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Winter Mortality in Scotland 2010/11

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A National Statistics publication for Scotland

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Main points

The main points in this report are:

- There were 19,626 deaths in Scotland in the four months of winter 2010/11 (December to March), compared with 19,687 in winter 2009/10. Despite the unusually cold weather, winter 2010/11 had the lowest number of deaths registered in the twenty most recent winters.

- Comparing the number of deaths in the four winter months with the average for the two adjacent four-month periods, the seasonal increase in mortality in winter 2010/11 was 2,450: around 300 fewer than the corresponding figure of 2,760 for winter 2009/10.

- Statistics of the seasonal increase in mortality in the winter are available for every winter from 1951/52. Winter 2010/11 had the ninth lowest figure in those 60 years. The series shows that the long-term trend has clearly been downward: although there were unusually large figures in some years, the height of the peaks has generally been falling, and the 5-year moving average has tended to decline (but it has not changed much in recent years).

- Over the 60 years covered by the statistics, the lowest figure was for winter 2005/06 (1,780), the second lowest was for winter 2001/02 (1,840), and the fifth lowest was for winter 2007/08 (2,180) - so the latest ten winters have had three of the five lowest figures recorded. In addition, as the ninth and tenth lowest figures were 2,450 for winter 2010/11 and 2,510 for winter 2002/03, the latest ten winters have also had five out of the ten lowest figures recorded in the 60 years.

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1. Introduction

This release presents provisional data for the seasonal increase in mortality in Scotland in winter 2010/11. The Tables and Figures provide overall data for Scotland for 60 years, a breakdown by age-group for Scotland as a whole for over 20 years and for each NHS Board area for 10 years, and also recent years' numbers of deaths registered for Scotland and NHS Board areas.

The seasonal increase in mortality in the winter is defined as the difference between the number of deaths in the four-month 'winter' period (December to March, inclusive) and the average number of deaths in the two four-month periods which precede winter (August to November, inclusive) and follow winter (April to July, inclusive).

There is no single cause of 'additional' deaths in winter. Very few are caused by hypothermia. Most are from respiratory and circulatory diseases such as pneumonia, coronary heart disease and stroke. In only a small proportion of deaths is influenza recorded as the underlying cause.

2. Commentary

2.1 Table 1 shows recent trends in the seasonal increase in mortality in the winter for Scotland as a whole. It is estimated that there were about 2,450 'additional' deaths in Scotland during winter 2010/11, around 300 fewer than the 2,760 in the previous winter.

2.2 Table 1 also shows the extent to which the seasonal increase in mortality in the winter affects the elderly, particularly those aged 75 and over. In the past ten years, the percentage of the additional deaths accounted for by people aged 75 to 84 ranged between 29% (in 2010/11) and 45% (in 2001/02), and people aged 85 and over accounted for between 34% (in 2005/06) and 43% (in 2006/07) of the additional deaths. Overall, taking the average of the ten years' percentages, around 35% of the additional deaths were of people who were aged 75 to 84, and 39% were people aged 85 and over.

2.3 Figure 1 shows the seasonal increase in mortality in the winter for each winter from 1951/52 individually (the bars) and as a 5-year moving average (the black line) - the latter should give a better guide to the overall trend, as it 'smoothes out' most (but not all) of the effect of year-to-year fluctuations in the figures. The chart shows that there has been an overall downward trend in the number of 'additional' winter deaths over the past 60 years. Although there have been unusually large figures in some years, the height of the peaks has generally appeared to be falling, and the 5-year moving average has tended to decline. However, there are fluctuations around the overall long-term downward trend, such as the short-term rise in the moving average towards the end of the 1990s. The moving average appears to have more-or-less 'levelled off' recently: its latest five values have all been around 2,600, roughly speaking (the lowest was 2,462 and the highest was 2,730, so they were all within 150 of 2,600).

2.4 Table 2 gives the figures for the 60 winters for which these statistics are available. Despite being unusually cold, winter 2010/11 had what is, in historical terms, a low

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number of 'additional' deaths (2,450), the ninth lowest figure since the series started in 1951/52. Winter 2005/06, with mild weather and no serious outbreaks of flu, had the lowest number of 'additional' deaths (1,780) recorded, the winters of 2001/02 and 2007/08 had the second and fifth lowest figures (1,840 and 2,180) respectively. Therefore, the latest ten winters had three of the five lowest figures since 1951/52. As the ninth and tenth lowest figures were 2,450 in 2010/11 and 2,510 in 2002/03, the latest ten winters also had five of the ten lowest figures in the 60 years. The pre-2001/02 winters which were among those with the ten lowest figures are 1966/67 (2,020), 1988/89 (2,160), 2000/01 (2,220), 1994/95 (2,310) and 1990/91 (2,430).

2.5 Table 3 gives a more detailed breakdown of the seasonal increase in mortality in the winter by age and NHS Board area. There are some negative figures, these are cases where a particular age-group had fewer deaths in the winter period than the average of the two adjacent non-winter periods. This happens sometimes because the number of deaths may fluctuate 'randomly' during the year. The 'all ages' figures for the seasonal increase in mortality in the winter take account of any negative values for individual age-groups.

2.6 The numbers of deaths registered each winter, and in the adjacent four-month periods, are provided in Table 4, along with figures for the seasonal increase in mortality in the winter (sometimes referred to as the 'seasonal difference') which have been calculated from those numbers of deaths.

2.7 Table 4 shows that there were 19,626 deaths in Scotland in the four months of winter 2010/11 (December to March). Winter 2010/11 had the lowest number of deaths registered in the twenty most recent winters, despite its unusually cold weather (it had the second lowest mean winter temperature in that period. Winter 2009/10 had the lowest mean winter temperature and the third lowest number of deaths registered in those twenty winters). Over the period which started with winter 2000/01, the number of deaths registered has been (very roughly) around 20,000 to 21,000 in each winter, with the actual figures varying between 19,626 in winter 2010/11 and 21,058 in winter 2002/03.

2.8 Table 5 provides the same kind of information as Table 4, but for each NHS Board area for the latest four years, in order to provide examples of the calculation of the seasonal increase in mortality for NHS Board areas.

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3. Relationship with Overall Mean Winter Temperature and the Level of Influenza Activity

3.1 In general, there are more deaths in colder months, and mortality tends to rise as temperatures fall. As well as figures for the seasonal increase in mortality, Table 2 also gives the Met Office's overall mean winter temperature for Scotland for each of the years (based on data for December to February, rather than December to March). On this basis, 2010/11 was the fifth coldest winter in the 60 years shown: it had a mean winter temperature of 1.28°C (compared with the overall average of the mean winter temperatures for the 59 preceding winters, which was 2.57°C), and only four of those 59 winters had a lower mean winter temperature (1962/63: 0.16°C; 1976/77: 1.02°C; 1978/79: 0.45°C; and 2009/10: 0.39°C). Therefore, a relatively high seasonal increase in mortality in winter 2010/11 might have been expected. However, Figure 2 shows that there is no clear relationship between the seasonal increase in mortality in the winter and the overall mean winter temperature in different years: part (a) shows this for all the winters for which figures are available; part (b) does so for the latest 20 winters alone. There may be a number of reasons for this, for example, over the years improvements in home insulation and the spread of central heating will have altered the relationship between the weather outdoors and people's indoor temperatures. The overall mean winter temperature may not be a good indicator of the severity of a winter because it is an average over three months This could therefore suggest that a winter with some extremely cold weeks in, say, January was a ‘mild’ one IF the average for the three months taken together were raised by unusually warm weather in December and/or February).

