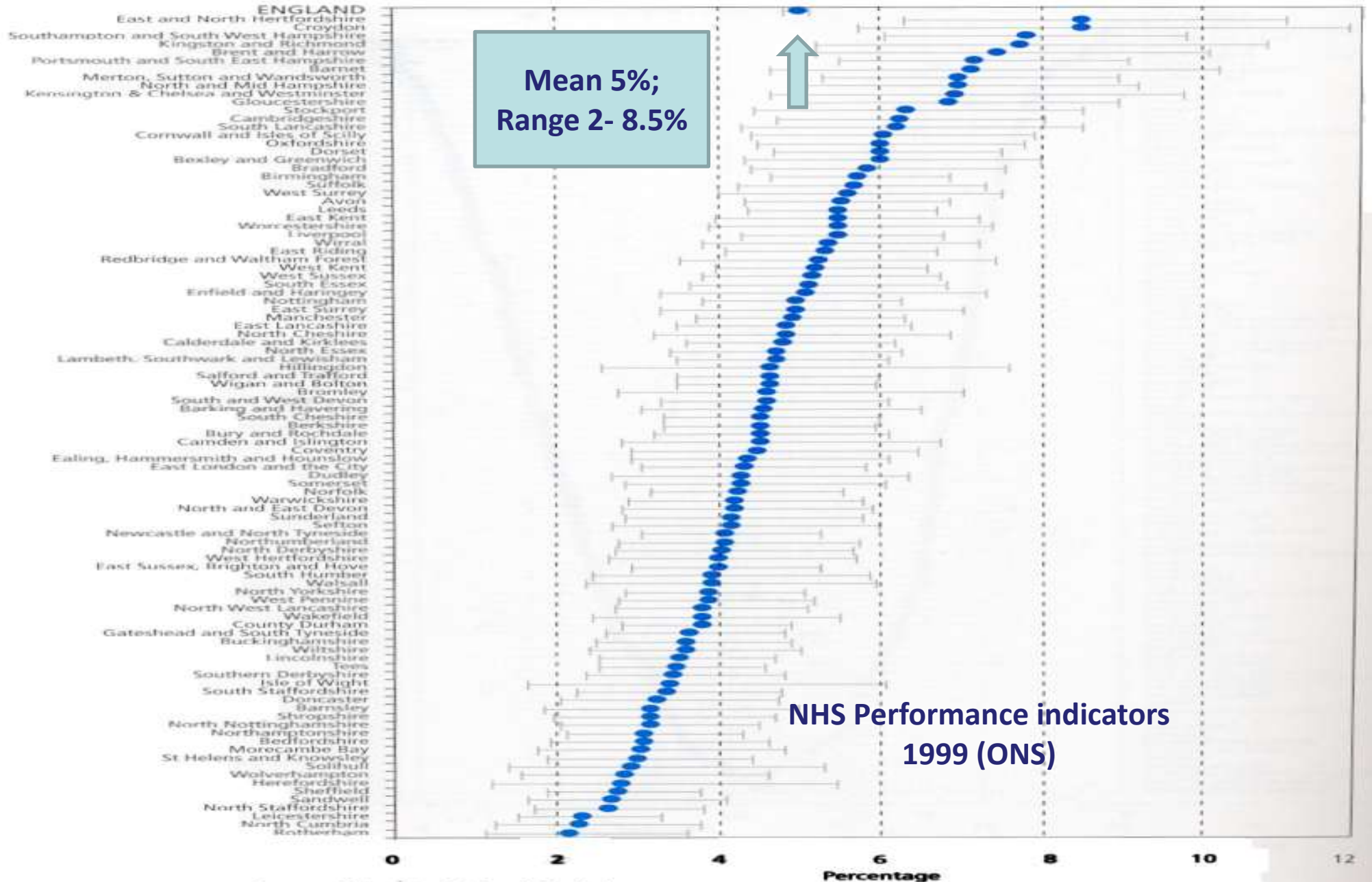
# Disclosures

## Old age!

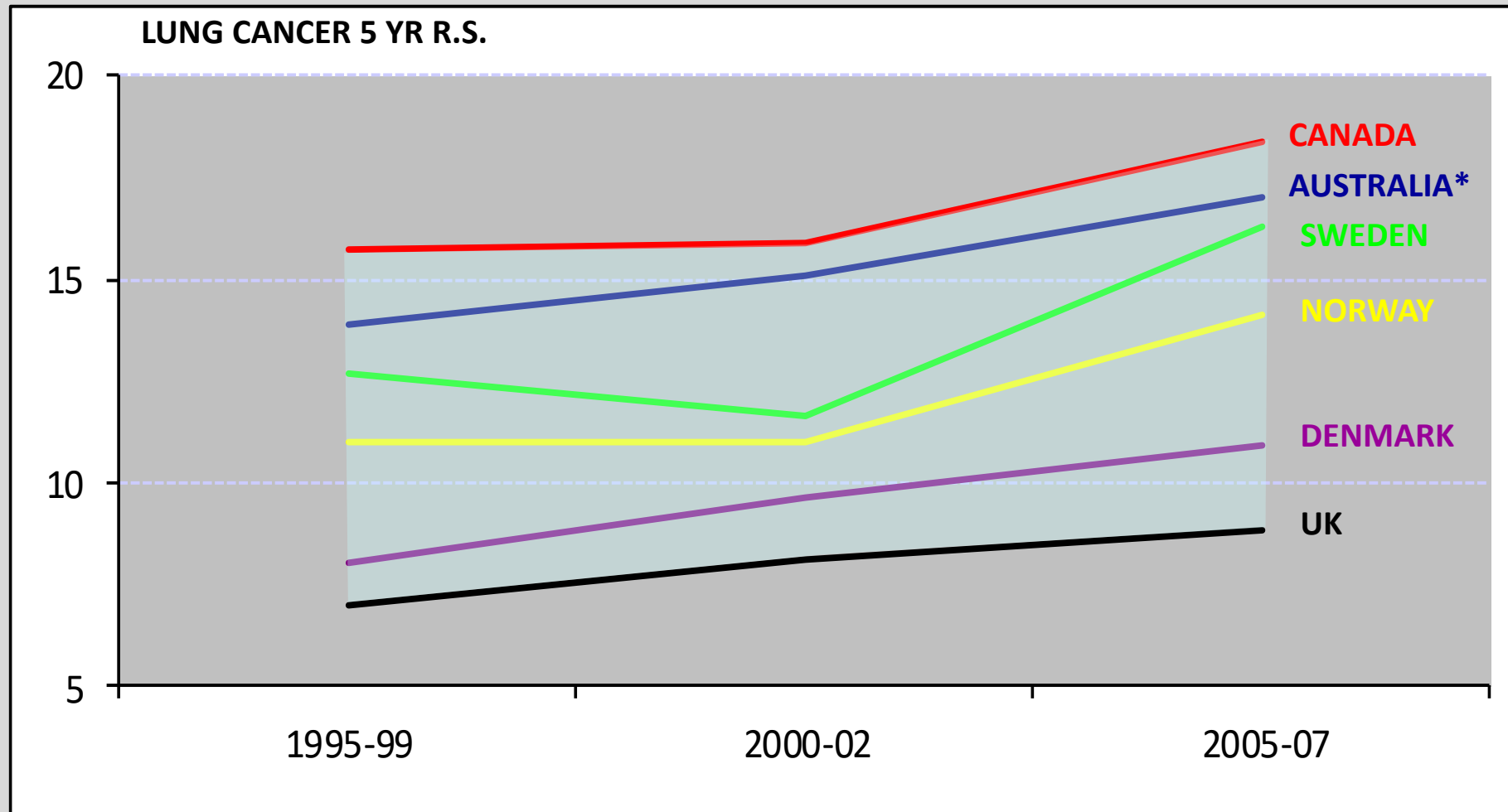
I entered my first patient into a small cell chemotherapy trial in 1979

I took up my first consultant job in 1982

# 5 year relative survival of patients diagnosed with lung cancer in England in 1991-1993 by Area Health Authority



## International Cancer Benchmarking Partnership: Comparative 5 yr relative survival 1995 - 2007



\*Victoria and New South Wales only

e.g. The British Thoracic Society  
did not have a lung cancer committee until 1996!

