

Mortality statistics: Out-of-Work Working Age benefit claimants

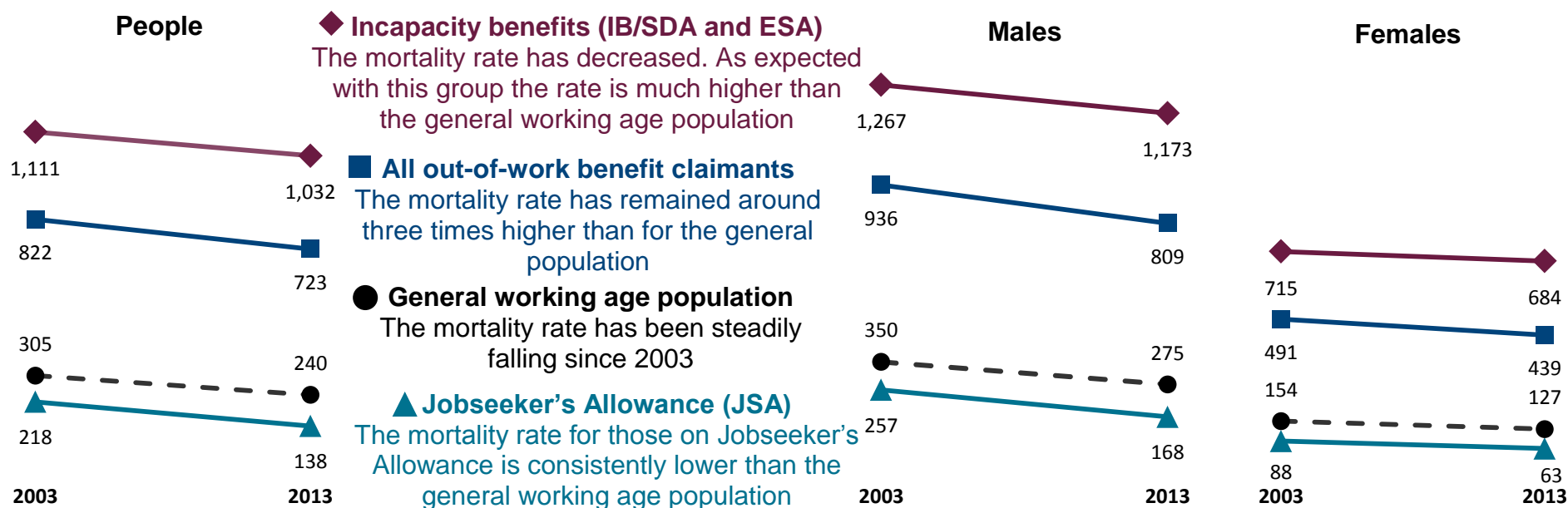
Experimental Statistics from March 2003 to February 2014.

Annual number of Deaths and age-standardised mortality rates, for working age people in Great Britain who received an out-of-work benefit between March 2003 and February 2014. This summary provides an overview of the main statistics with an emphasis on the mortality rates of those on incapacity benefits. The relevant populations, deaths and age-standardised mortality rates, including upper and lower confidence intervals, are available for all the relevant benefits in the Supplementary Tables.

Over the 11 years to February 2014, both the number and proportion of out-of-work working age benefit claimants who died within 6 months of the quarter end in which they ceased claiming benefit decreased each year. This information cannot be used as evidence to support a link or otherwise between mortality and benefit receipt.

The age-standardised mortality rate for out-of-work working age benefit claimants has fallen between 2003 and 2013 in line with the general working age population. Whilst there have been changes to the benefit system and economic climate since 2003, the mortality rate has remained around three times higher than for the general population. There are a higher proportion of people who are sick or disabled amongst those on benefits than in the general population.

Figure 1: Age-Standardised Mortality Rates* by benefit and gender for out-of-work working age benefit claimants, GB 2003 to 2013