3.2 The number of ‘additional’ deaths in winter 2010/11 was just under half (47%) of the figure for 1999/2000, which was the last time that influenza activity was at a high level (despite ‘H1N1/swine’ flu, winter 2009/10 had a relatively low level of influenza activity). Table 2 also includes indicators of the level of influenza activity, which National Records of Scotland (NRS) has calculated from figures for General Practitioner consultation rates for influenza-like illnesses which were supplied by Health Protection Scotland (HPS). The ‘fluspotter’ surveillance scheme, which ran from 1971 to 2008, has been superseded by the Pandemic Influenza Primary Care Reporting (PIPeR) scheme, which started in 2004. NRS has expressed each indicator in the form of an index, with the 2004/05 value being 100 in each case (one might expect differences between the two series' index values for the other years which they have in common, because different measuring systems may produce different results). Some of the winters which had particularly high seasonal increases in mortality were in periods with unusually high levels of influenza activity (e.g. 1975/76 and 1989/90), but there have also been occasions when the relationship was less clear (e.g. 1971/72 had a very high level of influenza activity, but its seasonal increase in mortality did not differ greatly from the 5-year moving average).

3.3 Figure 3 suggests that there is a general tendency for the seasonal increase in mortality in the winter to be higher when there are more cases of influenza: part (a) shows this using the ‘fluspotter’ data; part (b) does so using the ‘PIPeR’ data. However, it will be seen that the relationship between the two numbers is not a strong one, because there are some winters which had very similar levels of influenza activity but which had markedly different seasonal increases in mortality. It should be noted that the time of the year when influenza is at its highest may not

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be within the four winter months (as defined for the purpose of these statistics), which may reduce the statistical correlation between influenza activity and the seasonal increase in mortality. This can be seen from HPS's regular Influenza Updates (available on the HPS website), which include a chart comparing the latest and the previous influenza seasons' GP consultation rates for flu. For example, the updates produced in April 2010 show that influenza in the 2009/10 season peaked in early November 2009 - which was before the start of what is defined as 'winter 2009/10' for the statistics of the seasonal increase in mortality in the winter.

3.4 Influenza is recorded as the cause of relatively few deaths. Information about the numbers of deaths from different causes is given in the Vital Events Reference Tables on the NRS website. Table 6.1 shows that, in most years, there are only a few deaths for which the underlying cause is recorded as influenza (ICD-10 codes J10-J11). In recent years, the largest such figure was 131 in 2000, which is small when compared with the winter 1999/2000 figure of 5,190 for the seasonal increase in mortality (Table 1 of this publication). The second-largest number of deaths from influenza in recent years was 62 in 2009. This includes all the deaths for which the underlying cause was 'H1N1/swine flu' that were registered in 2009. Again, this is relatively small compared with the winter 2009/10 figure of 2,760 for the seasonal increase in mortality (given in Table 1 of this publication). There were far fewer influenza deaths in most other years (e.g. 10 in 2008, 12 in 2010). 'H1N1/swine flu' accounted for only a small proportion of winter 2009/10's seasonal increase in mortality. The HPS Influenza Update dated 15 April 2010 available on the Health Protection Scotland website stated that 'the total number of reports received of deaths among those with confirmed Influenza A H1N1v in Scotland remains at 69', a figure which covers the period since 'H1N1/swine flu' started in Scotland in Spring 2009, so the number of 'H1N1/swine flu' deaths included in the figure for the seasonal increase in mortality in winter 2009/10 will be less than that.

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4. How the Seasonal Increase in Mortality in the Winter is calculated

4.1 The seasonal increase in mortality in the winter is defined as the difference between the number of deaths in the four-month 'winter' period (December to March, inclusive) and the average number of deaths in the two four-month periods which precede winter (August to November) and follow winter (April to July). This is a standard definition which is used by the Office for National Statistics, the World Health Organisation and others (who may describe it as - e.g. 'excess winter deaths' or 'excess winter mortality').

4.2 Some of the previous editions of this publication were called 'Increased Winter Mortality' and 'Excess Winter Mortality'. The title was changed to reduce the likelihood of misunderstandings (because someone seeing, say, 'Increased Winter Mortality in Scotland, 2009/10' might wrongly infer that there had been an increase in winter mortality in 2009/10).

4.3 The numbers of deaths registered each winter, and in the adjacent four-month periods, are provided in Table 4, along with figures for the seasonal increase in mortality in the winter (sometimes referred to as the 'seasonal difference') which have been calculated from those numbers of deaths.

4.4 Table 4 shows that there were 19,626 deaths in Scotland in the four months of winter 2010/11 (December 2010 to March 2011), more than both the 17,397 deaths in the preceding 4-month period (August 2010 to November 2010) and the 16,957 deaths in the following 4-month period (April 2011 to July 2011). Comparing the four winter months with the average of the 4-month periods before and after the winter, and rounding the result to the nearest ten, gives a figure for increased winter mortality of 2,450 for winter 2010/11. The corresponding figures for the other winters were calculated using the same method.

4.5 Table 5 provides the same kind of information as Table 4 for each NHS Board area for each of the latest four years.

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5. Background: about these statistics

5.1 This is an annual publication. National Records of Scotland (NRS) collects the underlying data on a daily basis, as and when each event is registered. The statistics for the latest winter are all new the figures for the previous winter may have been revised very slightly.

5.2 Information about (e.g.) the sources, methods, definitions and reliability of these statistics is available from the web site's pages of general background information on Vital Events statistics and background information on points which are specific to statistics about deaths. These figures are directly comparable with those for other parts of the United Kingdom (UK), there are no significant differences across the UK in how Vital Events data are collected and processed.

5.3 The figures for the latest winter, and the subsequent four month period, given here are provisional. They were produced from the information that NRS held about deaths which had been registered by (roughly) five weeks before the date on which this release was published. By law, a death which occurs in Scotland must be registered within eight days. Therefore, hardly any deaths which occurred in the winter (December to March), or in the subsequent four month period (April to July), will not have been registered in time to be included in NRS's statistical database before the tables for this release were produced. However, the figures could change slightly, because 'late' registrations occur occasionally, in unusual circumstances. NRS does not 'freeze' its statistical data for a given year until it starts to prepare the final statistics for the calendar year as a whole, which are published in the following summer.

5.4 Statistics of the seasonal increase in mortality in the winter inform public debate and the development of government policy on matters such as the health of the elderly population, fuel poverty and whether there is a need to improve the housing stock in terms of central heating and thermal insulation.

5.5 A separate document, Increased Winter Mortality - Background Note (PDF 39 Kb), published in October 2010, gives information about some of the medical causes of the seasonal increase in mortality in the winter, describes some research studies' findings on factors that influence it, reports on a comparison of the figures for a number of European countries, mentions previous publications on this topic, and provides references to the sources of the material. The main points to note are:

- high cold-related mortality is associated with low indoor temperatures, and with people not wearing appropriate clothing when outdoors in cold weather;
- increased winter mortality was at the same level in Scotland as the overall mean for the 14 European countries covered by a comparative study; and
- the seasonal increase in mortality in the winter is higher in countries with a warmer winter climate, probably because their homes tend to be poorly insulated and their populations tend not to dress well for cold weather.