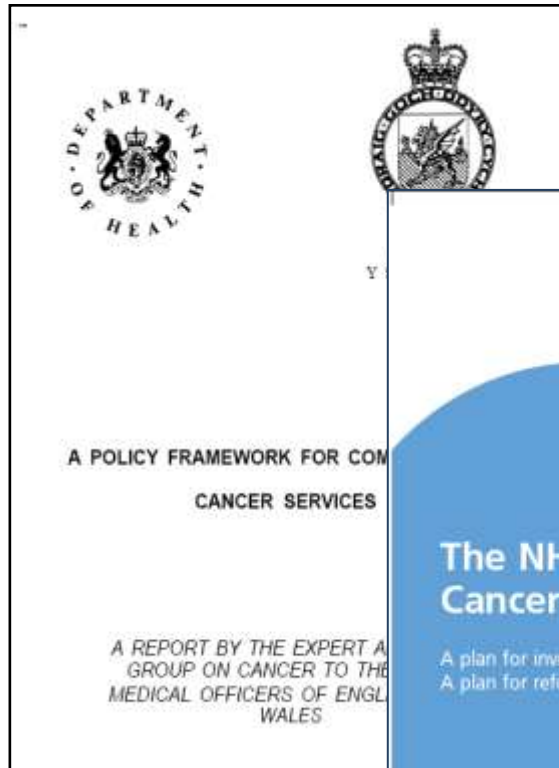
**NIHILISM**



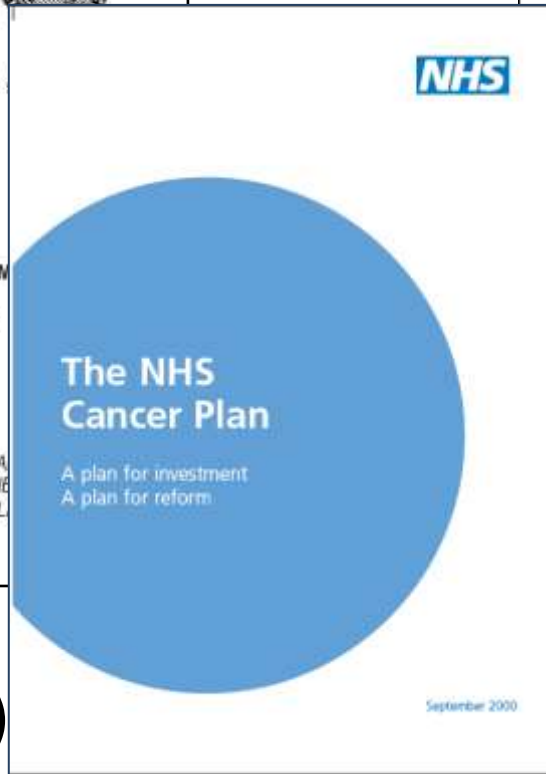
# Timeline of UK guidelines in lung cancer

- 1994 Whitehouse report – “Management of lung cancer: current clinical practices”
- 1998 SIGN (Scotland) – “Management of lung cancer”
- 1998 BTS - “Recommendations for respiratory physicians for organising the care of patients with lung cancer”
- 1998 NHS Executive: “Improving outcomes for lung cancer”
- 2005 first NICE guidance
- 2011 updated NICE guidance
- 2019 new NICE guidance – updated 2023

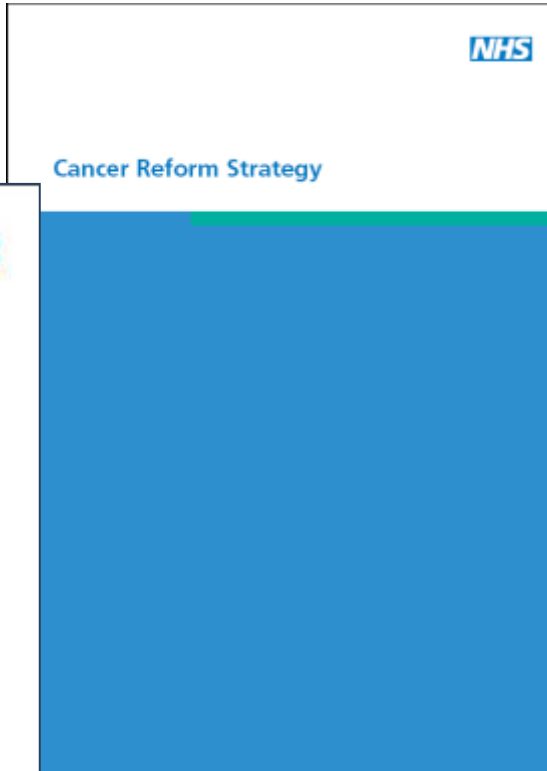
# National Governmental drivers (England)



