2017 Cancer Prevalence for London

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INTRODUCTION

As cancer incidence increases and survival improves, the number of people seen in a primary care setting that are living with a cancer diagnosis will increase.

People living with cancer have 50% more contact with GPs 15-months after diagnosis than a population of similar age, sex and locality[1]; 70% have another long-term condition[2].

We created a publicly available visualisation tool to increase service providers' knowledge of their cancer prevalent population. The dashboard both describes patients' demographics and length of time lived with cancer, as well as comparing counts of nationally registered cancer survivors to GP-maintained registers.

METHODS

Using National Cancer Registration and Analysis Service (NCRAS) data, prevalence rates and counts were generated for London individuals diagnosed 1995-2017 who were alive on the 31st December 2017.

Prevalence was calculated at a regional level as well as for lower-level geographies (CCG, STP and Cancer Alliance).

GP-recorded Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) prevalence at Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) level was compared to NCRAS counts for corresponding financial years.

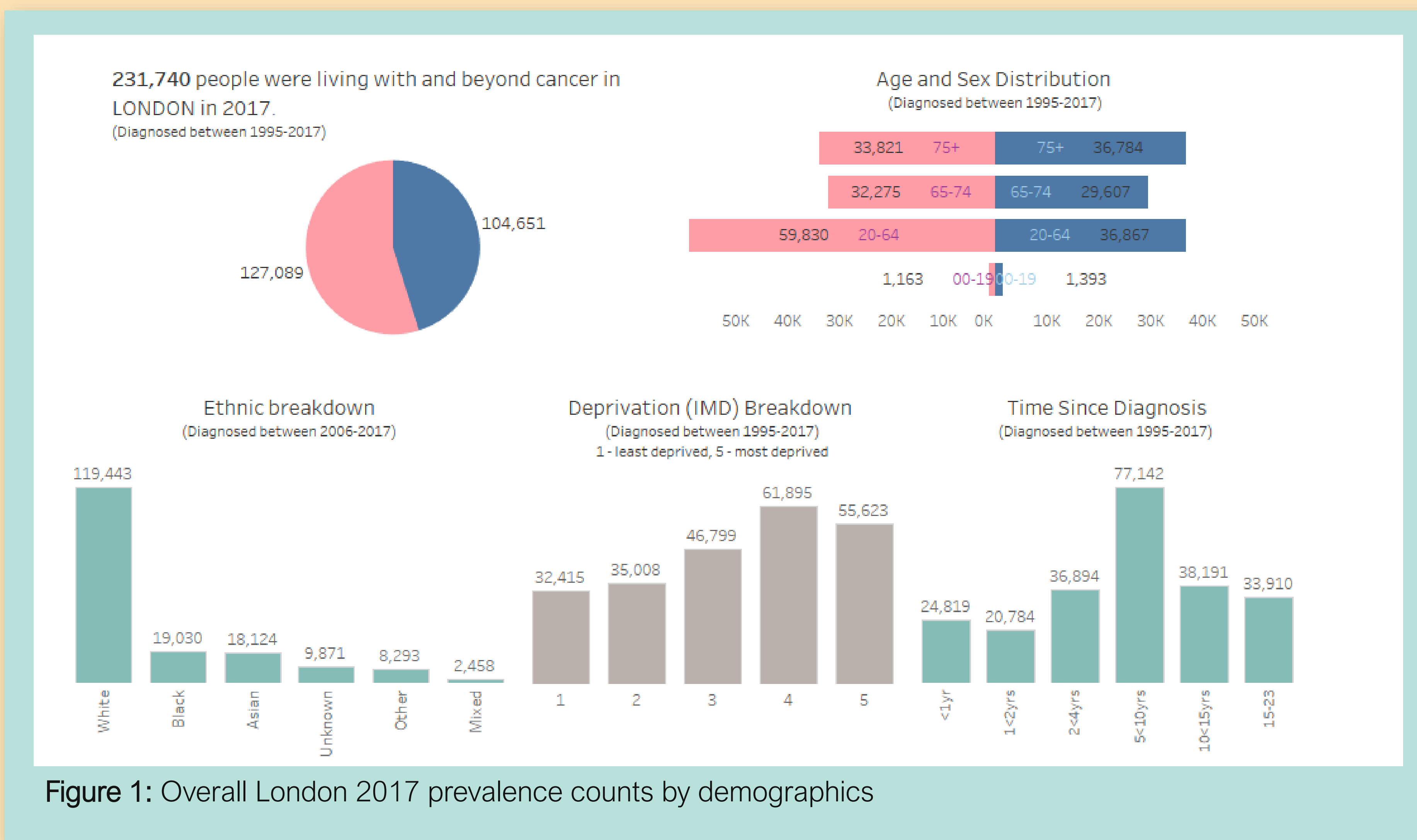An interactive Tableau dashboard was generated and published publicly.

RESULTS

Figure 1: Overall London 2017 prevalence counts by demographics

- On 31/12/2017, 231,740 (2.6%) people were living with cancer in London.

- 20% of patients had been diagnosed with cancer for <2 years; 31% were diagnosed >10 years prior to 31/12/2017.

- Prevalence was higher in women than men (p<0.001) in all London geographies.

- Prevalence dramatically increased with age (p<0.001); more than 12% of over 75yr olds were living with a cancer diagnosis in every lower-level geography.

