

Deaths of Homeless People in Scotland

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Overview

- Why we're working on these estimates
- Methodology
- Challenges faced
- Next steps

ONS estimates for England and Wales

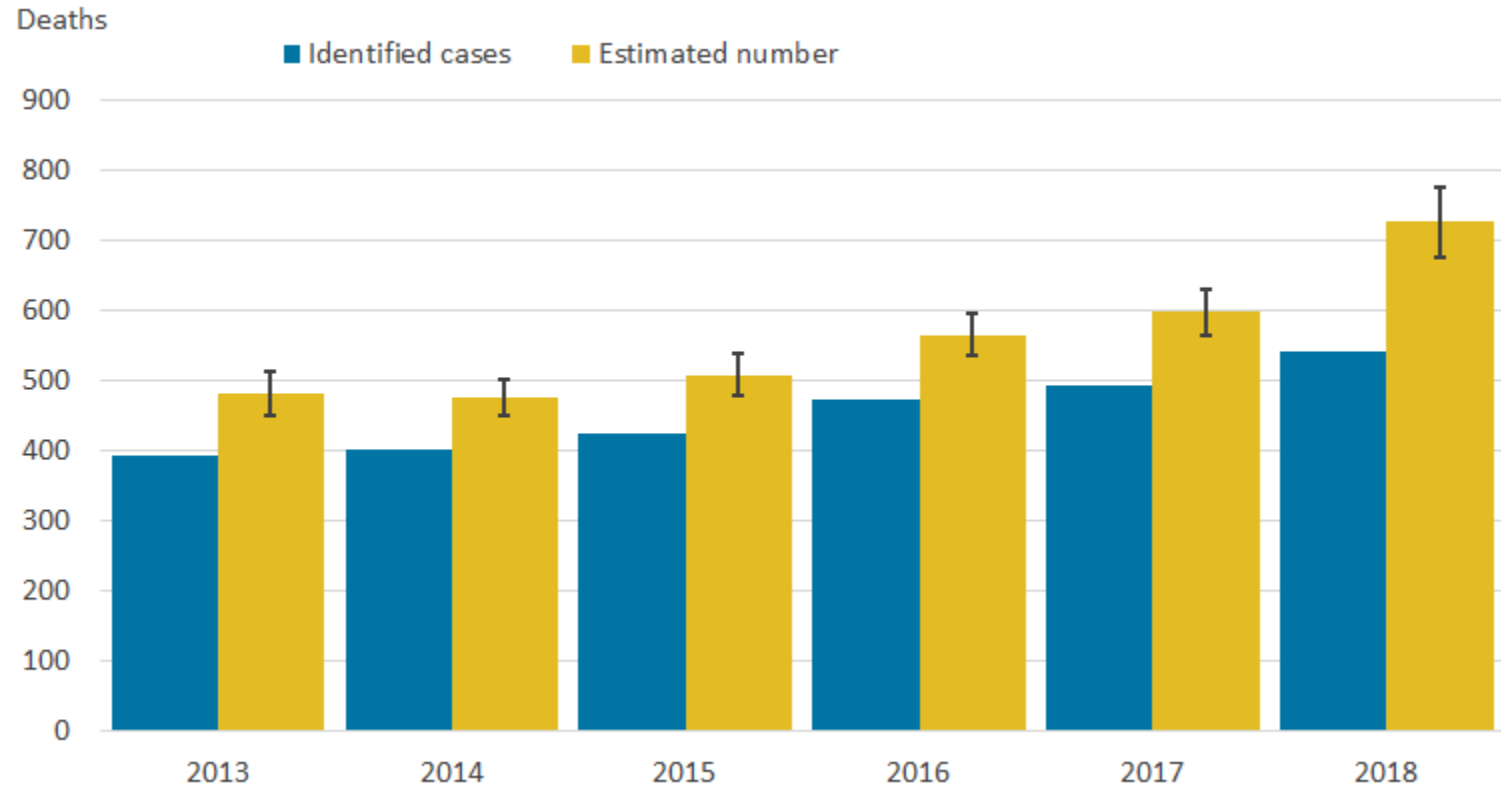
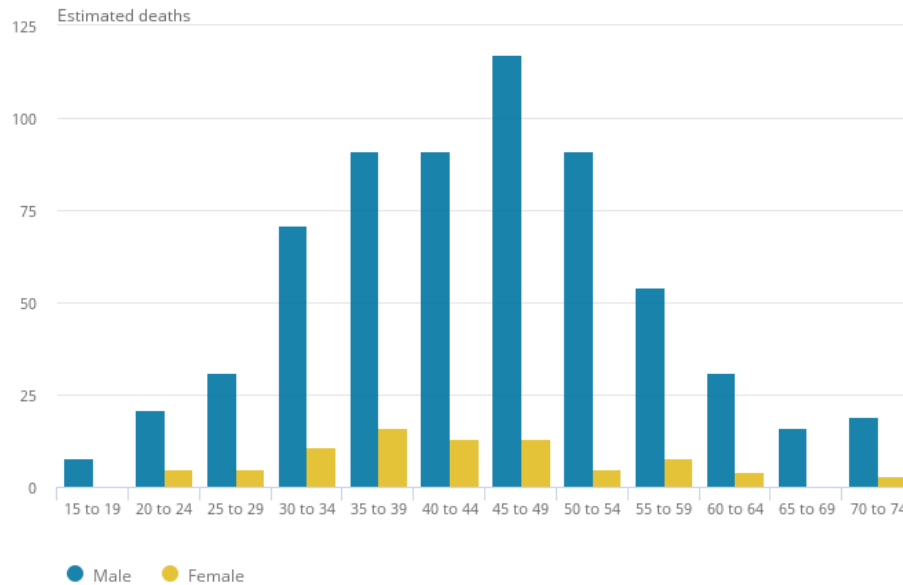


