**Mortality increases during the winter**

The winter months see a higher number of deaths than other times of the year.

We measure the size of this effect by looking at the difference between deaths over four months in winter and the average number of deaths in the two periods before and after.

**Winter mortality trend generally downwards**

Mortality in winter has been higher than in the seasons before and after for each winter since records began in 1951/52.

This difference has fluctuated, with an increase in recent years, but the 5-year moving average shows an overall downward trend over the long term.

**Respiratory system diseases main cause of additional deaths in 2017/18**

35% of the additional deaths in 2017/18 were caused by respiratory system diseases, including influenza and pneumonia.

* Other causes not shown here account for smaller numbers of additional deaths.