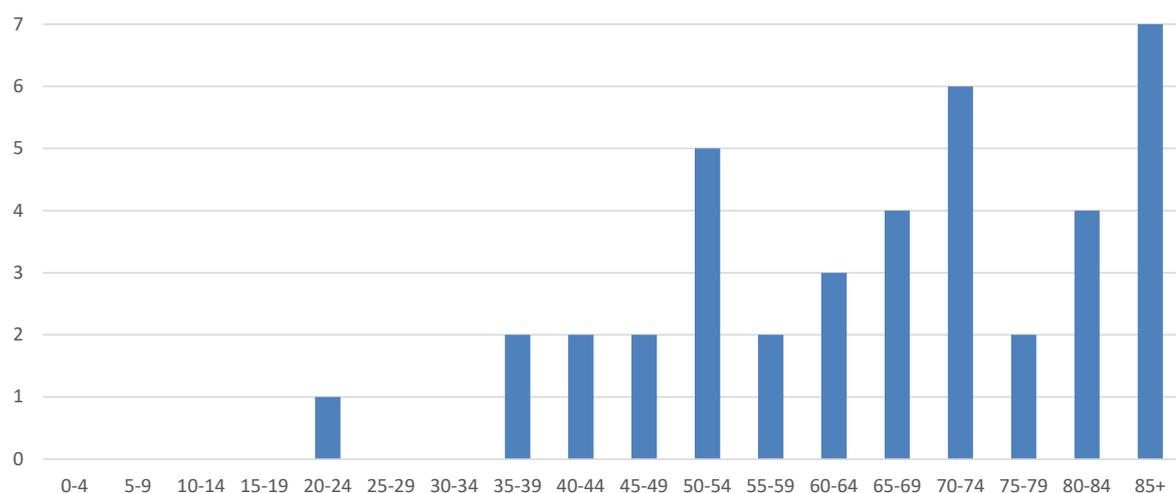


Hypothermia related deaths in 2020

- In 2020 there were 40 deaths in Scotland that involved hypothermia. This the same as the average number of such deaths per year over the previous 5 years, 2015-2019) and is less than half of the number recorded each year in the early 2000s.
- Of these 40 deaths, hypothermia was the underlying cause in 4 deaths and a contributing factor in 36. More information about the difference between underlying causes and contributory factors can be found on the [Death Certificates and Coding the Causes of Death](#) section of the NRS website.
- Of the 40 deaths involving hypothermia in 2020, 22 were male (55%) and 18 were female (45%). ([Table 1](#))
- Deaths involving hypothermia are more common in older age groups. Of the 40 deaths in 2020, 26 (around two thirds) were of people age 60 or over. Thirteen were of people aged 35-59 and one death was of a person aged under 25. ([Table 2](#))

Deaths involving hypothermia, by age-group, 2020



- In 2020, the health boards with the greatest number of deaths involving hypothermia were Fife, Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Highland and Lothian (with 6 deaths in each of those areas). Five health board areas, Borders, Dumfries and Galloway, Orkney, Shetland and Western Isles, had no deaths involving hypothermia in 2020. Caution must be used when comparing incidence of deaths involving hypothermia across subnational areas because the numbers are very small and fluctuate year on year. ([Table 3](#))
- In 13 out of Scotland's 32 council areas there were no deaths involving hypothermia and in a further ten, there was only one death involving hypothermia. ([Table 4](#))