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Protecting and improving the nation's health

Be Clear on Cancer: Second national lung cancer campaign, 2013

Caveats: This summary presents the results of the metric on the proportion of patients diagnosed with lung cancer who had a major resection. This is one of a series of metric summaries that will be produced for this campaign, each focusing on a different metric. A comprehensive interpretation about the campaign is not included here as this requires a full evaluation of all the metrics. The full evaluation will be part of the final campaign report which will be published in due course. These metrics should not be considered in isolation.

Major resections

The campaign
The second national lung campaign ran from 2 July 2013 to 11 August 2013 in England.

The campaign's key message was:
- 'Been coughing for three weeks? Tell your doctor.'

Key message
There is no evidence to suggest that the second national lung campaign had an impact on the proportion of patients diagnosed with lung cancer who had a major resection.

Metric: Major resections
This metric measures the proportion of men and women, diagnosed with lung cancer (ICD-10 C33-34), who had a major resection within six months after their diagnosis, for those aged 50 and over, and all ages combined.

Data was extracted from the national cancer analysis system, for patients diagnosed with lung cancer for the first time between February 2011 and January 2012 and between February 2013 and January 2014.

The monthly proportion of patients diagnosed with lung cancer who had a major resection within six months of their diagnosis was calculated, with 95% confidence intervals using the Wilson score method[1]. The proportions for those diagnosed in July to October 2013 were compared with those diagnosed in the same months in 2011.

Results
Comparing July to October 2011 and July to October 2013, there were no statistically significant differences in the proportions of patients diagnosed with lung cancer who had a major resection, for those aged 50 and over and all ages combined (Figure 1).

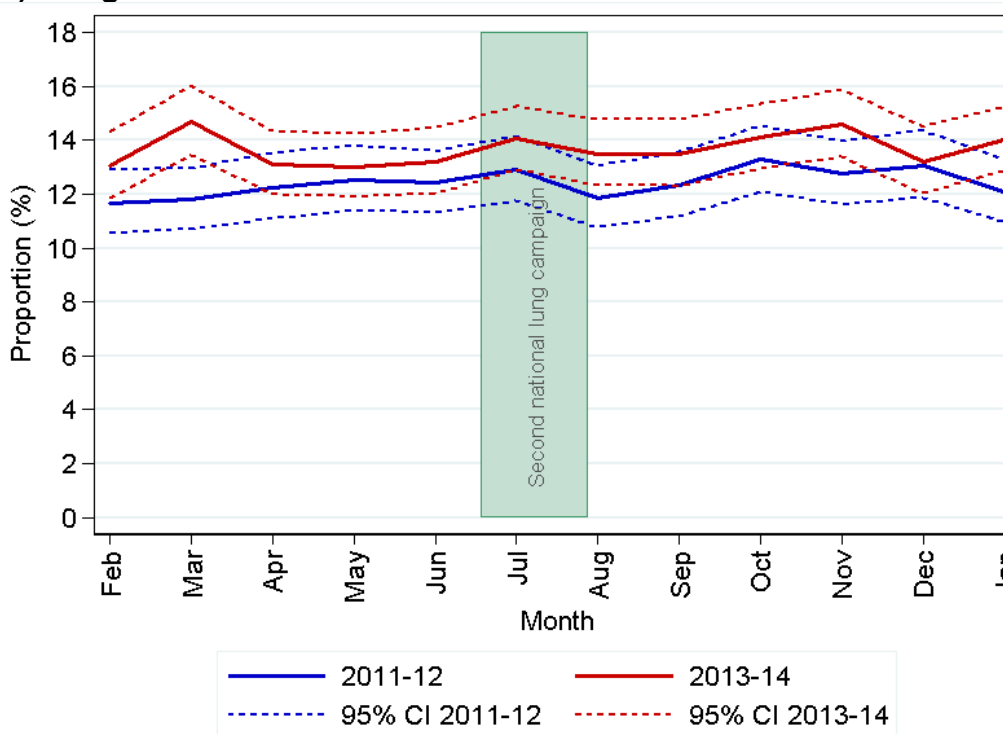[1] *A method for calculating confidence intervals for proportions*

