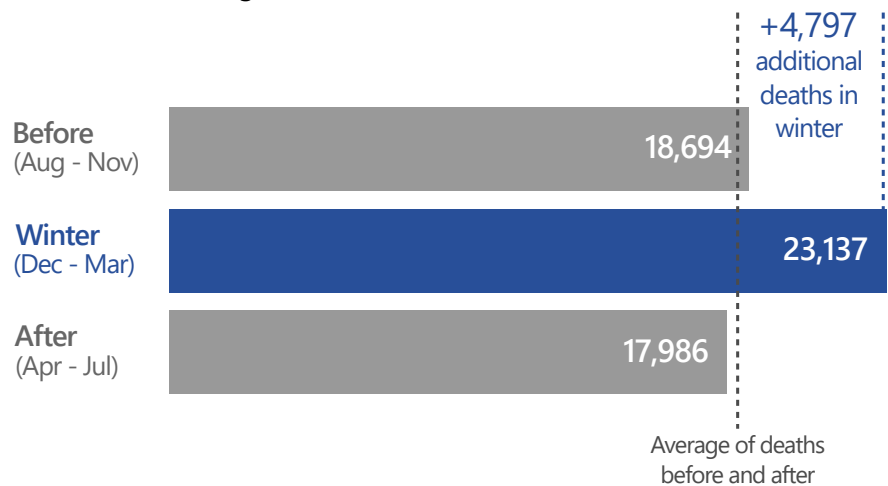


Mortality increases during the winter

The winter months see a higher number of deaths than other times of the year.

We measure the size of this effect by looking at the difference between deaths over four months in winter and the average number of deaths in the two periods before and after.

Deaths before, during and after winter 2017/18

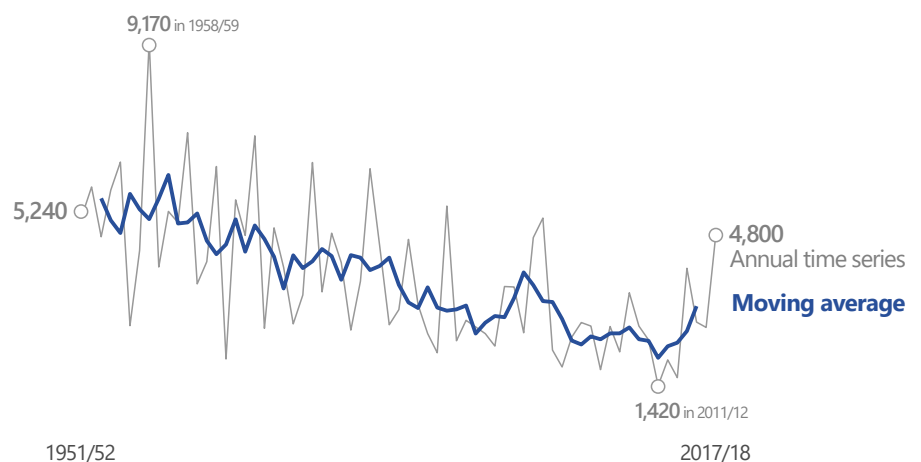


Winter mortality trend generally downwards

Mortality in winter has been higher than in the seasons before and after for each winter since records began in 1951/52.

This difference has fluctuated, with an increase in recent years, but the 5-year moving average shows an overall downward trend over the long term.

Additional deaths in winter (Dec-Mar)



Respiratory system diseases main cause of additional deaths in 2017/18

35% of the additional deaths in 2017/18 were caused by respiratory system diseases, including influenza and pneumonia.

* Other causes not shown here account for smaller numbers of additional deaths.

Additional deaths in winter 2017/18 (Dec-Mar) by underlying cause

