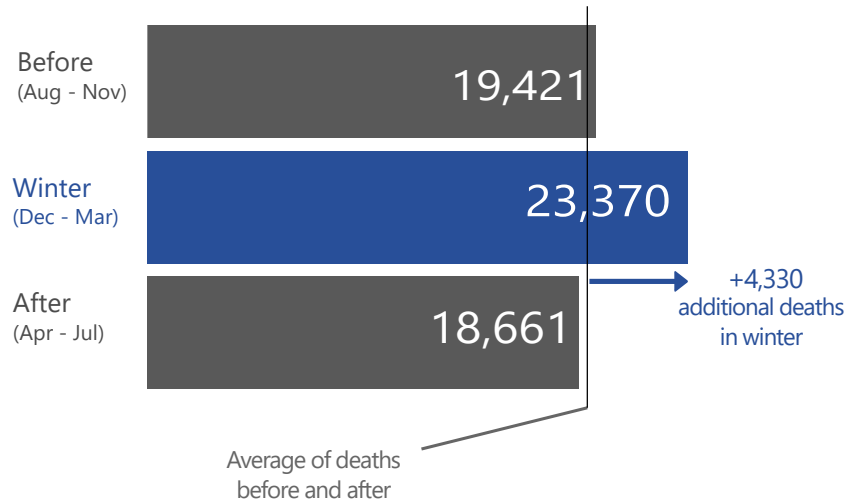


High seasonal increase in winter 2020/21

Winter months see more deaths than other times of the year. We measure the size of this effect by looking at the difference between deaths registered over winter and the average number of deaths in the adjacent periods (before and after).

The 23,370 winter deaths in 2020/21 is the second highest number of winter deaths in the last 30 years.

Deaths before, during and after winter 2020/21



Second highest seasonal increase in more than 20 years

The seasonal increase in mortality of 4,330 for winter 2020/21 was the second highest in more than 20 years. Only winter 2017/18 had a larger seasonal increase (4,810)

Over the long term there has been a clear downward trend in winter mortality. In the 1950s and 1960s there was an average seasonal increase of over 5,200 deaths, whereas over the most recent decade it has averaged around 2,600.

Figures for the most recent years suggest a departure from the long-term downward trend. It is not clear whether this will continue as there have been similar increasing periods in the past which were followed by a return to the longer term decreasing trend.

Additional deaths in winter (Dec-Mar)

