

Statistical bulletin

Deaths of care home residents, England and Wales: 2022

Registered deaths of care home residents by underlying and leading cause of death. Deaths of residents by age, sex, and area of usual residence. Experimental Statistics.

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Next release:
To be announced

Notice

9 January 2025

Following the [Health and Social Care Statistical Outputs consultation](#) commissioned by the [Health and Social Care Statistics Leadership Forum](#), we are improving some of our statistical products, so they are more coherent and efficient. Additionally, we are ensuring that our resources are deployed in producing statistics for maximum possible benefit.

Full details of changes to this product, and our other health and social care products, are available in the [Health and Social Care Statistical Outputs Consultation Response](#). We welcome user feedback on our releases. Please use the contact details on individual publication web pages to share feedback.

13 October 2025

Following a review, the ONS will cease publishing these statistics, although we remain open to re-establishing them in the future.

The main reasons for this decision are:

- difficulties in producing accurate population estimates of care home residents for the calculation of age-standardised mortality rates (ASMRs): in previous releases, care home population numbers from Census 2021 have been used to calculate ASMRs; the further away we move from Census 2021, the less accurate they become, so development work is needed to investigate alternative sources of population data
- similar data are published elsewhere: the ONS publishes figures on deaths that occur in care home settings as part of our annual deaths release and weekly deaths release; these figures will not include deaths of care home residents that die in other settings, such as hospitals, but provide a robust measure of deaths that occur in care homes

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1 . Main points

- In England, there were 126,488 deaths of care home residents registered in 2022 (wherever the death occurred); this is a decrease of 0.5% compared with 2021 (127,171 deaths), and a decrease of 3.1% compared with the five-year average between 2016 and 2021 (130,520 deaths, excluding 2020).
- In Wales, there were 6,844 deaths of care home residents registered in 2022 (wherever the death occurred); this is an increase of 3.5% compared with 2021 (6,612 deaths), and a decrease of 1.9% compared with the five-year average between 2016 and 2021 (6,975 deaths, excluding 2020).
- England had a statistically significantly higher age-standardised mortality rate for male care home residents compared with Wales (11,823 and 9,397 deaths per 100,000 male care home residents, respectively); the difference between female care home residents in England and Wales was not statistically significant (9,692 and 9,389 deaths per 100,000 female care home residents, respectively).
- In England, the North East was the region with the overall highest mortality rate (12,413 deaths per 100,000 care home residents) and London was the region with the lowest (8,769 deaths per 100,000 care home residents).
- Dementia and Alzheimer's disease was the leading cause of death in both male and female care home residents in England (accounting for 29.1% and 36.6% of deaths, respectively) and Wales (30.6% and 38.2%, respectively) in 2022.
- Most deaths of care home residents occurred within the care home or in hospital for both England (87.2% and 12.5%, respectively) and Wales (83.5% and 16.4%, respectively).

2 . Overview of deaths of care home residents

For further information about this statistical bulletin (previously titled [Deaths in the care sector, England and Wales](#)), please refer to our [Deaths of care home residents, England and Wales Quality and Methodology Information \(QMI\) report](#) and our [Deaths of care home residents: quality assurance of administrative data methodology](#).

The term “care home residents” used in this bulletin refers to all deaths where either:

- the death occurred in a care home
- the death occurred elsewhere, but the place of residence of the deceased was recorded as a care home

Comparator figures from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) are available in our [accompanying dataset](#).

3 . Deaths of care home residents

In 2022, there were 126,488 deaths of care home residents registered in England (47,424 male deaths and 79,064 female deaths), a 0.5% decrease in deaths registered compared with 2021 (127,171 deaths).

In Wales, there were 6,844 deaths registered in 2022 (2,373 males and 4,471 females), a 3.5% increase in deaths registered compared with 2021 (6,612 deaths).

