

## ONS Plan for Mortality Statistics

### Introduction

This document sets out the Office for National Statistics (ONS) plan for mortality statistics during 2014/15 including the publication timetable and planned changes to outputs. A number of mortality outputs are produced in different areas of ONS so this document brings the plans for these outputs together into one place.

### Publication timetable 2014/15

The planned timetable for mortality outputs from July 2014 to June 2015 is outlined below. Data are provided for England and Wales combined, except where noted differently. Additional information on the lowest level of geography and a contact email address are also provided for each output. All outputs have been pre-announced on the Publication Hub.

Output	Date	Geography <sup>1</sup>	Comments	Contact
<a href="#">Death Registrations Summary Tables 2013</a>	16 July 2014	LAD2	Incorporates tables on death registrations by single year of age for UK	<a href="mailto:vsob@ons.gsi.gov.uk">vsob@ons.gsi.gov.uk</a>
<a href="#">Healthy Life Expectancy at Birth for Upper Tier Local Authorities 2010-12</a>	18 July 2014	England only, local authorities		<a href="mailto:hle@ons.gsi.gov.uk">hle@ons.gsi.gov.uk</a>
<a href="#">Inequality in Healthy Life Expectancy at Birth by National Deciles of Area Deprivation 2010-12</a>	22 July 2014	England only, groupings of Lower Super Output Areas		<a href="mailto:hle@ons.gsi.gov.uk">hle@ons.gsi.gov.uk</a>
<a href="#">Sub-national Health Expectancies - Disability-Free Life Expectancy by Upper Tier Local Authority 2009-11</a>	24 July 2014	England only, local authorities		<a href="mailto:hle@ons.gsi.gov.uk">hle@ons.gsi.gov.uk</a>
<a href="#">Unexplained Deaths in Infancy 2012</a>	August 2014 (provisional)			<a href="mailto:mortality@ons.gsi.gov.uk">mortality@ons.gsi.gov.uk</a>
<a href="#">Deaths Involving Clostridium Difficile 2013</a>	August/September 2014 (provisional)	Wales only		<a href="mailto:mortality@ons.gsi.gov.uk">mortality@ons.gsi.gov.uk</a>
<a href="#">Deaths Involving MRSA 2013</a>	August/September 2014 (provisional)	Wales only		<a href="mailto:mortality@ons.gsi.gov.uk">mortality@ons.gsi.gov.uk</a>
<a href="#">Deaths Related to Drug Poisoning 2013</a>	10 September 2014			<a href="mailto:mortality@ons.gsi.gov.uk">mortality@ons.gsi.gov.uk</a>