5.6 The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

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5.7 Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

5.8 Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

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Table 1: The Seasonal Increase in Mortality in the Winter by age group, Scotland, 1990/91 to 2010/11

	0-64	65-74	75-84	85+	All ages
1990/91	230	580	750	880	2,430
1991/92	350	560	1,020	950	2,890
1992/93	280	550	950	960	2,740
1993/94	350	440	990	800	2,590
1994/95	240	380	930	760	2,310
1995/96	250	860	1,420	1,120	3,650
1996/97	320	630	1,350	1,350	3,640
1997/98	170	730	950	760	2,610
1998/99	380	790	1,660	1,920	4,750
1999/2000	650	970	1,820	1,750	5,190
2000/01	260	370	820	760	2,220
2001/02	80	230	820	710	1,840
2002/03	350	300	940	920	2,510
2003/04	320	510	840	1,170	2,840
2004/05	200	430	1,030	1,090	2,760
2005/06	330	280	550	610	1,780
2006/07	190	410	980	1,180	2,750
2007/08	130	320	880	850	2,180
2008/09	370	590	1,170	1,370	3,510
2009/10	460	370	890	1,040	2,760
2010/11 provisional	410	430	720	890	2,450

[Footnote 1] The Seasonal Increase in Mortality in the Winter has been defined as the difference between the number of deaths in the four 'winter' months (December - March) and the average of the numbers of deaths in the preceding (August - November) and following (April - July) non-winter 4-month periods.

[Footnote 2] Because of the approximate nature of this measure, numbers have been rounded independently to the nearest 10. The sum of the age group figures may, therefore, differ from the 'all ages' total.

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Table 2: The Seasonal Increase in Mortality in the Winter, mean winter temperature and indicators of level of influenza activity, Scotland, 1951/52 - 2010/11

Year	Seasonal Increase in Mortality in the Winter: Additional deaths (Dec-Mar)	Seasonal Increase in Mortality in the Winter: 5-year moving average	Mean winter temperature [1] (deg. C.)	Indicators of influenza activity [2] (Index: 2004/05 = 100): Fluspotter'	Indicators of influenza activity [2] (Index: 2004/05 = 100): PIPeR'
1951/52	5,240		1.89		
1952/53	5,890		2.94		
1953/54	4,770	5,634	2.70		
1954/55	5,820	5,140	1.41		
1955/56	6,450	4,854	1.52		
1956/57	2,770	5,734	3.47		
1957/58	4,460	5,388	2.06		
1958/59	9,170	5,166	1.66		
1959/60	4,090	5,630	2.12		
1960/61	5,340	6,160	2.56		
1961/62	5,090	5,068	2.13		
1962/63	7,110	5,092	0.16		
1963/64	3,710	5,294	3.09		
1964/65	4,210	4,680	1.87		
1965/66	6,350	4,378	1.60		
1966/67	2,020	4,596	3.00		
1967/68	5,600	5,162	1.91		
1968/69	4,800	4,434	1.55		
1969/70	7,040	5,024	1.52		
1970/71	2,710	4,720	3.41		
1971/72	4,970	4,322	3.56	3,412	
1972/73	4,080	3,606	3.23	1,286	
1973/74	2,810	4,352	3.50	2,081	
1974/75	3,460	4,064	3.88	1,144	
1975/76	6,440	4,218	3.72	2,951	
1976/77	3,530	4,494	1.02	656	
1977/78	4,850	4,336	1.77	2,214	
1978/79	4,190	3,802	0.45	951	
1979/80	2,670	4,356	2.47	967	
1980/81	3,770	4,300	2.97	800	
1981/82	6,300	4,020	1.36	1,542	
1982/83	4,570	4,112	2.49	1,309	
1983/84	2,790	4,300	2.53	1,698	
1984/85	3,130	3,688	2.12	705	
1985/86	4,710	3,292	1.28	1,107	
1986/87	3,240	3,166	2.00	847	
1987/88	2,590	3,632	3.14	337	
1988/89	2,160	3,176	5.12	819	
1989/90	5,460	3,106	3.34	2,753	
1990/91	2,430	3,136	1.99	319	
1991/92	2,890	3,222	3.94	928	
1992/93	2,740	2,592	3.42	979	
1993/94	2,590	2,836	1.77	2,053	
1994/95	2,310	2,986	2.89	219	
1995/96	3,650	2,960	1.76	907	
1996/97	3,640	3,392	2.48	1,763	
1997/98	2,610	3,968	4.51	272	
1998/99	4,750	3,682	3.26	718	
1999/00	5,190	3,322	3.03	1,973	
2000/01	2,220	3,302	2.16	144	
2001/02	1,840	2,920	3.39	95	
2002/03	2,510	2,434	2.96	98	
2003/04	2,840	2,346	3.20	321	
2004/05	2,760	2,528	3.94	100	100
2005/06	1,780	2,462	3.35	77	98
2006/07	2,750	2,596	4.34	367	119
2007/08	2,180	2,596	3.61	116	98
2008/09	3,510	2,730	2.60		136
2009/10	2,760		0.39		92
2010/11 provisional	2,450		1.28		101

[Footnote 1] The mean winter temperature for Scotland (for December to February), as obtained from the Met Office web site (the relevant page is reached thus: Home > Weather > UK > Climate > UK Climate Summaries > Download datasets of regional values)

[Footnote 2] Indicators of the numbers of GP consultations for influenza-like illness, calculated from figures which were supplied by Health Protection Scotland (HPS). The 'fluspotter' index value was calculated from the maximum rate (per 100,000) in each 'flu season, as supplied by HPS, and the 'PIPeR' index value from the maximum of all the rates for weeks 48 to 13 (i.e. December to March, roughly) that were provided by HPS. (NB: HPS used a new method to calculate the PIPeR rates back to 2004/05, so the PIPeR figures given here supersede those published previously). The PIPeR surveillance system has superseded the 'fluspotter' system which ceased to operate in 2008. PIPeR is an enhanced surveillance system which collects additional clinical and epidemiological data to provide more accurate interpretation of seasonal influenza and respiratory virus activity. Since these systems measure activity using different methods and definitions, their results are not directly comparable.

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Table 3: Seasonal Increase in Mortality in the Winter and the Increased Winter Mortality index, by age group and NHS Board area of usual residence, 2001/02 to 2010/11

Scotland

	Seasonal Increase in Mortality in the Winter [1,2]					Increased Winter Mortality Index[3,4]				
	All ages	0-64	65-74	75-84	85+	All ages	0-64	65-74	75-84	85+
2001/02	1,840	80	230	820	710	*10*	*2*	*6*	*14*	*15*
2002/03	2,510	350	300	940	920	*14*	*9*	*8*	*16*	*19*
2003/04	2,840	320	510	840	1,170	*16*	*9*	*13*	*14*	*25*
2004/05	2,760	200	430	1,030	1,090	*15*	*5*	*12*	*18*	*23*
2005/06	1,780	330	280	550	610	*10*	*9*	*8*	*10*	*13*
2006/07	2,750	190	410	980	1,180	*16*	*5*	*12*	*18*	*24*
2007/08	2,180	130	320	880	850	*12*	*3*	*9*	*16*	*17*
2008/09	3,510	370	590	1,170	1,370	*21*	*10*	*18*	*22*	*28*
2009/10	2,760	460	370	890	1,040	*16*	*13*	*11*	*17*	*21*
2010/11 (P)	2,450	410	430	720	890	*14*	*12*	*13*	*14*	*17*

Ayrshire and Arran

	Seasonal Increase in Mortality in the Winter [1,2]					Increased Winter Mortality Index[3,4]				
	All ages	0-64	65-74	75-84	85+	All ages	0-64	65-74	75-84	85+
2001/02	100	30	-30	50	50	*7*	*9*	*.*	*10*	*13*
2002/03	170	20	30	60	70	*12*	*7*	*8*	*12*	*18*
2003/04	230	20	50	50	110	*16*	*7*	*17*	*9*	*28*
2004/05	260	10	70	80	100	*19*	*5*	*25*	*17*	*27*
2005/06	150	60	40	0	50	*10*	*21*	*14*	*1*	*12*
2006/07	220	40	30	60	90	*16*	*14*	*10*	*14*	*24*
2007/08	140	-10	30	40	90	*10*	*.*	*9*	*8*	*23*
2008/09	380	30	50	160	140	*29*	*11*	*19*	*42*	*35*
2009/10	190	10	10	90	70	*14*	*4*	*5*	*23*	*19*
2010/11 (P)	200	20	30	70	90	*15*	*6*	*13*	*15*	*22*