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) receives death notifications from care home providers in England, while Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) receives notifications for Wales. Deaths notified to these bodies are available in our [accompanying dataset](#).

Age-standardised mortality rates

Age standardised mortality rates (ASMRs) account for population size and age structure (see [Section 10: Measuring the Data](#)).

In England, ASMRs for deaths of care home residents in 2022 were 11,823 deaths per 100,000 male care home residents, and 9,692 deaths per 100,000 female care home residents.

For Wales, ASMRs for deaths of care home residents in 2022 were 9,397 deaths per 100,000 male care home residents, and 9,389 deaths per 100,000 female care home residents. The ASMR for females has increased slightly from 2021 (8,562 deaths per 100,000 female care home residents), this is largely because of a slight increase in deaths of female care home residents aged 64 years and under in 2022 (83 deaths) compared with 2021 (68 deaths).

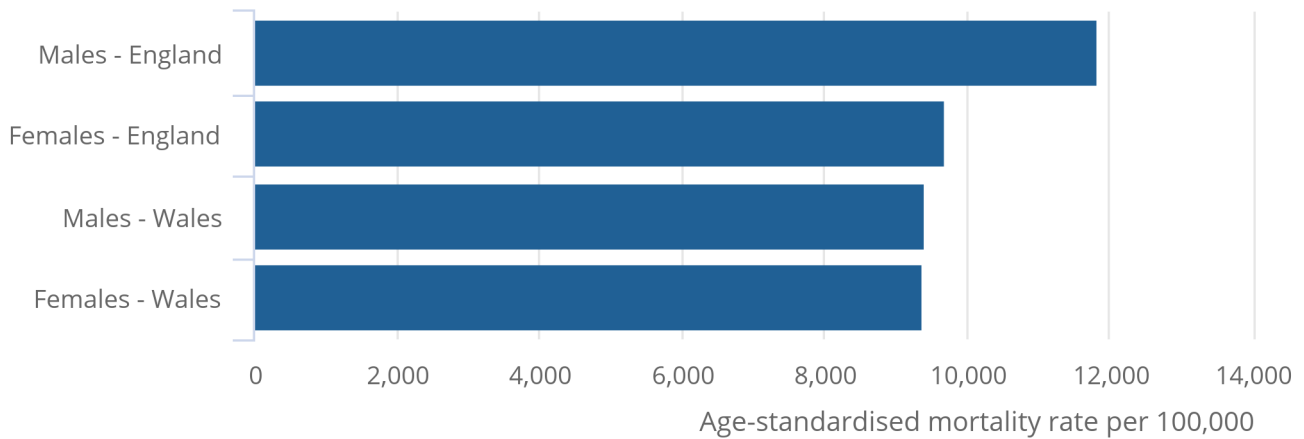
Compared with England, Wales had statistically significantly lower ASMRs for deaths of care home residents for males; however, deaths for female care home residents were not statistically different.

Figure 1: In England, males had a higher mortality rate than females; in Wales the male and female mortality rate was similar

Age-standardised mortality rates for deaths of care home residents per 100,000, England and Wales, deaths registered in 2022

Figure 1: In England, males had a higher mortality rate than females; in Wales the male and female mortality rate was similar

Age-standardised mortality rates for deaths of care home residents per 100,000, England and Wales, deaths registered in 2022



Source: Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Based on deaths registered in 2022.
2. Figures exclude deaths of non-residents.
3. These rates are for all ages and are standardised to the 2013 European Standard Population.
4. Populations used to calculate ASMRs are based on Census 2021 data (see [Section 10: Measuring the data](#)).
5. Confidence intervals are presented in the reference tables.

