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 an update to the May 2017 publication. Figures for 2016/17 have been updated due to improved levels of completeness in hospital data for 2016/17. Additionally, minor updates to the National Records of Scotland (NRS) death data for 2016 and 2017 have been made to reflect the latest available data.

Main points

- There were 53,224 deaths in Scotland during 2016/17, excluding those where an external cause such as unintentional injury was recorded.

- For those who died, 87% of their last six months of life was spent at home or in a community setting with the remaining 13% spent in hospital. This has remained broadly similar over the last seven years from 2010/11 to 2016/17.

Percentage of last six months of life spent at home or in a community setting; financial years 2010/11 - 2016/17

1. Figures for 2016/17 figures are provisional.
• The percentage of those in the youngest age group that spent their last 6 months at home or in the community was slightly higher than the percentage in the oldest age group; 90% in the 0-54 age group compared to 87% for those aged 85+. This may reflect the different causes of death in these age groups.

• The percentage of the last six months of life spent at home or in a community setting is similar in more deprived and less deprived areas.

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.

Please note that National Records of Scotland death data for 2016/17 are provisional and may be revised slightly in the future.

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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 2018.

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.