



Weekly All-Cause Mortality Surveillance

24 September 2015 – Week 39 report (up to week 38 data)

In week 38 2015, no statistically significant excess all-cause mortality by week of death was seen through the EuroMOMO algorithm in England overall and by age group and across the devolved administrations.

Excess overall all-cause mortality, England and Wales

-In week 37 2015, an estimated 9,258 all-cause deaths were registered in England and Wales (source: [Office for National Statistics](#)). This represents an increase compared to the 7,878 estimated death registrations in week 36, and is below the 95% upper limit of expected death registrations for the time of year as calculated by PHE (Figure 1). The sharp drops in number of deaths observed during the year correspond to weeks when there were bank holidays and fewer days when deaths were registered, and so are likely to be artificial and result in subsequent increases in following weeks.

Excess all-cause mortality in subpopulations, UK

-In week 38 2015, no excess mortality by date of death above the upper 2 z-score threshold was seen in England after correcting ONS disaggregate data for reporting delay with the standardised [EuroMoMo](#) algorithm (Figure 2, Table 1), in any age group or subnationally. This data is provisional due to the time delay in registration; numbers may vary from week to week.

-No excess mortality above the threshold through the same standardised algorithm was seen across the Devolved Administrations in week 38 (Table 2).

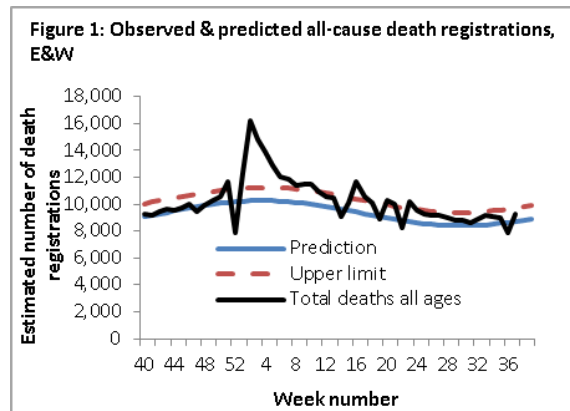


Table 1: Excess mortality by age group, England*

Age group (years)	Excess detected in week 38 2015?	Weeks with excess in summer 2015
<5	x	NA
5-14	x	NA
15-64	x	NA
65+	x	NA

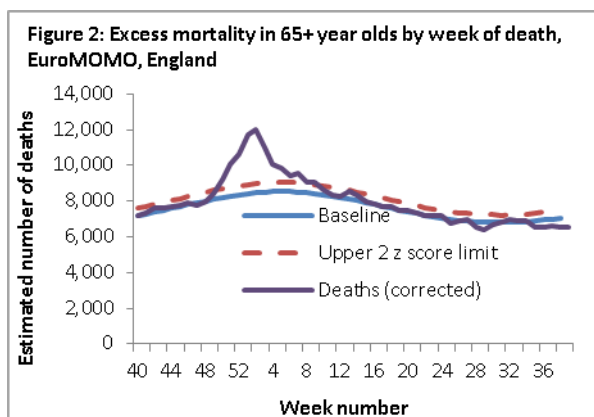
* Excess mortality is calculated as the observed minus the expected number of deaths in weeks above threshold

Table 2: Excess mortality by UK country*

Country	Excess detected in week 38 2015?	Weeks with excess in summer 2015
England	x	NA
Wales	x	NA
Scotland	x	NA
Northern Ireland	x	NA

* Excess mortality is calculated as the observed minus the expected number of deaths in weeks above threshold

NB. Separate total and age-specific models are run for England which may lead to discrepancies between Tables 1 + 2



Produced by the Respiratory Diseases Department, Public Health England.

- Seasonal mortality is seen each year in England and Wales, with a higher number of deaths in winter months compared to the summer. Additionally, peaks of mortality above this expected higher level typically occur in winter, most commonly the result of factors such as cold snaps and increased circulation of respiratory viruses, in particular influenza. During the summer excess mortality is associated with heat waves.
- RDD's weekly mortality surveillance aims to detect and report acute significant weekly excess mortality above normal seasonal levels in a timely fashion. Excess mortality is defined as a significant number of deaths reported over that expected for a given point in the year, allowing for weekly variation in the number of deaths. This triggers further investigation of spikes and informs any public health responses.
- The aim is not to assess general mortality trends or precisely estimate the excess attributable to different factors, although some end-of-winter estimates and more in-depth analyses (by age, geography etc.) are undertaken.
- Separate to the calculations presented in this report, excess winter deaths (EWD), comparing the number of deaths in the winter period compared to the non-winter period, are calculated by [ONS](#) and presented in an [atlas](#) down to local authority level.