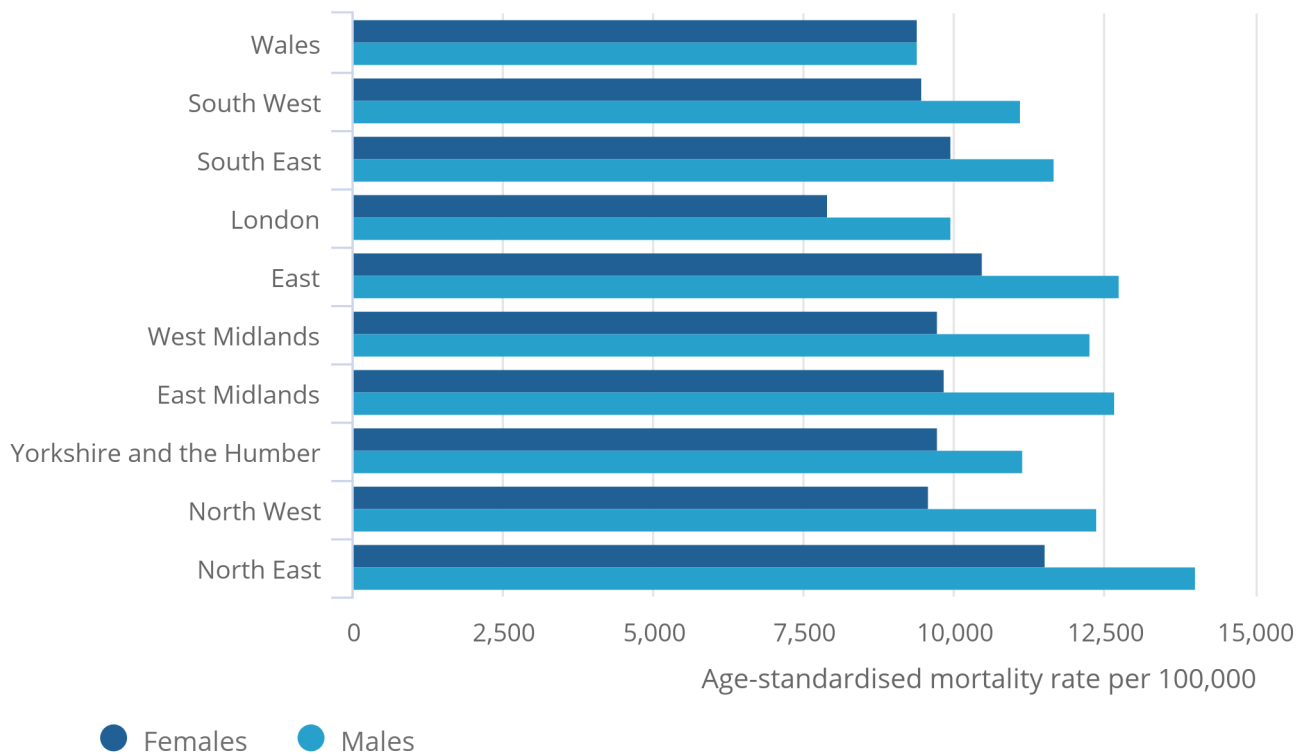
4 . Deaths of care home residents by region

Figure 2: In 2022, male care home residents in the North East of England had the highest age-standardised mortality rate

Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, males and females, English regions and Wales, 2022

Figure 2: In 2022, male care home residents in the North East of England had the highest age-standardised mortality rate

Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, males and females, English regions and Wales, 2022



Source: Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Based on deaths registered in 2022.
2. Figures exclude deaths of non-residents.
3. These rates are for all ages and are standardised to the 2013 European Standard Population.
4. Populations used to calculate ASMRs are based on Census 2021 data (see [Section 10: Measuring the data](#)).
5. Confidence intervals are presented in the reference tables.

In England, the North East had the highest age-standardised mortality rate (ASMR) for male and female care home resident deaths (14,018 deaths per 100,000 male care home residents and 11,519 deaths per 100,000 female care home residents). London had the lowest ASMR for both males and females, with 9,951 deaths per 100,000 male care home residents and 7,925 deaths per 100,000 female care home residents.

