

Excess Winter Mortality in Northern Ireland: Announcement of Methodological Change

Background

Since 2011 Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency have produced annual estimates of Excess Winter Mortality in Northern Ireland. While the methodology adopted broadly aligned with estimates in other UK regions, the methodology used in NI has been based on the month the death was **registered**, not when it **occurred**¹. In order to align with the other UK counterparts and to apply for National Statistics accreditation NISRA have taken the decision to revise our methodology.

Action

The next release of Excess Winter Mortality in Northern Ireland will take account of this revision and provide a back series for users.

Impact

Previous analysis shows the impact of the difference between the registration and occurrence based method to be generally small². NISRA expects the effect of the change to be an increase of less than 10 percent on previous estimates for recent years.

Timing

The change will take effect from 13th October 2020 to coincide with the latest release *Excess Winter Mortality 2019/20*.

Further Information

If you have any comments or questions about this change, please contact the Vital Statistics Team at demography@nisra.gov.uk

NISRA
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1. <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/cause-death/excess-winter-mortality>
2. https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/EWM_2010_11.pdf