Borders

	Seasonal Increase in Mortality in the Winter [1,2]					Increased Winter Mortality Index[3,4]				
	All ages	0-64	65-74	75-84	85+	All ages	0-64	65-74	75-84	85+
2001/02	40	0	10	20	10	*9*	*4*	*9*	*15*	*6*
2002/03	40	10	0	10	20	*9*	*9*	*4*	*6*	*15*
2003/04	40	-10	10	10	30	*9*	*.*	*14*	*9*	*17*
2004/05	60	0	10	20	30	*15*	*1*	*20*	*15*	*21*
2005/06	60	0	10	20	30	*14*	*.*	*16*	*13*	*22*
2006/07	60	10	0	10	30	*15*	*18*	*5*	*10*	*24*
2007/08	80	20	10	0	40	*19*	*32*	*19*	*0*	*36*
2008/09	100	10	20	40	30	*24*	*15*	*23*	*34*	*21*
2009/10	50	-10	10	20	30	*12*	*.*	*9*	*18*	*25*
2010/11 (P)	70	10	20	10	30	*19*	*21*	*39*	*6*	*22*

Dumfries and Galloway

	Seasonal Increase in Mortality in the Winter [1,2]					Increased Winter Mortality Index[3,4]				
	All ages	0-64	65-74	75-84	85+	All ages	0-64	65-74	75-84	85+
2001/02	50	-10	0	40	10	*9*	*.*	*1*	*23*	*8*
2002/03	80	20	10	10	50	*14*	*15*	*8*	*7*	*27*
2003/04	30	0	20	0	10	*5*	*.*	*16*	*2*	*8*
2004/05	70	0	20	30	20	*12*	*.*	*18*	*15*	*10*
2005/06	60	20	30	-10	20	*10*	*17*	*28*	*.*	*13*
2006/07	60	0	10	30	20	*10*	*4*	*5*	*14*	*11*
2007/08	90	30	10	30	20	*16*	*37*	*7*	*13*	*15*
2008/09	140	20	30	40	40	*25*	*23*	*29*	*25*	*24*
2009/10	100	10	10	30	50	*18*	*12*	*12*	*17*	*27*
2010/11 (P)	50	20	10	10	20	*8*	*17*	*7*	*4*	*9*

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Table 3, continued

Fife

	Seasonal Increase in Mortality in the Winter [1,2]					Increased Winter Mortality Index[3,4]				
	All ages	0-64	65-74	75-84	85+	All ages	0-64	65-74	75-84	85+
2001/02	200	40	50	50	60	*17*	*19*	*20*	*12*	*18*
2002/03	90	30	10	40	20	*7*	*12*	*2*	*8*	*6*
2003/04	150	-10	20	10	130	*12*	*.*	*6*	*2*	*38*
2004/05	250	30	20	120	90	*21*	*13*	*8*	*27*	*25*
2005/06	40	10	-30	30	30	*4*	*4*	*.*	*8*	*10*
2006/07	150	-10	20	70	80	*12*	*.*	*6*	*18*	*21*
2007/08	210	10	10	80	110	*17*	*3*	*3*	*21*	*33*
2008/09	280	10	60	80	130	*23*	*6*	*25*	*21*	*36*
2009/10	190	30	40	60	60	*16*	*14*	*17*	*16*	*16*
2010/11 (P)	90	30	-10	50	20	*7*	*13*	*.*	*12*	*6*

Forth Valley

	Seasonal Increase in Mortality in the Winter [1,2]					Increased Winter Mortality Index[3,4]				
	All ages	0-64	65-74	75-84	85+	All ages	0-64	65-74	75-84	85+
2001/02	30	-20	0	10	40	*2*	*.*	*.*	*2*	*14*
2002/03	120	-30	30	80	50	*13*	*.*	*12*	*25*	*19*
2003/04	180	30	30	40	70	*18*	*16*	*16*	*13*	*28*
2004/05	170	20	50	80	30	*18*	*8*	*24*	*25*	*12*
2005/06	180	0	40	70	70	*19*	*2*	*21*	*22*	*27*
2006/07	150	30	10	20	90	*16*	*14*	*8*	*7*	*34*
2007/08	110	20	-10	40	50	*12*	*9*	*.*	*15*	*21*
2008/09	280	40	40	90	110	*32*	*21*	*24*	*32*	*45*
2009/10	100	20	20	-10	60	*11*	*14*	*10*	*.*	*24*
2010/11 (P)	140	30	30	30	40	*15*	*17*	*18*	*11*	*17*

Grampian

	Seasonal Increase in Mortality in the Winter [1,2]					Increased Winter Mortality Index[3,4]				
	All ages	0-64	65-74	75-84	85+	All ages	0-64	65-74	75-84	85+
2001/02	160	-10	0	80	100	*10*	*.*	*.*	*15*	*20*
2002/03	280	60	0	110	110	*17*	*17*	*0*	*20*	*23*
2003/04	320	20	40	150	110	*20*	*7*	*14*	*28*	*24*
2004/05	250	20	60	80	90	*15*	*7*	*20*	*14*	*19*
2005/06	130	0	30	30	70	*8*	*0*	*9*	*6*	*14*
2006/07	380	40	10	140	200	*23*	*12*	*4*	*26*	*40*
2007/08	250	20	50	100	70	*15*	*7*	*16*	*19*	*14*
2008/09	270	20	50	60	150	*16*	*5*	*16*	*11*	*30*
2009/10	210	40	30	50	100	*13*	*12*	*10*	*9*	*18*
2010/11 (P)	250	20	40	80	120	*15*	*6*	*15*	*15*	*22*

Greater Glasgow & Clyde[b]

	Seasonal Increase in Mortality in the Winter [1,2]					Increased Winter Mortality Index[3,4]				
	All ages	0-64	65-74	75-84	85+	All ages	0-64	65-74	75-84	85+
2001/02	560	10	170	240	150	*12*	*1*	*16*	*17*	*14*
2002/03	820	180	140	190	310	*18*	*17*	*13*	*13*	*30*
2003/04	670	100	150	190	230	*15*	*9*	*15*	*13*	*22*
2004/05	610	20	40	280	270	*13*	*2*	*4*	*20*	*26*
2005/06	450	130	50	120	160	*10*	*13*	*5*	*8*	*15*
2006/07	770	50	140	280	290	*18*	*5*	*16*	*21*	*28*
2007/08	600	30	90	260	210	*14*	*3*	*10*	*20*	*20*
2008/09	800	110	150	200	330	*19*	*11*	*19*	*16*	*31*
2009/10	570	120	70	220	160	*14*	*13*	*8*	*18*	*15*
2010/11 (P)	620	130	100	160	230	*15*	*14*	*12*	*13*	*21*

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Table 3, continued

Highland[5]

	Seasonal Increase in Mortality in the Winter [1,2]					Increased Winter Mortality Index[3,4]				
	All ages	0-64	65-74	75-84	85+	All ages	0-64	65-74	75-84	85+
2001/02	120	30	10	40	50	*10*	*13*	*3*	*10*	*14*
2002/03	90	0	10	70	20	*8*	*.*	*5*	*19*	*6*
2003/04	140	40	-20	60	60	*12*	*16*	*.*	*16*	*19*
2004/05	140	0	20	20	100	*13*	*1*	*8*	*5*	*38*
2005/06	80	20	-20	50	20	*7*	*11*	*.*	*16*	*6*
2006/07	190	30	30	60	70	*16*	*12*	*12*	*18*	*21*
2007/08	80	0	0	-10	80	*7*	*0*	*1*	*.*	*26*
2008/09	150	0	40	30	70	*13*	*1*	*18*	*10*	*23*
2009/10	200	40	30	50	80	*19*	*20*	*13*	*15*	*25*
2010/11 (P)	110	10	40	20	40	*10*	*3*	*22*	*6*	*12*