1995  
(Calman-Hine)

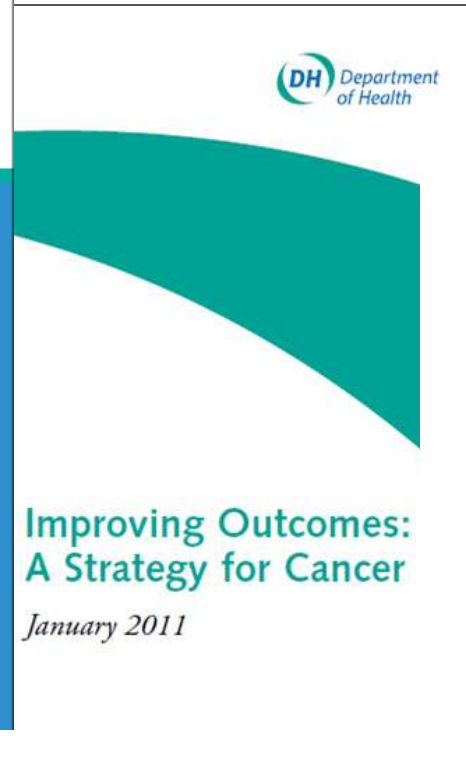


2000



2007

Cancer Services  
Collaborative



2011



2015

# Organisational drivers



1994



1999



2002



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(2002)  
Then 2005

DATA  
(or lack of it!)



**ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS**

**LUNG CANCER AUDIT**

***REPORT - AUGUST 1999***

***CITY CENTRE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL***

*Prepared on behalf of  
51 participating hospitals  
by*

**Clinical Effectiveness & Evaluation Unit  
Royal College of Physicians**

**RCP Snapshot Audit  
1996-97**

# Lung cancer

## A CORE DATA SET

for the measurement of process and outcome  
in lung cancer management

A joint report published with the support of  
British Thoracic Society  
Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons  
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
Royal College of Radiologists

Clinical Effectiveness  
& Evaluation Unit



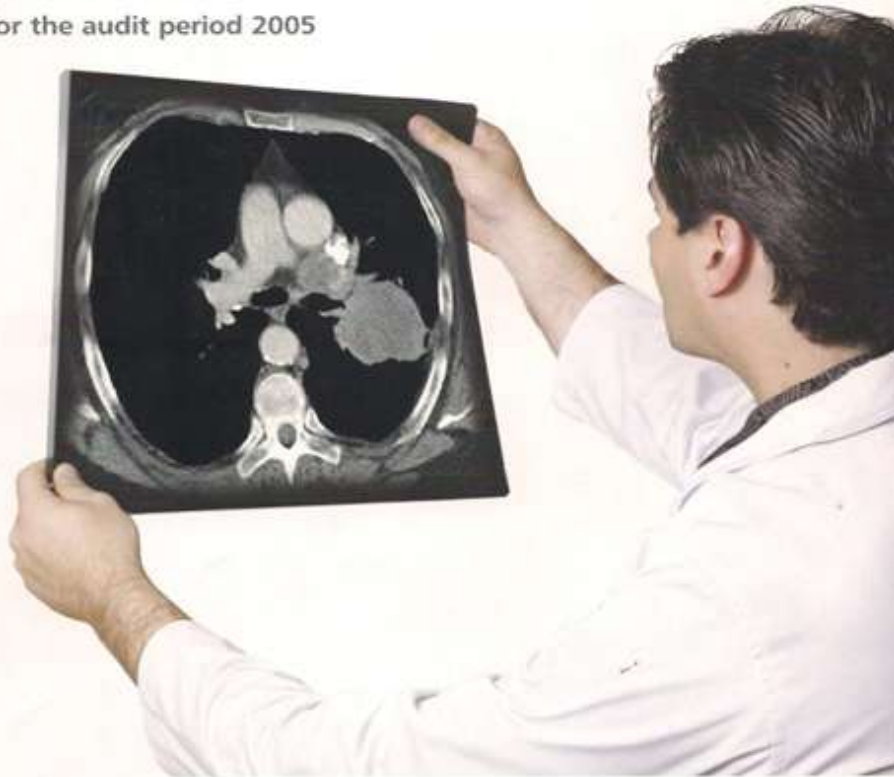
ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS

