

Percentage of End of Life Spent at Home or in a Community Setting

Financial years ending 31 March 2011 to 2015

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About this release

This publication from the Information Services Division provides information on the percentage of time spent at home or in a community setting in the last six months of life. This is one of the measures used to support and determine progress towards the Scottish Government's '[Living and Dying Well](#)' national action plan. Data in this release are presented by financial year from 2010/11 to 2014/15, by Health and Social Care Partnership, NHS Board of residence and for Scotland.

This year we have revised the methodology as to how this measure is calculated. More information on these changes can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#).

On Tuesday 30th May 2017, revised figures within this publication and associated data tables were released. This revision was issued for two main reasons: a correction to the methodology and the availability of more up to date death records. For more information on these revisions, please see the [Full Publication Report](#). Please note that any text marked in red indicates where revisions have been made.

Main points

- There were **53,400** deaths in Scotland during 2014/15, excluding those where an external cause such as unintentional injury was recorded.
- Of these people, 86% of their last six months of life was spent at home or in a community setting with the remaining 14% of time spent in hospital. This has remained largely unchanged over the five years from 2010/11 to 2014/15.
- There is some variation between areas in the time spent at home or in the community with the percentage ranging from **84%** to 92%. Those in rural areas tend to spend a higher percentage of their last six months of life at home or in the community.
- Those in the youngest age group spent a greater percentage of their last six months at home or in the community compared to those in the older age groups; 90% in the 0-54 age group compared to 86% for those aged 85+. This may reflect the different causes of death in these age groups.
- There is very little difference in the percentage between those living in the most deprived areas compared with those living in the least deprived areas (86% compared to 87%).

Background

This Quality Outcome Measure focuses on measuring the impact of the Scottish Government's '[Living and Dying Well](#)' and in particular on its objective to "produce achievable and measurable changes which will ensure quality improvement and enhance patient and carer experience".

The percentage of time spent at home or in a community setting towards the end of life provides a high level indication of progress in implementation of the national action plan. This is inferred by measuring the amount of time spent in a hospital setting during the last months of life (using hospital admissions data) and from this estimating the time spent at home or in a community setting.

Due to the changes in methodology, results presented in this publication will not be comparable to previously published figures. In previous years only time spent in major acute hospitals was considered however in this publication any time spent in mental health or geriatric long stay facilities has also been considered. Trend data from 2010/11 to 2014/15 is available using the revised methodology in this publication. More information on these changes can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#).

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Find out more

Further information can be found in the [Percentage of End of Life Spent at Home or in a Community Setting report](#) or on the [End of Life Care](#) section of the ISD website.

An Excel workbook containing the [data tables from this publication is available to download](#).

The next release of this report is expected to be published in May 2017.

ISD and Official Statistics

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of 'Official Statistics'. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. [Find out more about our statistics](#).