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

Financial years ending 31 March 2011 to 2019

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

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About this release

This release by 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 2019 publication. Figures for 2018/19 have been updated to reflect improved levels of completeness of hospital data. Updates to the National Records of Scotland deaths data for 2018 and 2019 have also been made to reflect the latest available data. Data are presented by financial year from 2010/11 to 2018/19, by NHS Board, Health and Social Care Partnership of residence and for Scotland.

Main Points

- In 2018/19, there were 52,436 deaths in Scotland excluding those where an external cause of death was recorded (including falls). For these individuals, 88.1% of their last six months of life was spent either at home or in a community setting, with the remaining 11.9% spent in hospital. This is equivalent to an average of 22 days in hospital in the six months prior to death.

- Over the past nine years, the percentage of time spent at home or in a community setting has gradually increased from 85.3% in 2010/11 to 88.1% in 2018/19.

**Percentage of last six months of life spent at home or in a community setting; 2010/11 - 2018/19**

1. Figures for 2018/19 are provisional.
In 2018/19, females aged 85 and over spent a higher percentage of their last six months of life in the community (89.3%) compared to males (86.9%); this equates to females spending, on average an extra four days in the community in their last six months of life.

**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” which has one of its commitments 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 This strategic framework superseded “Living and Dying Well: A National Action Plan for Palliative and End of Life in Scotland”.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 is 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 update of this publication will be released in May 2020.

**ISD and Official Statistics**

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