

Vital Events Branch – PAMS Update Paper

Mortality Trends

Our work on interpreting the changing trend in mortality (and life expectancy) has increased considerably. We co-authored a paper with NHS colleagues looking at mortality trends in Scotland and other comparable countries, which used segmented regression to identify that there was a break in the trend around 2012-14. The paper has recently been published in BMJ Open.

<https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/9/10/e029936>

Life Expectancy / Healthy Life Expectancy

This year we will be publishing sub-national LE and HLE in the same publication on 11 December 2019.

As part of the work on mortality and life expectancy trends, we have carried out analysis to decompose the life expectancy changes in recent years by age group and cause of death. We have presented this work a number of times over the last year, and have written a paper which is currently being submitted for publication in an academic journal. We have written a short blog (which includes a link to the more detailed paper) to try and simplify the messages for a non-expert audience.

<https://blog.nrscotland.gov.uk/2019/07/18/why-is-life-expectancy-stalling-in-scotland/>

Minor Improvements to Publications

Baby Names (last updated 19 March 2019)

New material was added looking at which names are associated with one sex and which are given to either sex. We also upgraded our interactive baby names app to allow comparison of two names over time.

Age-standardised death rates (last updated 22 August 2019)

We have added confidence intervals to all of our age-standardised death rate tables, along with interactive charts.

Avoidable Mortality (published 26 June 2019)

Two new tables were added to examine avoidable mortality by deprivation.

Drug-related Deaths (published 16 July 2019)

Additional tables added to show individual substances involved.

In August an additional section was added to the website to make comparisons with other countries (UK and Europe) following widespread interest in the figures.

Births and Deaths: Days until Registration (published 22 August 2019)

A new web section was added to show the average delay between occurrence and registration of events.

Winter Mortality (published 15 October 2019)

A new section was added to include comparisons with other countries.

Deaths among Homeless People

We are working to produce estimates of deaths of homeless people, using (as far as possible) the same methodology used by ONS in their recent publications. We hope to be able to publish the first figures early next year.