- A comparison of GP-recorded QOF cancer registers against NCRAS prevalence counts showed a range of 75-108% as many cancer cases across all CCGs.
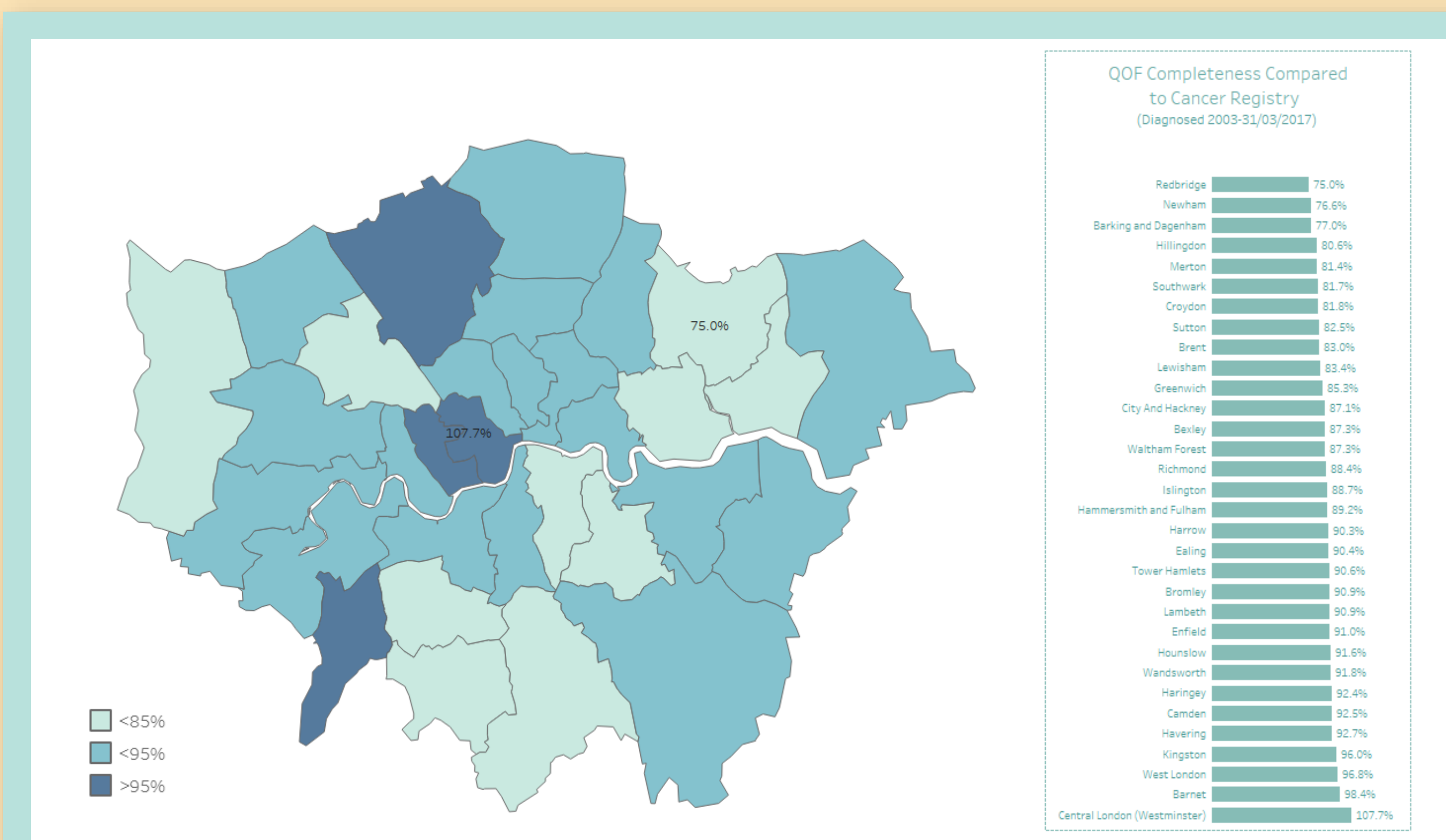

Figure 2. London view of QOF Register / NCRAS prevalence comparison by CCG

Figure 3: London regional, STP and Cancer Alliance prevalence by age groups

DISCUSSION

- In London over 1 in 10 people over 65 were living with a cancer diagnosis highlighting the need to be aware of cancer as a comorbidity in older patients
- Recently diagnosed cancer patients, who are more likely to be undergoing active treatment, made up a relatively small proportion of the cancer prevalence population. Nearly one-third had been living with cancer for >10 years
- Most QOF prevalence counts closely aligned to national registration data at CCG level, however some large discrepancies exist
- Discrepancy in QOF and NCRAS prevalence counts could be because:
  - NCRAS geographies are based on home address at diagnosis, whereas QOF are based on GP practice location. These may not be in the same CCG and patients may change GP practice after diagnosis.
  - Large discrepancies could indicate differences in coding practices, and should be reviewed locally as QOF disease registers are used to plan and deliver services for local populations.

CONCLUSIONS

- Ensuring patients are identified in primary care is a first key step to managing cancer as a long-term condition.

- A concerted effort is needed to interpret large discrepancies between QOF and NCRAS registers, which may arise from differences in coding practice.

Figure 4: QR code link to the interactive dashboard and interpretation guidance

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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REFERENCES

1. *Use of health and social care by people with cancer*, X Chitnis et al., Nuffield Trust, 2014
2. *The burden of cancer and other long-term health conditions*, Macmillan, 2015