

18 October 2001

Coverage

England and Wales

Theme

Health and Care

Deaths in 2000; excess winter mortality in 1999-2000 and 2000-01

Final data on the number of deaths that occurred in England and Wales during 2000 and on estimated excess mortality during the 1999/2000 winter are published today by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Provisional estimates for excess mortality during the 2000/2001 winter are also released today.

Key statistics on deaths that occurred in 2000 are:

- The total number of deaths was 535,664, a crude rate of 1,012 deaths per 100,000 population.
- There were 255,547 male deaths, an age-standardised rate (which allows for variations in the age-structure of the population) of 835 deaths per 100,000, compared with 280,117 female deaths, an age-standardised rate of 559 deaths per 100,000 population.
- There were 3,377 infant deaths in 2000, compared to 3,621 in 1999. The infant mortality rate fell to 5.6 deaths per 1,000 live births after a slight rise from 5.7 to 5.8 between 1998 and 1999. This is the lowest rate ever recorded for England and Wales, and continues the long-term downward trend.

Key statistics on excess winter mortality are:

- There were estimated to be 48,440 excess deaths in the winter of 1999/2000 (December-March), based on a comparison with the non-winter period (August-November 1999, April-July 2000).
- In the winter of 2000/2001 there were approximately 25,000 excess deaths.

Issued by
National Statistics
1 Drummond Gate
London SW1V 2QQ

Telephone
Press Office 020 7533 5702
Public Enquiries 020 7533 5888

Statistician
Clare Griffiths 020 7533 5242
Email clare.griffiths@ons.gov.uk

Statfax – fax retrieval service
This release 0906 7360 284

Internet
www.statistics.gov.uk

- The figure for the 1999/2000 winter was the highest since the 1985/1986 winter, when there were estimated to be 49,330 excess deaths. The figure for 2000/2001 is the lowest since the winter of 1997/1998, when there were estimated to be 22,900 excess deaths.

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. Excess winter mortality is defined as deaths occurring in December-March minus the average of the deaths occurring in the preceding August to November and the following April to July. Provisional excess winter mortality figures are to the nearest 100. The methodology used to estimate winter deaths in 2000/01 is available on request.
2. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the press office.
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