Wales had the lowest ASMR for males compared with the regions in England, with an ASMR of 9,397 deaths per 100,000 for male care home residents. Females in Wales had the second lowest ASMR compared with the regions of England (9,389 deaths per 100,000 female care home residents).

For numbers of deaths registered by local authority, see our [accompanying dataset](#).

5 . Place of death

In 2022, most deaths of care home residents registered in England occurred within care homes (87.2%, 110,355 deaths), compared with 12.5% that occurred in hospital (15,774 deaths) and 0.3% occurring elsewhere. Care home resident deaths in Wales follow a similar pattern, with 83.5% of deaths occurring in a care home (5,712 deaths), compared with 16.4% of deaths occurring in hospital (1,120 deaths) and 0.2% occurring elsewhere.

6 . Leading cause of death

Leading cause of death groupings are based on categories developed by the World Health Organisation (see [Section 10: Measuring the data](#)). Table 1 shows the top five underlying causes of death registered among care home residents for England and Wales. For a full list of leading causes, see our [accompanying dataset](#).

Table 1: Dementia and Alzheimer's disease was the leading cause of death in male and female care home residents

Percentage of deaths of care home residents for the five leading causes of death in England and Wales, 2022

England

Males		Females	
Dementia and Alzheimer's disease	29.1	Dementia and Alzheimer's disease	36.6
Ischaemic heart diseases	5.6	Symptoms, signs and ill-defined conditions	9.4
Cerebrovascular diseases	5.5	Cerebrovascular diseases	6.0
Symptoms signs and ill-defined conditions	4.9	Ischaemic heart diseases	4.0
COVID-19	4.4	COVID-19	3.6

Wales

Males		Females	
Dementia and Alzheimer's disease	30.6	Dementia and Alzheimer's disease	38.2
Ischaemic heart diseases	6.5	Symptoms, signs and ill-defined conditions	8.6
Cerebrovascular diseases	5.6	Cerebrovascular diseases	6.3
COVID-19	5.0	Ischaemic heart diseases	4.2
Parkinson's disease	4.6	Influenza and pneumonia	3.9

Source: Office for National Statistics

Notes

1. Based on deaths registered in 2022.
2. The symptoms, signs and ill-defined conditions category includes deaths where no more specific diagnosis can be made, including deaths certified as caused only by "old age", "frailty" and similar terms.
3. Excludes deaths of non-residents.

Dementia and Alzheimer's disease was the leading cause of death in all male care home residents aged 65 years and over in both England and Wales. For male care home residents aged 64 years and under, malignant neoplasm of the brain and ischaemic heart disease were the leading causes of death in England and Wales, respectively. Dementia and Alzheimer's disease was the leading cause of death in female care home residents of all age groups in both England and Wales.

For breakdowns of leading causes of death by age group, see our [accompanying dataset](#).

7 . Deaths of care home residents, England and Wales data

[Deaths of care home residents, England and Wales](#)

Dataset | Released 8 November 2023

Registered deaths of care home residents by underlying cause of death and the leading causes of death. Contains death registrations of care home residents by age, sex, and area of usual residence. Classified as Experimental Statistics.

8 . Glossary

Age-standardised mortality rates

Age-standardised mortality rates (ASMRs) are used to allow comparisons between populations that may contain different proportions of people of different ages. These are a better measure of mortality for use in comparison than the number of deaths because they account for the population size and age structure. The 2013 European Standard Population is used to standardise rates.

Care home resident

The term “care home residents” used in this bulletin refers to all deaths where either:

- the death occurred in a care home
- the death occurred elsewhere, but the place of residence of the deceased was recorded as a care home

The figures should not be confused with "deaths in care homes" as reported in other releases, which refers only to deaths which occurred in a care home.

9 . Measuring the data

The information presented in Section 10: Measuring the data of our [previous release](#) is still applicable for this release of deaths of care home residents registered in 2022.