Source: DWP WPLS and ONS Mortality Statistics

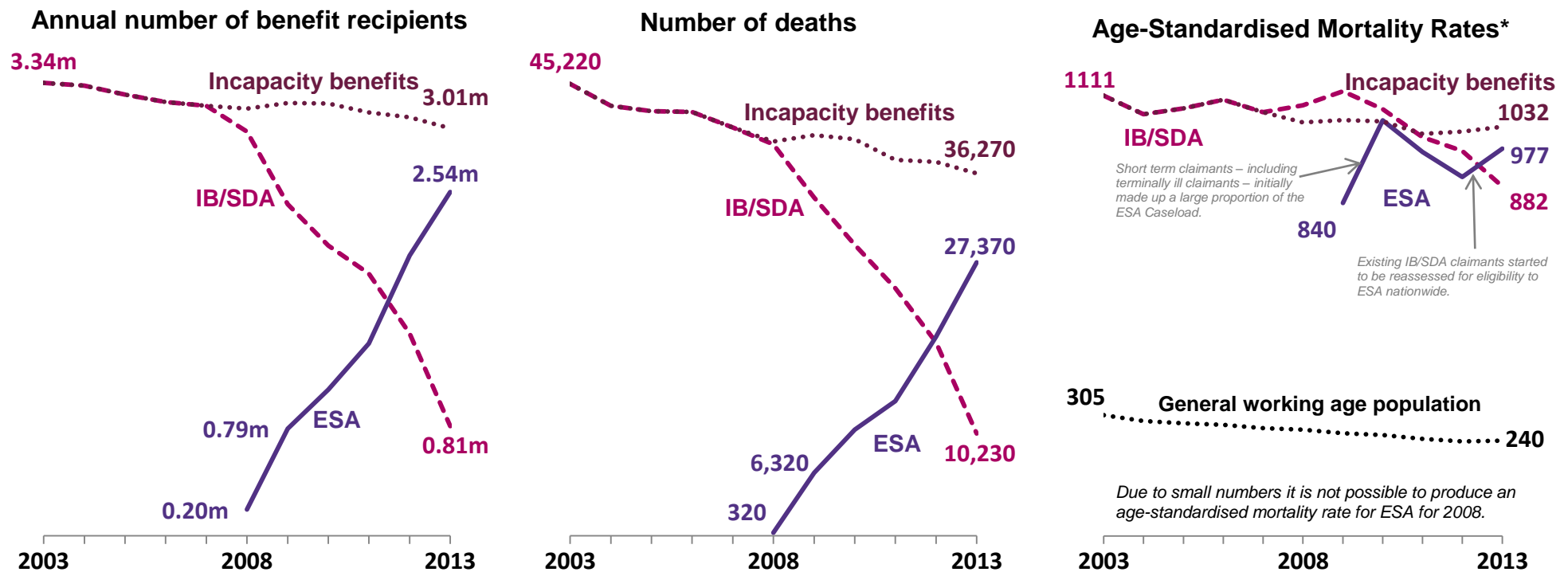
* Number of deaths per 100,000 of population

Incapacity benefits (IB/SDA and ESA) mortality statistics 2003 to 2013

The age-standardised mortality rate for those on any incapacity benefit: Employment and Support Allowance (ESA); Incapacity Benefit (IB); and Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA) is much higher than that in the general working age population. In the **incapacity benefits group** each person is only counted once even if they claimed both IB/SDA and ESA in the year.

When looking at the separate benefits the age-standardised mortality rate fell for those claiming IB/SDA when ESA was introduced in October 2008. At that time short term claims including terminally ill claimants made up a large proportion of the ESA caseload. The number of people claiming ESA increased and in 2011 existing IB/SDA claimants started to be reassessed for eligibility to ESA nationwide.

Figure 2: Population, Deaths and Age-Standardised Mortality Rates* for incapacity benefits from 2003 to 2013 and separately for IB/SDA from 2003 to 2013 and ESA from 2008 to 2013



Source: DWP WPLS and ONS Mortality Statistics

* Number of deaths per 100,000 of population

Employment and Support Allowance mortality statistics 2012 to 2013

Relevant statistics on those leaving ESA by ESA phase/group is only consistently available from December 2011 and it is not possible to infer a trend from the two data points of 2012 and 2013. In 2013 the mortality rate of the Support Group was 3 times higher than the Work Related Activity Group, suggesting that those with the most serious conditions are correctly assigned to the Support Group.

Support Group

This group includes those with a terminal illness and the most severely ill and disabled. This has the highest mortality rate in both years, nearly four times higher than the WRAG in 2012 and about three times higher in 2013.

