

Population And Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee (Scotland)

Vital Events Update

Introduction

1. This paper summarises recent developments within Vital Events Statistics Branch. PAMS is invited to note the paper and provide any comments. Written comments will also be welcome to National Records of Scotland (NRS), Email: customer@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk
2. **Publications**
3. The following publications have been released since the last PAMS meeting in October 2013:
 - Winter Mortality in Scotland – 2012/13 (23 October 2013)
 - Births, Deaths and other Vital Events – Third Quarter 2013, and associated weekly and monthly figures (12 December 2013)
 - Babies' First Names 2013 (preliminary list) (19 December 2013)
 - Births, Deaths and other Vital Events – Fourth Quarter 2013 and Preliminary Figures for 2013, and associated weekly and monthly figures (13 March 2014)
 - Babies' First Names 2013 (full list) (13 March 2014)
4. Additionally, in February we revised the vital events reference tables and some of our web sections to take account of the rebased population figures for 2002 onwards. This included expanding several tables to cover more years than before, and adding a total of 42 new 2-way tables giving time-series of various birth rates, fertility rates, death rates and standardised mortality ratios that had previously appeared only in single year tables.

Future Publication Plans

5. The publication timetable for the remainder of the year is as follows:
 - Births, Deaths and other Vital Events – First Quarter 2014 (11 June 2014)
 - Vital Events Reference Tables 2013 (14 August 2014)
 - Deaths from Various Causes 2013 (14 August 2014)
 - Drug Related Deaths 2013 (August 2014 – precise date not yet chosen)

- Births, Deaths and other Vital Events – Second Quarter 2014, and associated weekly and monthly figures (11 September 2014)
- Winter Mortality in Scotland, 2013/14 (October 2014)
- Births, Deaths and other Vital Events – Third Quarter 2014, and associated weekly and monthly figures (11 December 2014)
- Babies' First Names 2014 (preliminary list) (December 2014)

Other Development Work

6. We are continuing the work to update our age-standardised mortality rates to use the 2013 European Standard Population. These will be published on 14 August alongside the VE reference tables. In advance, material will be added to our website detailing the reasons for the change and the impact.
7. We are doing some work, jointly with Professors Laurence Gruer and Raj Bhopal of Edinburgh University, to look at the ethnicity of the deceased, as reported by the person who registered the death. This has been collected (on a voluntary basis) since the start of 2012. It is not publicly-available (for example, it does not appear on the death certificate). In due course, this work will involve linking the deaths data to the census as a means of quality assuring the ethnicity details recorded at registration.
8. We will be developing our systems to deal with the additional data which will be recorded following the introduction of the new Medical Certificate of the Cause of Death (MCCD), and (later) the reviews of MCCDs that will be required under the [Certification of Death \(Scotland\) Act 2011](#) (Information available on the Scottish Government (SG) website). Both changes may provide opportunities for further analysis. We will also be looking into how we record and produce our marriage statistics given the forthcoming introduction of same-sex marriages (further details available within the [Marriage and Civil Partnership \(Scotland\) Bill](#) section of the SG website).
9. Views from PAMS on any of the above points are welcome.

NRS: Vital Events Statistics Branch