1999

## National Lung Cancer Audit

Key findings about the quality of care for people with Lung Cancer in England incorporating headline and completeness data from Wales

Report for the audit period 2005



Prepared in association with:  
Healthcare Commission • Royal College of Physicians

FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE



## National Lung Cancer Audit

First full report was on patients diagnosed in 2005

# Original aims of the UKLCC



- To drive out nihilism
- To push for specialisation
- To push for adoption of best practice
- To use data to drive service improvement
- To lobby for the best governmental policies and for them to be properly funded
- To bring together clinicians, charities, the lay public and the pharmaceutical industry to speak with one voice
- To bring patient outcomes to match those best in the world

# 2005 UKLCC formally established



Lynsey Conway

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HomePartnersThe factsFaces of Lung CancerPressContact

**The UKLCC is committed to doubling lung cancer survival**

**What is the UK Lung Cancer Coalition?**

The United Kingdom Lung Cancer Coalition (UKLCC) is a powerful new partnership of leading lung cancer experts, senior NHS and Department of Health professionals, charities and healthcare companies. The UKLCC is the nation's largest multi-interest group in lung cancer and this is the first time all the interested parties have joined together to give people with lung cancer a true voice.

**Our challenge**

Lung cancer is the country's biggest cancer killer. In the UK, someone dies from lung cancer every 15 minutes and half of all people with lung cancer die within six months of diagnosis.

Despite improvements in service provision, there are still wide variations in standards of care across the country and lung cancer is considered the poor relation when compared to other cancers. It kills a quarter of all UK cancer patients yet only receives three percent of national cancer research monies. It is not surprising, therefore, that we have one of the worst survival rates in Europe.

**Bringing Lung Cancer out of the shadow**

We are convinced that UK survival can be doubled through a combination of earlier diagnosis and improved standards of care – the worst performing cancer units must match the standards set by the best.

The Government has actively supported the other major cancers by increasing public awareness and making more funding available. Somehow lung cancer has been the forgotten cancer.

Lung cancer is not just a 'smoker's disease' – one in eight people who are diagnosed with lung cancer have never smoked.

We want to work with Government and the NHS to dispel the myths surrounding lung cancer and help people recognise the symptoms and seek early diagnosis. Lung cancer can be cured if caught early enough.

**It is time that lung cancer stepped out from the shadow.**

**Lung Cancer – the facts**

- Lung cancer can be cured
- One in eight people with lung cancer have never smoked
- More women die from lung cancer than breast cancer
- Half of all people in the UK know someone that has died or been affected by lung cancer

**Dr Mick Peake**  
Chair of the UKLCC

“We know if we apply the best standards of care already being demonstrated in some parts of the country, and if we diagnose people early, we can double lung cancer survival rates in the UK.”

**Donald Sutherland**  
Patient

“I was diagnosed with lung cancer eight years ago and I am still alive and well. You can survive lung cancer. There is hope.”