Age-standardised mortality rates

We publish internationally recognised age-standardised mortality rates (ASMRs) to facilitate comparisons, and these are calculated using the same methods as for all of our mortality releases, as explained in our [Mortality statistics in England and Wales Quality and Methodology Information \(QMI\) report](#).

Since publishing our [previous release](#), care home population numbers from Census 2021 have been used to calculate ASMRs. This accounts for the impact that the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic may have had on the care resident population because of excess deaths of care home residents and fluctuations in occupancy rates. For details of the populations, see our [accompanying dataset](#). For future releases we will be looking to use a more up-to-date source.

Collaboration

In the development of this bulletin, we have worked closely with partner departments across government, including the [Care Quality Commission \(CQC\)](#) and [Care Inspectorate Wales \(CIW\)](#). For more information, please see Section 10: Measuring the data in our [previous release](#).

Coding of deaths

The information presented in Section 10: Measuring the data of our [previous release](#) is still applicable for this release of deaths of care home residents registered in 2022.

For further information on how deaths are coded for this release, see our [Deaths of care home residents, England and Wales QMI](#) or Section 9: Cause of death coding of our [User guide to mortality statistics](#).

Methodology guides

Information on the quality of data included in this release can be found in our [Deaths of care home residents: quality assurance of administrative data methodology](#). Quality and methodology information on strengths, limitations, appropriate uses, and how the data were created for this release is available in our [Deaths of care home residents, England and Wales QMI](#).

Our [User guide to mortality statistics](#) provides further information on data quality, legislation and procedures relating to mortality, and includes a [glossary of terms](#).

The [Revisions policy for population and international migration statistics \(including mortality statistics\)](#) is also available.

Feedback

Comments on this release are welcomed. Feedback can be emailed to social.care@ons.gov.uk.

10 . Strengths and limitations

The strengths and limitations of Office for National Statistics (ONS) care home resident mortality data for England and Wales are the same as those summarised in Section 4: Quality summary of our [Mortality statistics in England and Wales Quality and Methodology Information \(QMI\) report](#).

The information presented in Section 11: Strengths and limitations of our [previous release](#) is still applicable for this release of deaths of care home residents registered in 2022, apart from a change to the years used for the five-year average.

A five-year average of death registrations is presented to ensure that patterns in death registrations are comparable over time without the effect of year-on-year fluctuations.

For this release, covering deaths registered in 2022, a five-year average was calculated using the years 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2021. This is because of the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on deaths registered in 2020. For further information on calculating five-year averages for mortality statistics following the pandemic, see our [Understanding excess deaths during a pandemic blog](#).

11 . Related links

[Deaths of care home residents: quality assurance of administrative data](#)

Methodology | Released 28 October 2022

Summary of the administrative data sources and quality assurance undertaken in the production of care home resident deaths data, published in annual, weekly, and ad-hoc releases.

[Deaths of care home residents, England and Wales QMI](#)

Methodology | Released 28 October 2022

Quality and methodology information (QMI) for deaths of care home residents registered in England and Wales.

[Death registration summary statistics, England and Wales: 2022](#)

Bulletin | Released 11 April 2023

Registered deaths by age, sex, selected underlying causes of death and the leading causes of death. Contains death rates and death registrations by area or residence and single year of age.

[Care home resident deaths registered in England and Wales, provisional](#)

Dataset | Updated weekly

Provisional counts of the number of care home resident deaths registered in England and Wales, by region, including deaths involving coronavirus (COVID-19), in the latest weeks for which data are available.

[UK adult social care statistics](#)

Website | Updated monthly

This tool compiles official statistics relating to adult social care across the four nations of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales into one location. The landscape is updated each month with new publications from the previous month.

12 . Cite this bulletin

Office for National Statistics (ONS), released 8 November 2023, ONS website, statistical bulletin, [Deaths of care home residents, England and Wales: 2022](#)