Lanarkshire

	Seasonal Increase in Mortality in the Winter [1,2]					Increased Winter Mortality Index[3,4]				
	All ages	0-64	65-74	75-84	85+	All ages	0-64	65-74	75-84	85+
2001/02	210	-20	20	100	100	*11*	*.*	*4*	*17*	*26*
2002/03	250	30	30	120	60	*13*	*7*	*8*	*21*	*14*
2003/04	400	60	30	160	150	*22*	*14*	*8*	*26*	*38*
2004/05	280	30	70	120	60	*15*	*6*	*17*	*18*	*15*
2005/06	290	60	50	110	70	*15*	*13*	*14*	*19*	*15*
2006/07	210	-10	80	80	60	*11*	*.*	*21*	*13*	*13*
2007/08	240	-10	40	160	50	*13*	*.*	*10*	*28*	*10*
2008/09	470	80	80	190	120	*26*	*20*	*22*	*33*	*27*
2009/10	430	110	60	140	120	*23*	*27*	*14*	*25*	*26*
2010/11 (P)	280	50	70	70	100	*15*	*13*	*17*	*11*	*21*

Lothian

	Seasonal Increase in Mortality in the Winter [1,2]					Increased Winter Mortality Index[3,4]				
	All ages	0-64	65-74	75-84	85+	All ages	0-64	65-74	75-84	85+
2001/02	220	30	-10	140	60	*9*	*6*	*.*	*17*	*9*
2002/03	360	50	0	170	140	*14*	*10*	*.*	*20*	*19*
2003/04	400	20	80	110	190	*16*	*5*	*16*	*13*	*29*
2004/05	390	60	70	90	170	*16*	*12*	*15*	*11*	*25*
2005/06	230	30	20	130	50	*9*	*5*	*5*	*17*	*7*
2006/07	270	0	20	120	120	*11*	*1*	*4*	*16*	*18*
2007/08	220	10	50	90	70	*9*	*3*	*13*	*11*	*9*
2008/09	420	30	70	170	150	*18*	*5*	*17*	*24*	*20*
2009/10	380	40	60	110	170	*17*	*9*	*14*	*15*	*25*
2010/11 (P)	390	90	50	150	100	*17*	*19*	*11*	*22*	*14*

Orkney

	Seasonal Increase in Mortality in the Winter [1,2]					Increased Winter Mortality Index[3,4]				
	All ages	0-64	65-74	75-84	85+	All ages	0-64	65-74	75-84	85+
2001/02	10	0	0	0	10	*12*	*19*	*.*	*16*	*26*
2002/03	10	0	10	0	0	*10*	*.*	*42*	*18*	*0*
2003/04	10	0	10	0	0	*20*	*23*	*71*	*12*	*2*
2004/05	40	10	0	10	20	*66*	*82*	*43*	*49*	*84*
2005/06	-10	0	-10	0	0	*.*	*22*	*.*	*.*	*2*
2006/07	10	0	10	-10	10	*9*	*.*	*57*	*.*	*49*
2007/08	0	0	-10	10	0	*1*	*16*	*.*	*30*	*13*
2008/09	10	0	10	-10	10	*14*	*9*	*42*	*.*	*51*
2009/10	0	0	0	0	0	*.*	*9*	*.*	*8*	*.*
2010/11 (P)	10	10	0	10	0	*19*	*58*	*.*	*37*	*11*

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Table 3, continued

Shetland

	Seasonal Increase in Mortality in the Winter [1,2]					Increased Winter Mortality Index[3,4]				
	All ages	0-64	65-74	75-84	85+	All ages	0-64	65-74	75-84	85+
2001/02	10	-10	0	20	0	*10*	*.*	*.*	*106*	*.*
2002/03	-10	0	0	0	-10	*.*	*.*	*14*	*2*	*.*
2003/04	10	0	0	10	0	*11*	*10*	*12*	*26*	*.*
2004/05	0	0	-10	0	0	*.*	*.*	*.*	*29*	*12*
2005/06	20	0	10	0	10	*29*	*20*	*131*	*.*	*47*
2006/07	20	10	10	0	10	*32*	*47*	*55*	*14*	*28*
2007/08	10	0	0	10	0	*10*	*4*	*.*	*50*	*5*
2008/09	0	-10	0	0	10	*2*	*.*	*29*	*.*	*28*
2009/10	10	0	0	0	10	*17*	*29*	*.*	*12*	*28*
2010/11 (P)	10	0	0	10	0	*17*	*36*	*25*	*43*	*.*

Tayside

	Seasonal Increase in Mortality in the Winter [1,2]					Increased Winter Mortality Index[3,4]				
	All ages	0-64	65-74	75-84	85+	All ages	0-64	65-74	75-84	85+
2001/02	130	-10	30	40	80	*9*	*.*	*10*	*8*	*17*
2002/03	210	10	40	80	80	*14*	*3*	*14*	*16*	*18*
2003/04	260	40	80	50	90	*17*	*17*	*27*	*10*	*20*
2004/05	240	10	10	110	120	*17*	*3*	*3*	*23*	*28*
2005/06	80	10	50	0	20	*5*	*2*	*19*	*.*	*6*
2006/07	280	10	60	110	110	*20*	*2*	*24*	*25*	*24*
2007/08	150	-20	50	60	50	*10*	*.*	*19*	*14*	*11*
2008/09	220	40	0	90	100	*16*	*15*	*.*	*21*	*21*
2009/10	300	30	50	100	130	*22*	*11*	*20*	*24*	*28*
2010/11 (P)	220	0	40	70	110	*16*	*0*	*17*	*16*	*24*

Western Isles

	Seasonal Increase in Mortality in the Winter [1,2]					Increased Winter Mortality Index[3,4]				
	All ages	0-64	65-74	75-84	85+	All ages	0-64	65-74	75-84	85+
2001/02	10	0	0	0	10	*6*	*.*	*0*	*5*	*14*
2002/03	-10	0	-10	10	-10	*.*	*.*	*.*	*15*	*.*
2003/04	0	10	0	-10	0	*.*	*25*	*5*	*.*	*1*
2004/05	10	0	0	10	0	*13*	*0*	*24*	*29*	*0*
2005/06	20	0	0	10	20	*18*	*.*	*5*	*21*	*45*
2006/07	-10	-10	-10	10	0	*.*	*.*	*.*	*20*	*8*
2007/08	10	10	0	20	-10	*5*	*23*	*.*	*48*	*.*
2008/09	10	-10	0	20	-10	*8*	*.*	*12*	*61*	*.*
2009/10	40	10	10	20	0	*35*	*53*	*29*	*84*	*.*
2010/11 (P)	0	0	0	0	-10	*.*	*.*	*24*	*3*	*.*

Notes:

[Footnote 1] The Seasonal Increase in Mortality in the winter has been defined as the difference between the number of deaths in the four 'winter' months (December - March) and the average of the numbers of deaths in the preceding (August - November) and following (April - July) non-winter 4-month periods. A negative figure occurs when there were fewer deaths during the winter period than the average of the two 'non-winter' periods.

[Footnote 2] Because of the approximate nature of this measure, numbers have been rounded independently to the nearest 10. The sum of the age group figures may therefore appear to differ from the 'all ages' total.

[Footnote 3] The Increased Winter Mortality (IWM) Index is the (unrounded) number of 'additional' winter deaths divided by the (unrounded) average number of deaths in a four month 'non-winter' period, expressed as a percentage.

