



Paper Title: Vital Events Statistics Update

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Security marking	Not sensitive
Can this be shared wider than PAMS?	Yes
Actions for PAMS members ahead of meeting	Paper is for information
Aims for discussion	
Key questions for PAMS members	
What is required from PAMS members	Whilst the paper is for information comments are invited from PAMS members.

Population And Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee (Scotland)

Vital Events Statistics - update

Deaths involving COVID-19

1. We continue to publish the weekly analysis of COVID deaths which includes breakdowns by sex, age, health board, local authority and location of death as well as an analysis of excess deaths by location and broad cause of death.
2. More comprehensive and detailed analysis of COVID (and other cause) mortality is published a monthly basis – generally within 2 weeks of the end of the month it relates to. This report includes age-standardised death rates, breakdown by deprivation, urban/rural, occupations, intermediate zones, an analysis of leading causes of death and a breakdown by main pre-existing condition of those who died with COVID-19.

2020 deaths data

1. Publication of deaths data for 2019 was delayed due to a backlog of toxicology testing which led to delays in information being passed to us by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS). Reports were published in November / December 2020, 5 months behind their usual schedule of June / July.
2. We had hoped to return to the June / July timescale for 2020 deaths, but this is looking increasingly unlikely due to the volume of information we are still due to receive from COPFS. It is impossible to provide definitive publication dates at this time, but the delay is likely to be into September. We will update further when we are in a position to be clearer about the likely dates.
3. The Vital Events Reference Tables for 2020 (minus the chapter of causes of death) will still be published on 29 June 2021. The cause of death chapter, plus web sections on deaths from specific causes will be updated at a later date. Probable suicide deaths and alcohol deaths will be published as separate publications this year (rather than web sections). Drug-related deaths will be published a few weeks later.

Life Expectancy

1. The 2017-2019 statistics on healthy life expectancy (the number of years a person can be expected to live in good health) for Scotland and Scottish areas were due to be published on 18th December 2020. These were delayed until 25th January 2021.

Deaths of people experiencing homelessness

2. We published an update to this publication on 23rd 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 meant that this wasn't possible and the report used the

same experimental methodology as the previous report. We are looking to see whether any improvements can be made to the methodology for next year.

Baby Names

3. We did not publish the provisional 2020 baby names report in December due to delays in birth registrations during the early stages of the pandemic, and lack of staff resource as staff. Instead, we published a single report on 23rd March 2021 with the final figures for the full year. We are considering whether to stick with a single report in future years (March) or revert back to provisional results in December followed up with final results in March.

4. Upcoming publications (aside from weekly and monthly COVID-19 publications)

- 15 June – Births, deaths and other vital events, Q1 2021
- 29 June – Vital Events Reference Tables 2020 (no chapter 6)
- TBC – Probable suicides 2020
- TBC – Alcohol-specific deaths 2020
- TBC – Avoidable mortality 2020
- TBC – Chapter 6 of Vital Events Reference Tables 2020
- TBC – Deaths from specific causes 2020
- TBC – Drug-related deaths 2020
- 14 Sept – Births, deaths and other vital events, Q2 2021
- Sept – Life expectancy 2018-2020

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