



Paper Title: Vital Events Statistics update

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Security marking	Not sensitive
Can this be shared wider than PAMS?	Yes
Aims	To update PAMS members on the publication of delayed statistics from the vital events branch, the latest COVID-19 publication plans and other upcoming work
What is required from PAMS members	Read the paper and submit any feedback or queries to us via the survey

Population And Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee (Scotland)

Vital Events Statistics update

Deaths involving COVID-19

1. National Records of Scotland (NRS) has been closely monitoring the weekly number of deaths, and given the increase in recent weeks, we have taken the decision to make [additional weekly analysis available through this short publication](#) providing a weekly breakdown of deaths from all causes and deaths involving COVID-19.

This weekly publication includes breakdowns by sex, age, health board, local authority and location of death. It also includes an analysis of excess deaths by location and broad cause of death.

In addition, we publish a comprehensive and detailed analysis of mortality on a monthly basis. This report includes analysis of deaths occurring in the previous month, and looks at age-standardised death rates, breakdown by deprivation, urban/rural, an analysis of leading causes of death and a breakdown by main pre-existing condition of those who died with COVID-19.

NRS mortality data (COVID-19 and excess deaths) will continue to be made available on a weekly basis through the [Scottish Government's COVID-19 dashboard](#).

2. Upcoming publications (aside from weekly COVID-19 publication)

- 24 November – Deaths from specific causes 2019 (and the cause of death breakdowns from the Vital Events Reference Tables 2019)
- 1 December – Avoidable Mortality 2019
- 9 December – Births, deaths and other vital events, Q3 2020
- 15 December – Drug related deaths in Scotland, 2019
- 15 December – Volatile Substance Abuse and Helium Deaths, 2019
- 16 December – Deaths involving COVID-19, November 2020 (monthly version)
- 16 December – Weekly and monthly data on births and deaths registered in Scotland, November 2020
- 18 December – Healthy Life Expectancy in Scotland, 2017-2019

Delays to cause of death data

3. Most cause of death breakdowns are generally published in June and July each year. These were delayed this year because of a backlog of toxicology testing which led to delays in information being passed to us by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal

Service (COPFS). Without this information the accuracy of some of our key statistics would not have been adequate. We have worked closely with the COPFS over the year to monitor progress and have now decided that the data is robust enough to publish the results according to the timetable above. We hope to be back to our original timetable in 2021 but will keep users informed if this needs to be changed.

Life Expectancy

4. NRS published the latest statistics for life expectancy in Scotland and in Scottish areas in our new publication [Life Expectancy in Scotland, 2017-2019](#). This was the first time that national level life expectancy had been published at the same time as subnational life expectancy. The publication showed that life expectancy growth continued to stall in Scotland, with life expectancy at birth being 77.1 years for males and 81.1 years for females. The subnational statistics showed that males living in the most deprived areas have a life expectancy that is 13.3 years shorter than for males in the least deprived areas. The equivalent difference for females was 10.0 years.
5. On the 18th of December, we will publish statistics on healthy life expectancy (the number of years a person can be expected to live in good health) for Scotland and Scottish areas. Previously these statistics had been released as part of the subnational life expectancy publication.

Deaths of people experiencing homelessness

6. We plan to publish an update to this publication in February 2021, covering deaths registered during 2019. It had initially been intended that we would work on improvements to the methodology over this year, but the additional pressures of reporting on COVID-19 deaths have meant that this hasn't been possible. The 2019 report will therefore follow the same experimental methodology as the previous report.

Baby Names

7. Unfortunately we have had to postpone the publication of the provisional 2020 baby names which usually comes out in December. This is due to delays in birth registrations during the early stages of the pandemic, and lack of resource as staff are working on the delayed production of cause of death statistics. They will now be published in March 2021 as final rather than provisional figures.

NRS: Vital Events Statistics November 2020