[Footnote 4] The IWM Index has not been calculated when the number of 'additional' winter deaths was negative.

[Footnote 5] Figures for 'Greater Glasgow & Clyde' and 'Highland' include deaths in the relevant parts of the former NHS Argyll and Clyde area.

(P) Data for the latest year are provisional

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Table 4: The Seasonal Increase in Mortality in the Winter – the underlying numbers of registrations of deaths, Scotland, 1990/91 – 2010/11

	Number of deaths registered			Seasonal Increase in Mortality in the Winter (or seasonal difference) [1]	
Period	Winter (Dec - Mar)	Preceding period (Aug - Nov)	Following period (Apr - Jul)	(actual)	(rounded)
1990/91	21,859	19,103	19,752	2,432	2,430
1991/92	22,217	19,305	19,352	2,889	2,890
1992/93	22,416	19,417	19,929	2,743	2,740
1993/94	22,504	21,104	18,732	2,586	2,590
1994/95	21,510	19,103	19,301	2,308	2,310
1995/96	22,821	19,074	19,260	3,654	3,650
1996/97	22,438	18,585	19,005	3,643	3,640
1997/98	21,320	18,311	19,105	2,612	2,610
1998/99	23,163	18,856	17,973	4,749	4,750
1999/2000	23,379	18,407	17,974	5,189	5,190
2000/01	20,388	18,061	18,281	2,217	2,220
2001/02	20,366	18,239	18,815	1,839	1,840
2002/03	21,058	18,599	18,499	2,509	2,510
2003/04	21,024	18,616	17,749	2,842	2,840
2004/05	20,658	18,064	17,736	2,758	2,760
2005/06	19,651	17,619	18,127	1,778	1,780
2006/07	20,384	17,526	17,739	2,752	2,750
2007/08	19,900	17,600	17,850	2,175	2,180
2008/09	20,532	17,075	16,969	3,510	3,510
2009/10	19,687	17,059	16,789	2,763	2,760
2010/11 provisional	19,626	17,397	16,957	2,449	2,450

[Footnote 1] The Seasonal Increase in Mortality in the Winter, or the 'seasonal difference', is defined as the number of deaths in the 'winter' period of 4 months (December - March) less the average of the numbers of deaths in the preceding period of 4 months (August - November) and the following period of 4 months (April - July).

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Table 5: The Seasonal Increase in Mortality in the Winter - underlying death registrations, by NHS Board area of usual residence, 2007/08 to 2010/11

NHS Board area	Period	Number of deaths registered: Winter (Dec - Mar)	Preceding period (Aug - Nov)	Following period (Apr - Jul)	Seasonal Increase in Mortality in the Winter (or seasonal difference) [1]: (actual)	(rounded)
Ayrshire and Arran						
	2007/08	1,572	1,425	1,444	138	140
	2008/09	1,714	1,328	1,337	382	380
	2009/10	1,521	1,340	1,320	191	190
	2010/11 provisional	1,558	1,346	1,367	202	200
Borders						
	2007/08	476	398	402	76	80
	2008/09	487	383	400	96	100
	2009/10	449	381	423	47	50
	2010/11 provisional	462	390	385	75	70
Dumfries and Galloway						
	2007/08	652	584	537	92	90
	2008/09	683	541	554	136	140
	2009/10	677	577	568	105	100
	2010/11 provisional	625	613	541	48	50
Fife						
	2007/08	1,417	1,187	1,234	207	210
	2008/09	1,477	1,158	1,241	278	280
	2009/10	1,357	1,204	1,137	187	190
	2010/11 provisional	1,301	1,211	1,210	91	90
Forth Valley						
	2007/08	1,047	951	923	110	110
	2008/09	1,166	910	858	282	280
	2009/10	988	877	904	98	100
	2010/11 provisional	1,040	899	910	136	140
Grampian						
	2007/08	1,926	1,675	1,685	246	250
	2008/09	1,921	1,658	1,642	271	270
	2009/10	1,853	1,629	1,660	209	210
	2010/11 provisional	1,902	1,667	1,630	254	250
Greater Glasgow & Clyde						
	2007/08	4,919	4,281	4,356	601	600
	2008/09	4,942	4,213	4,077	797	800
	2009/10	4,681	4,256	3,965	571	570
	2010/11 provisional	4,719	4,176	4,032	615	620

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Table 5, continued

Highland						
	2007/08	1,176	1,088	1,108	78	80
	2008/09	1,239	1,138	1,049	146	150
	2009/10	1,265	1,044	1,089	199	200
	2010/11 provisional	1,225	1,142	1,087	111	110
Lanarkshire						
	2007/08	2,193	1,972	1,925	245	240
	2008/09	2,235	1,765	1,771	467	470
	2009/10	2,254	1,825	1,828	428	430
	2010/11 provisional	2,133	1,882	1,823	281	280
Lothian						
	2007/08	2,652	2,384	2,477	222	220
	2008/09	2,781	2,313	2,415	417	420
	2009/10	2,662	2,291	2,275	379	380
	2010/11 provisional	2,758	2,418	2,313	393	390
Orkney						
	2007/08	85	92	77	1	0
	2008/09	77	72	63	10	10
	2009/10	68	67	74	-3	0
	2010/11 provisional	84	72	69	14	10
Shetland						
	2007/08	68	62	62	6	10
	2008/09	69	68	67	2	0
	2009/10	88	68	83	13	10
	2010/11 provisional	82	67	73	12	10
Tayside						
	2007/08	1,594	1,383	1,503	151	150
	2008/09	1,624	1,424	1,382	221	220
	2009/10	1,677	1,385	1,360	305	300
	2010/11 provisional	1,622	1,396	1,400	224	220
Western Isles						
	2007/08	123	118	117	6	10
	2008/09	117	104	113	9	10
	2009/10	147	115	103	38	40
	2010/11 provisional	115	118	117	-3	0

[Footnote 1] The Seasonal Increase in Mortality in the Winter, or the 'seasonal difference', is defined as the number of deaths in the 'winter' period of 4 months (December - March) less the average of the numbers of deaths in the preceding period of 4 months (August - November) and the following period of 4 months (April - July).

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Figure 1: Seasonal Increase in Mortality in the Winter, Scotland, 1951/52 to 2010/11