<a href="#">National Life Tables 2011-13</a>	25 September 2014	UK, Great Britain and constituent countries	Previously known as interim life tables	<a href="mailto:lifetables@ons.gsi.gov.uk">lifetables@ons.gsi.gov.uk</a>
<a href="#">Life Expectancy at Birth and at Age 65 by Local Areas 2011-13</a>	October/ November 2014 (provisional)		Previously published for UK	<a href="mailto:mortality@ons.gsi.gov.uk">mortality@ons.gsi.gov.uk</a>
<a href="#">Gestation-specific Infant Mortality 2012</a>	October/ November 2014 (provisional)			<a href="mailto:mortality@ons.gsi.gov.uk">mortality@ons.gsi.gov.uk</a>
<a href="#">Mortality Statistics: Deaths Registered in 2012 (DR)</a>	October/ November 2014 (provisional)	Regions, Local Health Boards (in Wales)		<a href="mailto:vsob@ons.gsi.gov.uk">vsob@ons.gsi.gov.uk</a>
<a href="#">The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Mortality File 2001-2013</a>	October/ November 2014 (provisional)			<a href="mailto:mortality@ons.gsi.gov.uk">mortality@ons.gsi.gov.uk</a>
<a href="#">Excess Winter Mortality 2013/14 (Provisional) and 2012/13 (Final)</a>	November/ December 2014 (provisional)	Region		<a href="mailto:mortality@ons.gsi.gov.uk">mortality@ons.gsi.gov.uk</a>
<a href="#">Mortality Statistics: Deaths Registered by Area of Usual Residence, 2013</a>	December 2014/ January 2015 (provisional)	UK, LAD2	Incorporates VS1 and former KPVS table for UK constituent countries	<a href="mailto:vsob@ons.gsi.gov.uk">vsob@ons.gsi.gov.uk</a>
<a href="#">Suicides 2013 Registrations</a>	January/ February 2015 (provisional)	UK, England, Wales and Regions in England		<a href="mailto:mortality@ons.gsi.gov.uk">mortality@ons.gsi.gov.uk</a>
<a href="#">Alcohol-related Deaths Registered in 2013</a>	January/ February 2015 (provisional)	UK, England, Wales and Regions in England		<a href="mailto:mortality@ons.gsi.gov.uk">mortality@ons.gsi.gov.uk</a>
<a href="#">Child Mortality Statistics: Childhood, Infant and Perinatal 2013</a>	January/ February 2015 (provisional)	Regions, Local Health Boards (in Wales)		<a href="mailto:vsob@ons.gsi.gov.uk">vsob@ons.gsi.gov.uk</a>
<a href="#">Birth Cohort Tables for Infant Deaths 2012</a>	January/ February 2015 (provisional)			<a href="mailto:vsob@ons.gsi.gov.uk">vsob@ons.gsi.gov.uk</a>
<a href="#">Life Expectancy by NS-SEC</a>	March/April 2015 (provisional)			<a href="mailto:hle@ons.gsi.gov.uk">hle@ons.gsi.gov.uk</a>
<a href="#">Healthy Life Expectancy at Birth for Upper Tier Local Authorities 2011-13</a>	March/April 2015 (provisional)	England only, local authorities		<a href="mailto:hle@ons.gsi.gov.uk">hle@ons.gsi.gov.uk</a>
<a href="#">Inequality in Healthy Life Expectancy at Birth by National Deciles of Area Deprivation 2011-13</a>	March/April 2015 (provisional)	England only, groupings of Lower Super Output Areas		<a href="mailto:hle@ons.gsi.gov.uk">hle@ons.gsi.gov.uk</a>

<a href="#">Vital Statistics: Population and Health Reference Tables Summer 2015 Update</a>	May/June 2015 (provisional)			<a href="mailto:vsob@ons.gsi.gov.uk">vsob@ons.gsi.gov.uk</a>
<a href="#">Avoidable Mortality 2012</a>	4 June 2015 (provisional)			<a href="mailto:mortality@ons.gsi.gov.uk">mortality@ons.gsi.gov.uk</a>

<sup>†</sup>Note: LAD2 refers to Regions, Counties, UAs, London Boroughs, Metropolitan Counties, Metropolitan Districts and Non-metropolitan Districts.

In addition, there is a [weekly output of deaths registered](#), usually every Tuesday or as pre-announced on the Publication Hub, along with a [monthly deaths output](#) showing the number of deaths registered in each local authority, usually published on the fourth Tuesday of the month or as pre-announced.

## Planned changes to mortality outputs 2014/15

### ONS consultation on statistical products

On 2 September 2013, the ONS launched a consultation to seek views to inform necessary reductions to statistical outputs in a number of areas including a large number of mortality outputs.

The response to the consultation was published on 10 February 2014 and updated on 28 May: [www.ons.gov.uk/ons/about-ons/get-involved/consultations/consultations/statistical-products-2013/index.html](http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/about-ons/get-involved/consultations/consultations/statistical-products-2013/index.html)

The [Injury and Poisoning Mortality](#) output has been discontinued but figures on such deaths are available in other outputs. The inclusion of quarterly death figures within the [Vital Statistics: Population and Health Reference tables](#) has been discontinued but [monthly death figures](#) are still available.

ONS will no longer produce statistics on deaths involving MRSA or Clostridium difficile for England. However, ONS will continue to produce these statistics for Wales (jointly funded by Public Health Wales NHS Trust and Welsh Government). Separately, Public Health England is developing alternative methods for reporting deaths in patients with a healthcare acquired infection (HCAI) for England.

The coverage of [Life Expectancy at Birth and at Age 65 by Local Areas](#) has been reduced from UK to England and Wales.

In terms of health inequality analyses, the production of [Trends in Intercensal Mortality, by NS-SEC, Sex, English Regions and Wales](#) has been discontinued. The social gradient in mortality is usually something that could only be assessed decennially. This output was the only source which provided more timely updates to monitor this inequality. The [Decennial Analysis of Social Inequality in All-cause and Cause Specific Mortality by NS-SEC and Sex](#) has been discontinued. This was the only decennial update available to describe the social inequality in all-cause and cause-specific mortality.