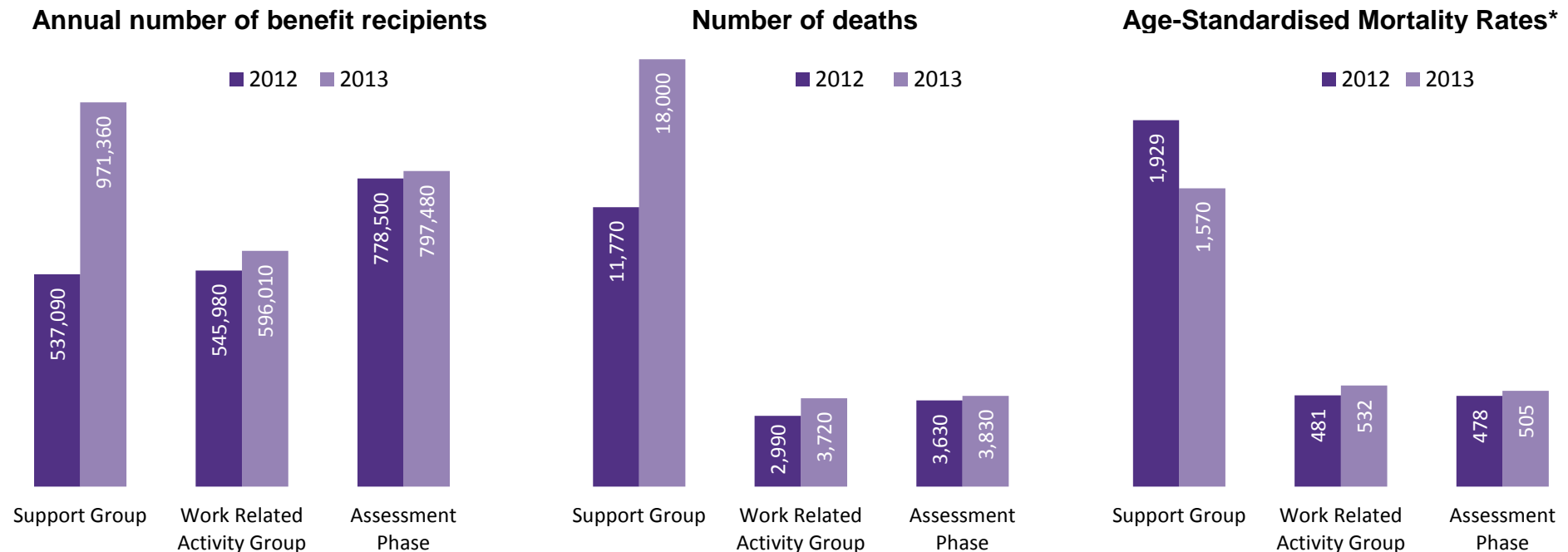
Work Related Activity Group (WRAG)

Those in this group are not expected to work, but are provided with help and support to prepare for work where possible. The mortality rate for the WRAG group is relatively low compared to the Support Group.

Assessment Phase

This includes those people who are awaiting a Work Capability Assessment (WCA) and those who are not eligible for ESA and leave the benefit following an initial WCA. Those in this group have the lowest mortality rate of the three categories.

Figure 3: Population, Deaths and Age-Standardised Mortality Rates* for ESA by phase at off-flow, GB 2012 to 2013



Source: DWP WPLS

* Number of deaths per 100,000 of population

Background Information

Out-of-work working age benefit claimants

The people included in this analysis are males aged 16-64 and females aged 16-59, claiming any of the following benefits:

Jobseeker's Allowance, which helps you while you look for work;

Incapacity benefits which include:

Incapacity Benefit – help if you couldn't work because of an illness or disability, claims stopped in 2008;

Severe Disablement Allowance claims stopped in 2001;

Employment and Support Allowance – Started in 2008 ESA offers you financial support if you're unable to work or personalised help so that you can work if you're able to.

Income Support

Lone Parents - extra money to help people on a low income or no income at all, paid to lone parents caring for their child. Lone Parent obligations changed from 2008.

Others - includes carers and those receiving a disability premium but are not getting IB/SDA or ESA.

For the **all out-of-work benefit claimants group** each person is counted once irrespective of the number of different benefits claimed in the year.

In the **incapacity benefits group** each person is only counted once even if they claimed both IB/SDA and ESA in the year.

The benefit system

Since 2004 the benefit system and economic climate has changed quite a lot. Claims to Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA) were stopped in 2001 and Incapacity Benefit (IB) was replaced by Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) in 2008 for new claimants. In 2011 IB and working age SDA claimants started being reassessed for ESA.

For further details of the benefits in this analysis see the accompanying **Background Information Note**.

Annual is the year measured from the beginning of March to the end of February, from March 2003 to February 2014.

Population is calculated as the number of people who have claimed an out-of-work working age benefit at any time, during the year.

Deaths is defined as the number of people who have died within 6 months of the quarter end in which they came off benefit, in the same year.

Age-standardised mortality rates (ASMR) allow for differences in the age structure of populations and allow valid comparisons to be made between different groups and over time. ASMR is an internationally recognised measure used by the Office for National Statistics. Age-standardised mortality rates are presented as the number of deaths per 100 thousand people. So a figure of 1,000 is equivalent to 1 in every 100 people.

Limitations of the figures

This information cannot be used as evidence to support a link or otherwise between mortality and benefit receipt.

See the accompanying **Background Information Note** for more information on methodology and data issues.

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