Figure 2: There were more than seven times as many male deaths compared with females in 2018

Deaths of homeless people (estimated), by sex and age groups, 2018



Source: Office for National Statistics - Death registrations

Figure 4: Drug-related deaths of homeless people increased by 55 % in one year

Deaths of homeless people (estimated) by selected causes of death, 2013 to 2018



Source: Office for National Statistics – Death registrations

Methodology

- Multiple searches of death registration records to identify evidence that the deceased was homeless.
- Statistical modelling using capture-recapture technique to estimate a total figure (allowing for the likelihood of more deaths of homeless people being present in the data but not identified)

5 Search strategies (ONS)

1. Terms such as “no fixed abode”, “homeless” or “shelter” or the address of a known homeless hostel or project appearing in the recorded place of **residence**
2. Terms such as “no fixed abode”, “homeless” or “night shelter” or the address of a known homeless hostel or project appearing in the recorded place of **death**
3. Information received by coroner indicating homelessness
4. Record contained a communal establishment code which specified a homeless hostel or shelter
5. Deaths occurring in hospitals or similar location and postcode of residence was the same as postcode of place of death

Quality Assurance

- Manual checks of records identified to prevent incorrect inclusion of deaths (i.e. sheltered housing being picked up when searching for “shelter”)
- Lower age cut-off <15
- Upper age cut-off 75+

Final estimate

- Capture-recapture model looks at the extent of overlap between the 5 search results to come up with an estimate of the likely number of homeless deaths.
- ONS publish two estimates
 - Identified cases (from the 5 searches)
 - Estimated number (from the model)

Replicating for Scotland

- Some changes needed to the 5 sources
 - No coroners' data for Scotland
 - Some tweaks required to the fifth source (deaths in hospitals)
 - List of known homeless accommodation isn't centrally held for Scotland

Homeless Accommodation

- Worked with Susan and Lee to get info from all 32 councils on the addresses used for housing homeless people
- Long process!
- Some councils reluctant to share info
- Can't produce an estimate without info from all councils
- Currently 3 outstanding

Next Steps

- Once lists received for all councils we will identify all deaths which took place or where the deceased lived at one of those addresses.
- We may then need to go back to councils to quality assure some of the results
- Then we will publish results for 2017 and 2018, and update annually thereafter