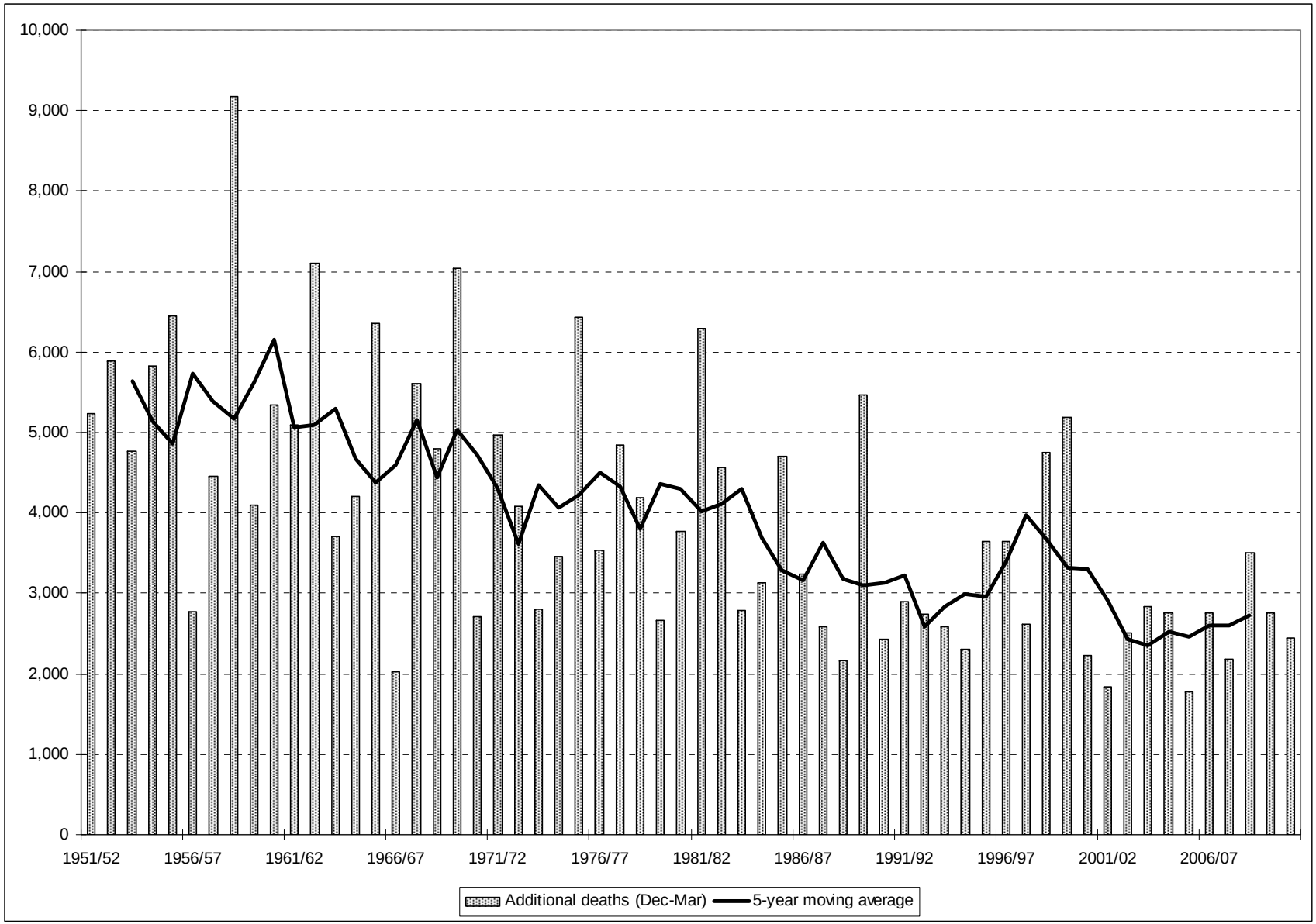

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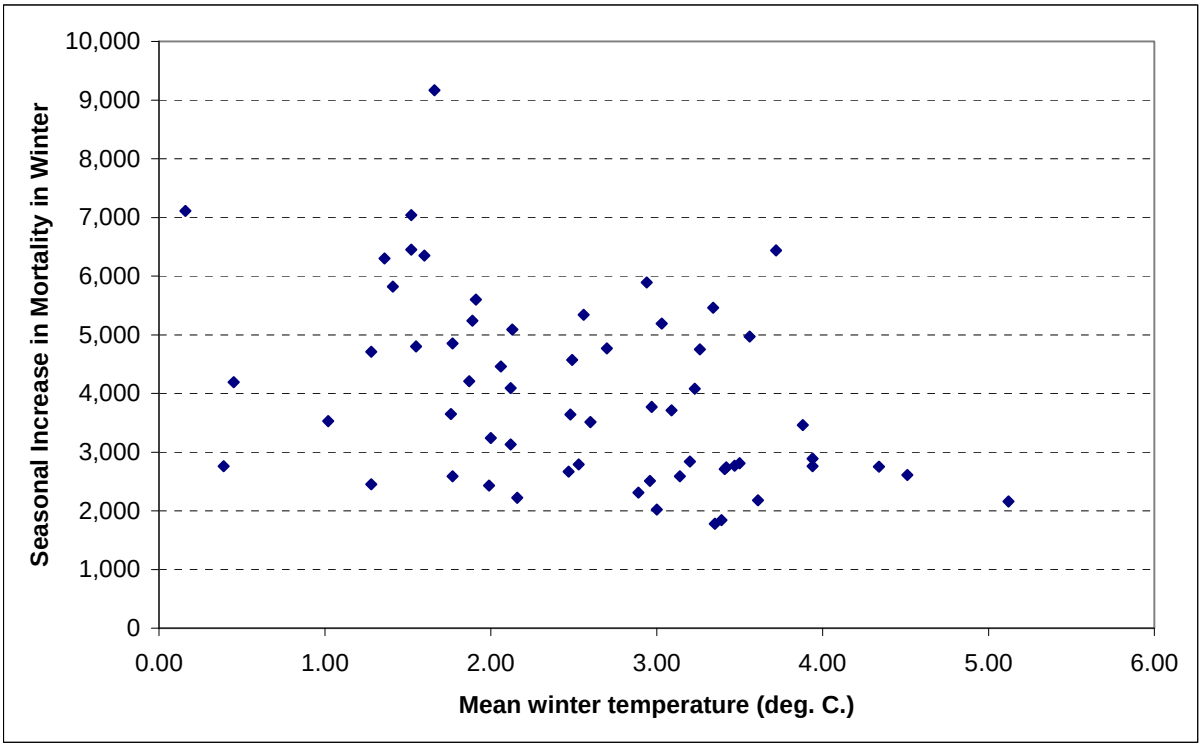
Figure 2: Seasonal Increase in Mortality in the Winter and mean winter temperature (deg.C.), Scotland: (a) winter 1951/52 to winter 2010/11; and (b) winter 1991/92 to winter 2010/11