Figure 1: Proportion of patients diagnosed with lung cancer, who had a major resection per month of diagnosis, February 2011 to January 2012 and February 2013 to January 2014, England, a) ages 50 and over and b) all ages.

a) ages 50 and over
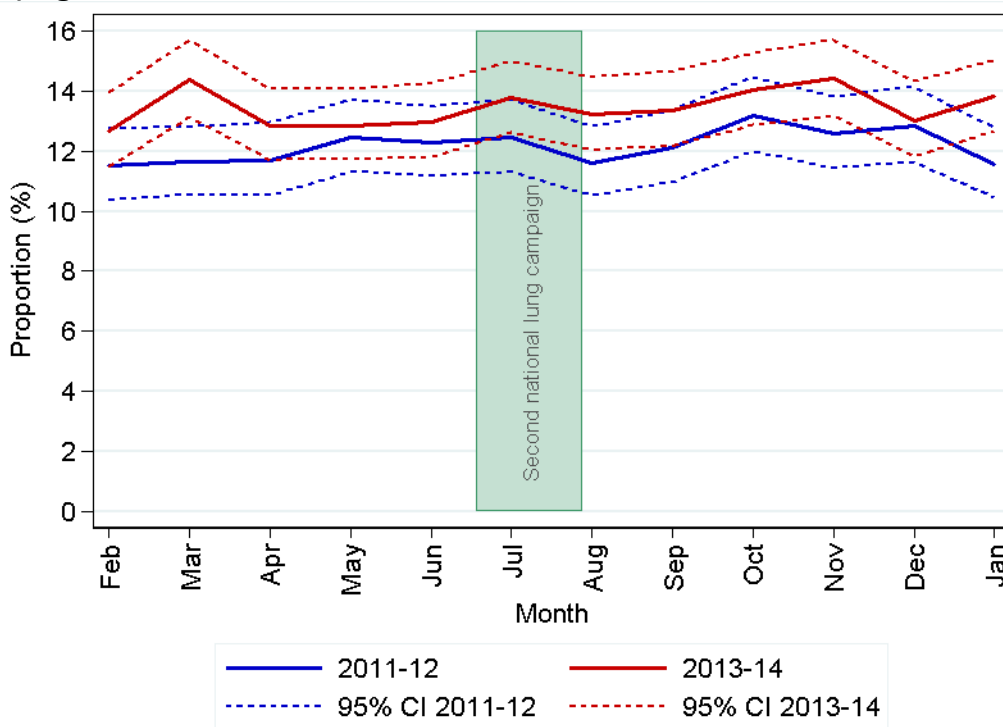
Source : Cancer Analysis System December 2016

b) all ages

Source : Cancer Analysis System December 2016

Conclusions

There is no evidence to suggest that the second national lung campaign had an impact on the proportion of patients diagnosed with lung cancer who had a major resection within six months of their diagnosis, for those aged 50 and over or for all ages combined.

Other metrics being evaluated include emergency presentations, Cancer Waiting Times referrals, conversion and detection rate, numbers of cancers diagnosed, stage at diagnosis and one-year survival. A full evaluation report will be published on the campaign metrics when all of the results are available.

Considerations

In general, cancer incidence is increasing which may have an impact on trends over time for this and other metrics; the results must be considered with these underlying trends in mind.

Where the results are statistically significant there is some evidence for an impact of the campaign, although underlying trends and other external factors (eg. other awareness activities, changing referral guidance) may also affect the results.

Campaigns are more likely to have a greater impact on metrics relating to patient behaviour (eg. symptom awareness and GP attendance with relevant symptoms) and use of the healthcare system (eg. urgent GP referrals for suspected cancer), compared to disease metrics (eg. incidence, stage at diagnosis, and survival).

Find out more about Be Clear on Cancer at:
www.ncin.org.uk/be_clear_on_cancer
www.nhs.uk/be-clear-on-cancer