The [Decennial Analysis of Social Inequality in Alcohol-related Causes of Death by NS-SEC and Sex](#) along with the [Decennial Analysis of Social Inequality in Preventable Causes of Mortality by NS-SEC and Sex](#) have also been discontinued. There are no alternative sources of these analyses.

While ONS will no longer produce these specific health inequality outputs, it will continue to work closely with Public Health England and Department of Health for England, Public Health Wales and Welsh Government (where there are Wales data) on health inequality analyses which will be needed to provide the evidence base for national policy and local delivery in this vital area.

### Geography changes

Strategic Health Authorities were abolished on 31 March 2013 as part of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 so will no longer be used in published outputs.

## Cause of death coding software

On 1 January 2014, ONS changed the software to code cause of death to a package called IRIS (version 2013). The development of IRIS was supported by Eurostat (the statistical office of the European Union) and the software is now managed by the IRIS institute hosted by the German Institute of Medical Documentation and Information in Cologne. IRIS software version 2013 incorporates official updates to ICD-10, approved by WHO, which were timetabled for implementation before 2014. Information on the change to cause of death coding software is available on the ONS website:

[www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/user-guidance/health-and-life-events/Changes-to-cause-of-death-coding-in-England-and-Wales/index.html](http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/user-guidance/health-and-life-events/Changes-to-cause-of-death-coding-in-England-and-Wales/index.html)

The results of the IRIS bridge coding study, which shows the impact of the new IRIS software for cause of death coding on mortality statistics, will be published on 8 August 2014.

## Changes to European Standard Population

Eurostat updated the European Standard Population which is used in the calculation of age-standardised rates. ONS published details of the impact of this change on age-standardised rates and consulted with users on the implementation of the revised European Standard Population over summer 2013. The response to the consultation was published on 20 December 2013:

[www.ons.gov.uk/ons/about-ons/get-involved/consultations/consultations/implementation-of-the-2013-european-standard-population/index.html](http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/about-ons/get-involved/consultations/consultations/implementation-of-the-2013-european-standard-population/index.html)

The revised European Standard Population will be implemented within 2014/15 outputs. Methodological guidance, information on the impact of the change and on the timetable for implementation is available on the ONS website:

[www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/user-guidance/health-and-life-events/revised-european-standard-population-2013--2013-esp-/index.html](http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/user-guidance/health-and-life-events/revised-european-standard-population-2013--2013-esp-/index.html)

## Explorable datasets

ONS is developing explorable dataset functionality for the ONS website which is planned for release in August 2014. In the winter this will include life expectancy data (for local areas by sex), healthy life expectancy at birth data (for upper tier local authorities by sex), data from Table 5 in the [Mortality Statistics: Deaths Registered](#) publication (cause of death by sex and age group) and also VS3 (selected causes of death by local authority and age group) and VS4 (live births and deaths by ward) which are currently available on request.

## Replacement of ONS Life Events database

ONS is developing a replacement for the legacy IT systems which process and store death registrations and other Life Events data. The first phase of the new system is expected to be introduced during 2015. No changes to 2014/15 mortality outputs are planned as a result of this work.

## ONS data markings

A new set of symbols used are being implemented across ONS outputs in order to improve harmonisation and consistency, and facilitate understanding of data and comparability.

In mortality outputs published from July 2014 onwards symbols used are:

- : denotes not available
- z denotes not applicable
- 0 denotes nil
- c confidential
- u low reliability

Rates are not calculated where there are fewer than 3 deaths in a cell, denoted by (u). It is ONS practice not to calculate rates where there are fewer than 3 deaths in a cell, as rates based on such low numbers are susceptible to inaccurate interpretation.

Rates in tables calculated from fewer than 20 deaths are denoted by (u) as a warning to the user that their reliability as a measure may be affected by the small number of events.

In ONS mortality outputs published prior to July 2014 symbols used were:

- .. denotes not available
- : denotes not appropriate/not applicable
- denotes nil
- \* suppressed to protect confidentiality

Also prior to July 2014:

- Rates were not calculated where there were fewer than 3 deaths in a cell, denoted by (:)
- Rates in tables calculated from fewer than 20 deaths were distinguished by italic type

### **Questions and comments about this document**

Any questions or comments relating to the plan for mortality statistics can be addressed to:  
[vsob@ons.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:vsob@ons.gsi.gov.uk).

July 2014