



WARWICKSHIRE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

EXCESS WINTER MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES: 2016 TO 2017 (PROVISIONAL) AND 2015 TO 2016 (FINAL)

Published: 23rd November 2017

Source:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/excesswintermortalityinenglandandwales/2016to2017provisionaland2015to2016final>

National Summary

In common with other countries, more people die in the winter than in the summer in England and Wales. This bulletin presents provisional figures for excess winter deaths (EWDs) and also the excess winter mortality (EWM) index in England and Wales for the winter period 2016/17 and final figures for the winter period 2015/16. Lower tier local authority EWDs are not yet available for 2016/17.

In England, in 2016/17, there were an estimated 32,500 EWDs, representing 21.2% more deaths in the winter period, compared with the non-winter period. Females and the elderly were most affected by excess winter mortality in 2016/17. Over the past decade, EWDs have fluctuated with large declines often following unusually high EWDs, as was recently observed between winter periods 2014/15 and 2015/16. However, there were between 20,000 and 30,000 EWDs in most of the winters.

The increase in EWDs in 2016/17 can partially be explained by the levels of excess all-cause mortality (meaning total number of deaths due to all causes during the winter months), which were elevated compared with 2015/16, particularly in the elderly. However, all-cause mortality in the elderly was lower than the 2014/15 season in which the same strain of influenza virus dominated. In addition, the increase appears large as a lower than average number of EWDs occurred in the 2015/16 period meaning any increase above the five-year average would appear large in comparison with the winter of 2015/16

Respiratory disease is known to be one of the main causes of EWDs. In 2016/17, respiratory diseases were listed as the underlying cause for 36.4% of all excess winter deaths, with some 81% of these occurring in those aged 75 and over.

The predominant influenza virus in winter 2016/17 was influenza A (H3N2) which had a particularly noticeable impact on older adults with the highest consultation rates occurring in those aged 75 and over (32.1 per 100,000 population). According to Public Health England, there were increased numbers of care home outbreaks and EWDs particularly for those aged 65 and over.





Key Facts

REGION	2016/17 (Provisional)		2015/16 (Final)	
	Excess Winter Deaths	EWM Index	Excess Winter Deaths	EWM Index
England	32,500	21.2%	22,780	14.7%
West Midlands	3,600	20.9%	2,600	15.3%
North Warwickshire Borough	-	-	40	19.4%
Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough	-	-	90	23.5%
Rugby Borough	-	-	40	13.2%
Stratford-on-Avon District	-	-	50	11.6%
Warwick District	-	-	50	14.1%

NB: Mortalities have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Regional Summary

1. The West Midlands has seen an increase of 1,000 (38.5%) EWDs between 2015/16 and 2016/17. This is below the England average rise of 43%.
2. For Warwickshire, in 2015/16 Nuneaton and Bedworth had both the highest number of EWDs (90) and EWM Index (23.5%); Stratford-on-Avon had the lowest EWM Index (11.6%).