(a) winter 1951/52 to winter 2010/11



(b) winter 1991/92 to winter 2010/11

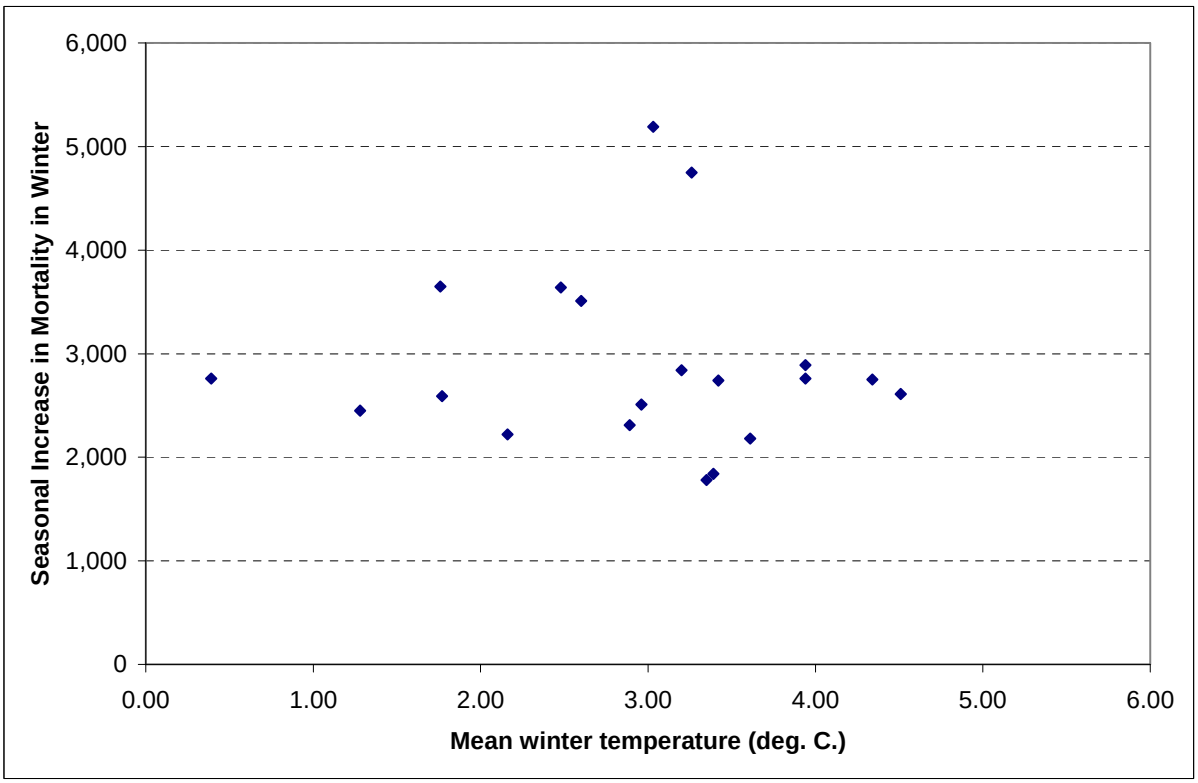


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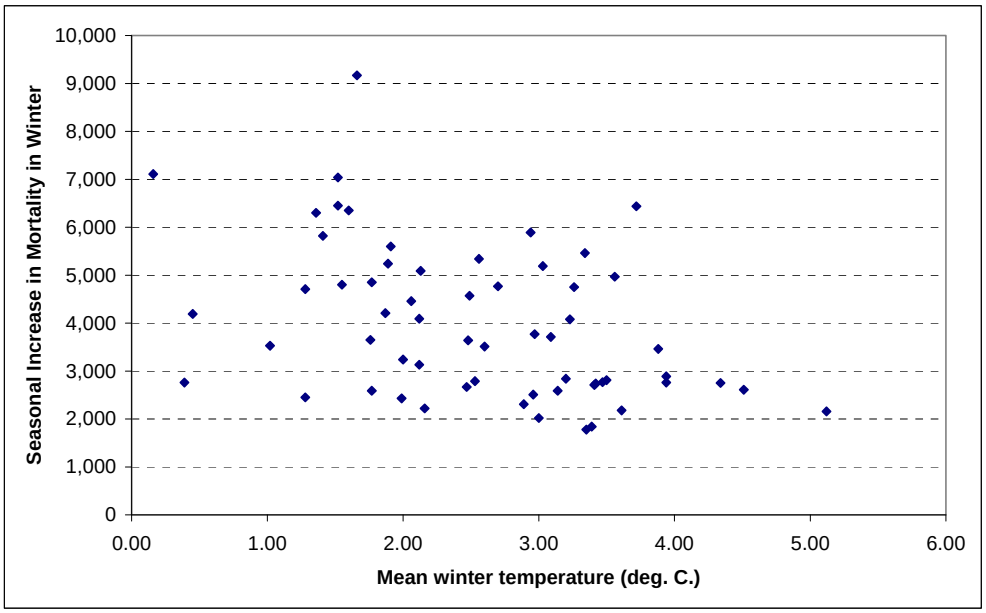
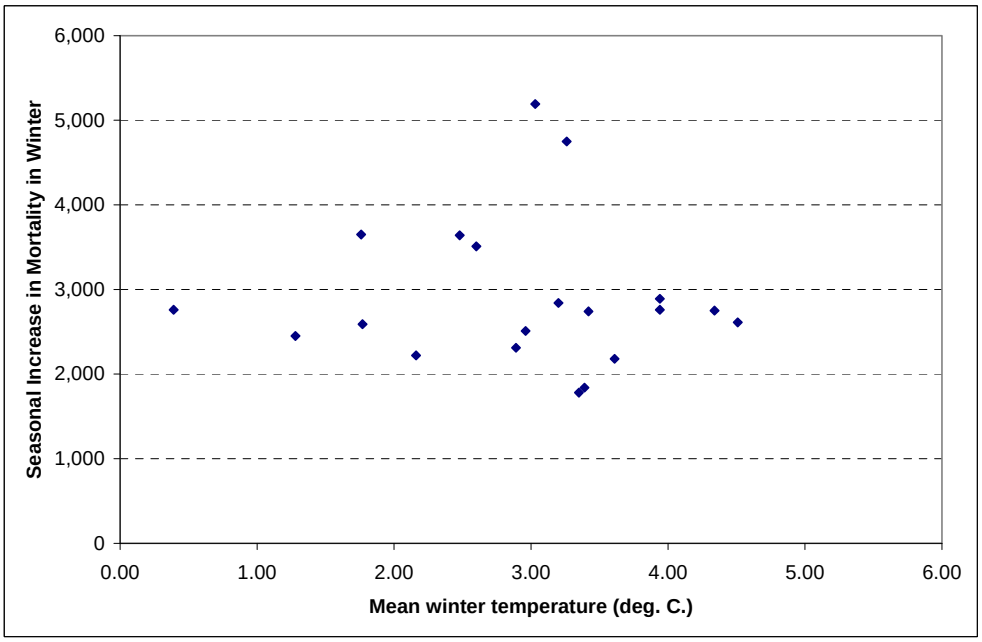
Figure 3: Seasonal Increase in Mortality in the Winter and indicators of influenza activity, Scotland: (a) winters and 'flu seasons - 1971/72 to 2007/08, inclusive; and (b) winters - 2004/05 to 2010/11, inclusive.

(a) winter 1951/52 to winter 2010/11



(b) winter 1991/92 to winter 2010/11



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Notes on statistical publications

National Statistics

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority (UKSA) has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics (available on the UKSA website).

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

National Records of Scotland

From 1 April 2011, the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) merged with the National Archives of Scotland to become the National Records of Scotland (NRS). The GROS website will remain active until it is replaced by a new website for NRS.

We, the National Records of Scotland, are a non-ministerial department of the devolved Scottish Administration. Our aim is to provide relevant and reliable information, analysis and advice that meets the needs of government, business and the people of Scotland. We do this as follows:

- Preserving the past – we look after Scotland's national archives so that they are available for current and future generations, and we make available important information for family history.
- Recording the present – at our network of local offices, we register births, marriages, civil partnerships, deaths, divorces and adoptions in Scotland.
- Informing the future – we are responsible for the Census of Population in Scotland which we use, with other sources of information, to produce statistics on the population and households.

You can get other detailed statistics that we have produced from the Statistics section of the NRS/GROS website. Statistics from the 2001 Census are available from Scotland's Census Results On-Line (SCROL) website and the Census section of the NRS/GROS website.

We also provide information about future publications on our website. If you would like us to tell you about future statistical publications, you can register your interest on the Scottish Government ScotStat website.

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Enquiries and suggestions

Please contact our customer Services if you need any further information.
Email: customer@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk

If you have comments or suggestions that would help us improve our outputs or our standards of service, contact:

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Related organisations

Organisation	Contact
The Scottish Government (SG) forms the bulk of the devolved Scottish Administration. The aim of the statistical service in the SG is to provide relevant and reliable statistical information, analysis and advice that meets the needs of government, business and the people of Scotland.	Office of the Chief Statistician Scottish Government 4.N06, St Andrews House Edinburgh EH1 3DG Phone: 0131 244 0442 Email: statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk Website: www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics
The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for producing a wide range of economic and social statistics. It also carries out the Census of Population for England and Wales	Customer Contact Centre Room 1.015 Office for National Statistics Cardiff Road Newport NP10 8XG Phone: 0845 601 3034 Minicom: 01633 812399 Email: info@statistics.gsi.gov.uk Website: www.ons.gov.uk/
The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) is Northern Ireland's official statistics organisation. The agency is also responsible for registering births, marriages, adoptions and deaths in Northern Ireland, and the Census of Population.	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency McAuley House 2-14 Castle Street Belfast BT1 1SA Phone: 028 9034 8100 Email: info.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk Website: www.nisra.gov.uk

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