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

Financial years ending 31 March 2011 to 2018

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

Publication date: 9 October 2018

About this release

This release by 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 2018 publication. Figures for 2017/18 have been updated due to improved levels of completeness of hospital data. Updates to the National Records of Scotland deaths data for 2017 and 2018 have also been made to reflect the latest data. Data in this release are presented by financial year from 2010/11 to 2017/18, by Health and Social Care Partnership of residence, NHS Board of residence and for Scotland.

Main Points

- In 2017/18, there were 56,736 deaths in Scotland excluding those where an external cause such as unintentional injury was recorded.

- For individuals who died in 2017/18, 87.9% of their last six months of life was spent either at home or in a community setting, with the remaining 12.1% spent in hospital. This is equivalent to each individual spending an average of 22 days in hospital in the six months prior to their death.

- Over the past eight years, the percentage of time spent at home or in a community setting has increased slightly from 85.3% in 2010/11 to 87.9% in 2017/18; this equates to an average of an extra five days within the last six months of life being spent in the community in 2017/18 compared to 2010/11.

Percentage of last six months of life spent at home or in a community setting;

2010/11 - 2017/18
• In 2017/18, females aged 85 years and over spent a higher percentage of their last six months of life in the community (89.1%) compared to males (86.7%); this equates to females spending on average an extra four days in the community in their last six months of life.

• The percentage of the last six months of life spent at home or in a community setting is similar in the most deprived areas (87.8%) compared to the least deprived areas (88.1%).

Background
This Quality Outcome Measure focuses on measuring the impact of the Scottish Government’s "Strategic Framework for Action on Palliative and End of Life Care". One of the commitments of the Framework is to "support improvements in the collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of data and evidence relating to needs, provision, activity, indicators and outcomes in respect of palliative and end of life care". This Strategic Framework superseded "Living and Dying Well: A National Action Plan for Palliative and End of Life in Scotland".

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.

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Further Information
Find out more in the full report. The data from this publication are available to download from our web page. For more information on Palliative and End of Life Care see the End of Life Care section of our website.

The next release of this publication will be May 2019.