**Press Articles**



Celebrating 20 years of the UK Lung Cancer Coalition

#UKLCC2025



## Lung Cancer Plan: improving lung cancer survival in the UK

UK Lung Cancer Coalition  
November 2007

To double % year survival rates by 2015

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November 2007



Ten years on  
October 2015



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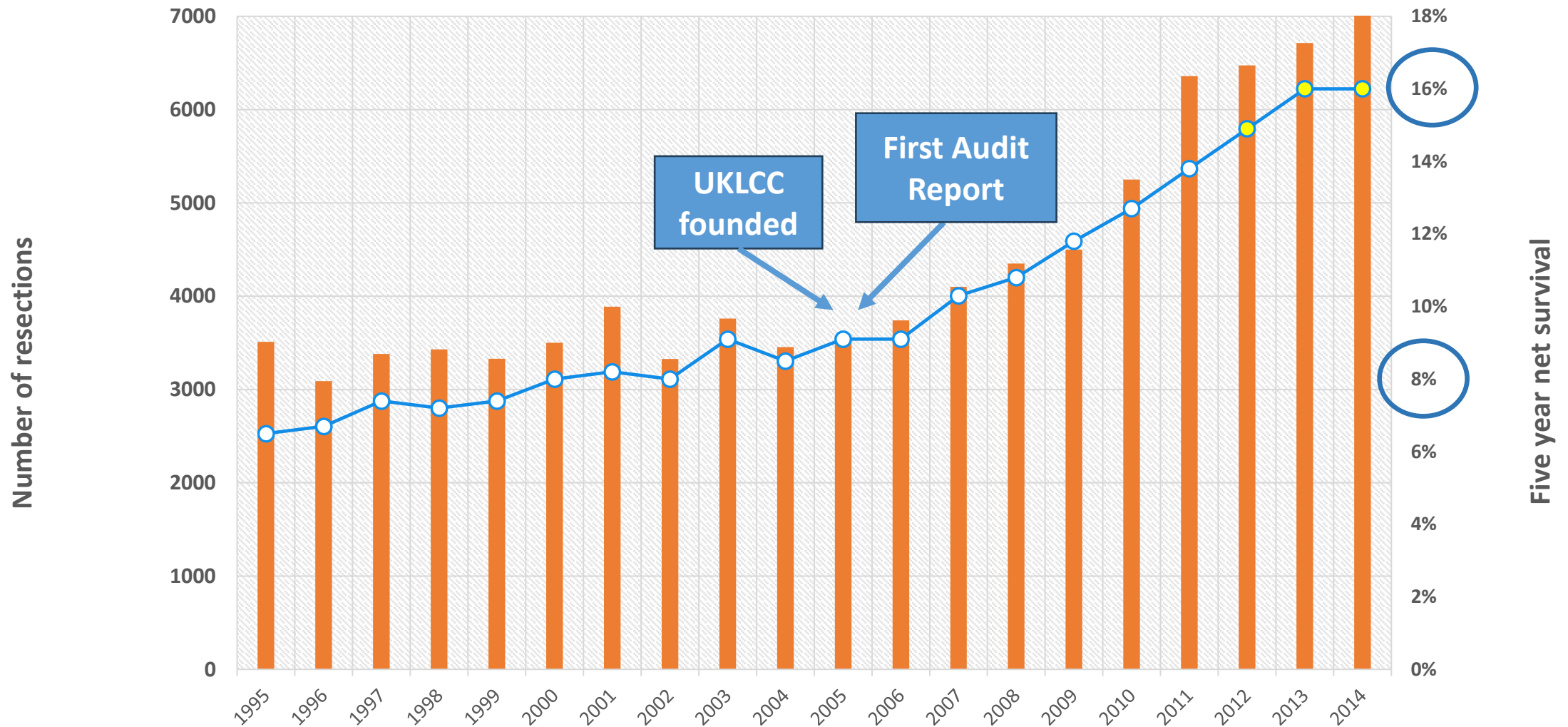


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# Trends in one- & five- year net survival & surgical resections



Sources: S Walters et al . Br J Cancer: 2015;113(5):848-60 (updated) & D West, Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons



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November 2007

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Lung Cancer Plan: Improving Lung Cancer Survival in the UK  
November 2007

TEN YEARS ON IN LUNG CANCER  
THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF THE UK'S BIGGEST CANCER KILLER

## TEN YEARS ON



Ten Years on  
October 2015

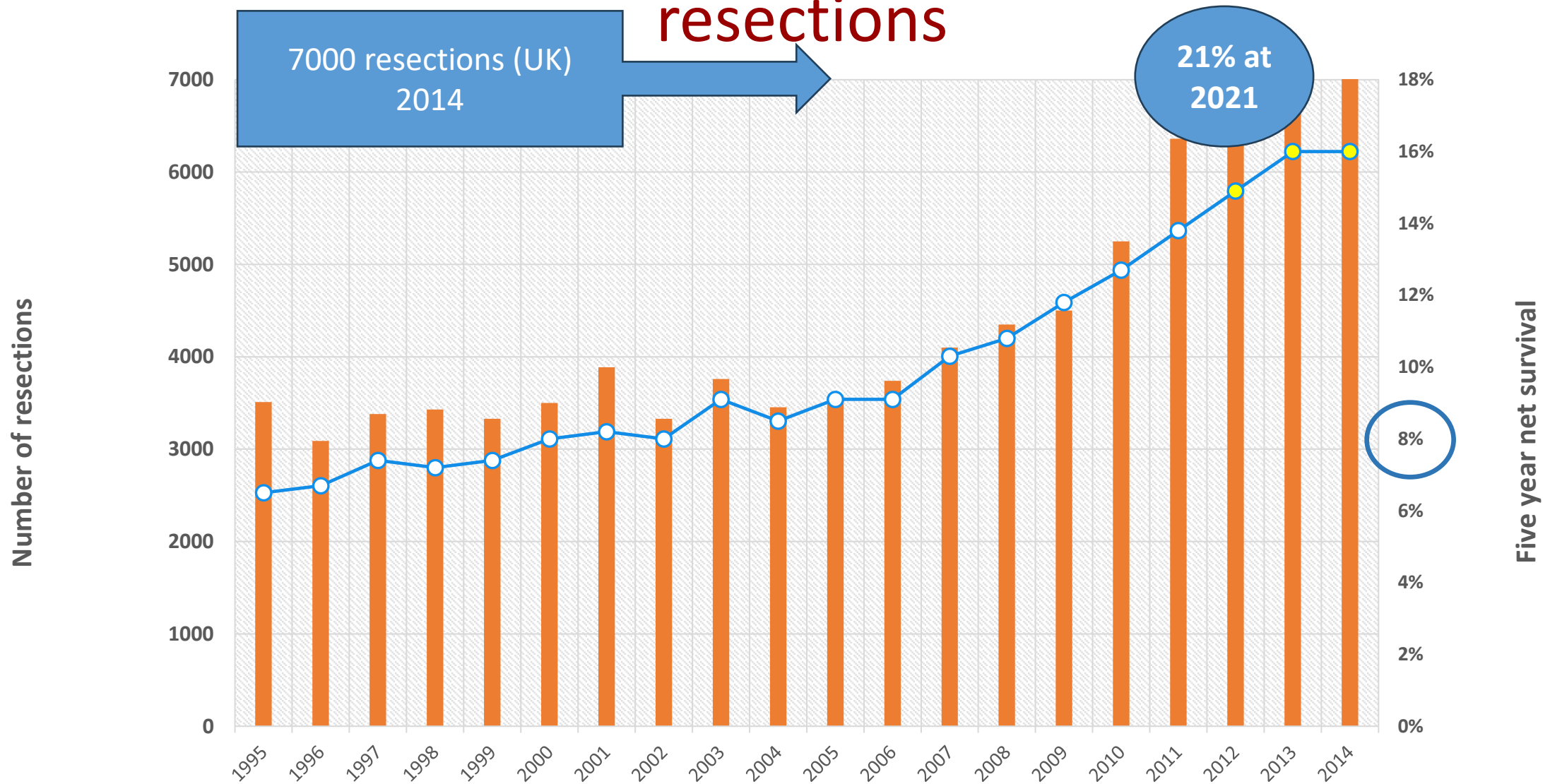
## 25 BY 25

A TEN YEAR STRATEGY TO IMPROVE LUNG CANCER SURVIVAL RATES



25 by 25  
October 2016

# Trends in one- & five- year net survival & surgical resections



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# Thoracic surgical data for 2024-5 (England)

- 8924 resections (7000 across all of UK in 2014)
- Only 2.8% pneumonectomies
- 60% carried out using VATS
- 25% robotic
- 1.6% all cause 90 day mortality

Source: Doug West, Thoracic Surgical lead for National Consultant Information Programme (NCIP)  
(Part of GIRFT – Getting it Right First Time)

# How has the UKLCC made an impact?



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- By helping to bring together clinicians, charities, industry and the lay public to speak with one voice
- Political lobbying – direct to MPs, to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on cancer
- Our reports – targeting clearly defined priorities
- Press coverage
- Having inside knowledge of political priorities and being able to say things that senior clinicians employed by government can't say
- Influencing the non-promotional work of industry partners

# Summary



- **Over the last 25 years the Thoracic Oncology community has developed into a very integrated and purposeful community**
- **The UKLCC has played its part in creating that community**
- **There has been wholesale and positive change in most aspects of lung cancer care and outcomes, but there is so much more to do!**
  - Ensuring equitable access to optimal diagnosis and treatment
  - Reducing variation in standards of care – adoption of best practice and innovation
- **If any community can do it – we can – just think where we have come from !**