

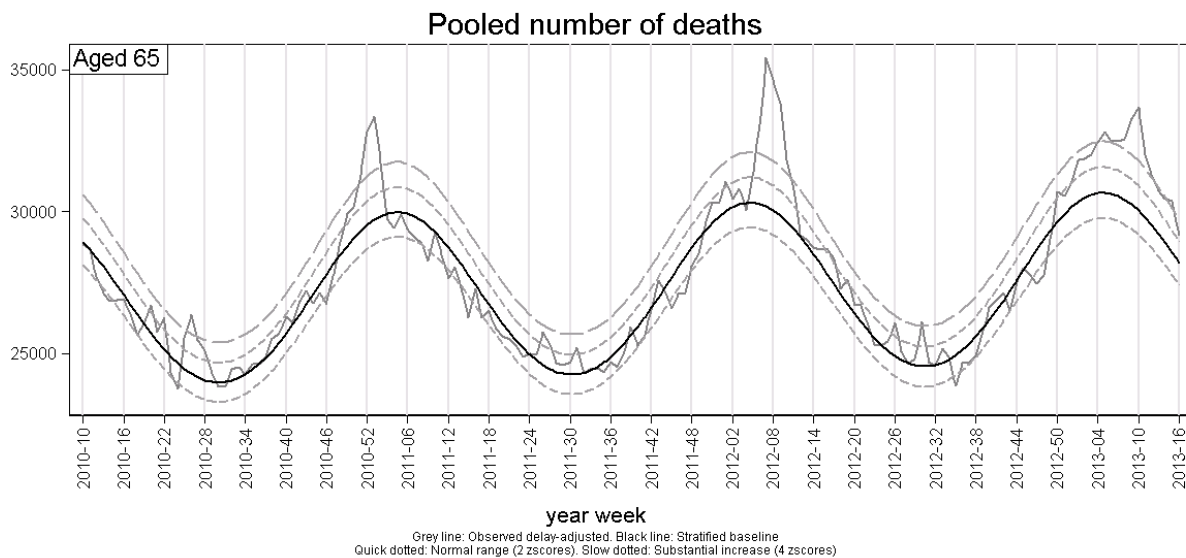
European mortality bulletin, week 16, 2013:

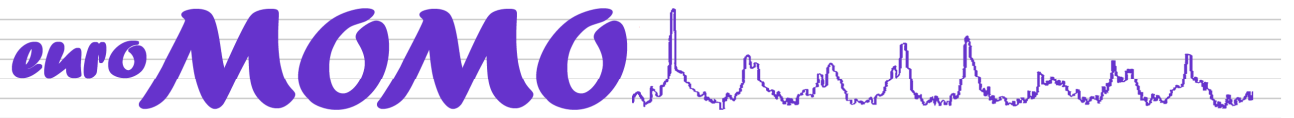
Pooled analysis of week 16/2013 data, based on 13 countries or regions, showed a sustained peak of excess all-cause mortality among people aged 65 years and older starting in week 01/2013. This week's data showed still elevated mortality levels in recent weeks, in contrast to last week's analysis which indicated that mortality had returned to normal levels around week 12. This indicates again that excess mortality levels in the most recent weeks are difficult to interpret because adjustment for delayed registrations may be imprecise. Further, results of pooled analysis may vary dependent on which countries are included in the weekly analysis.

Cumulative winter excess mortality among older people (cumulated from week 40/2012 to week 16/2013) showed excess mortality levels comparable to those of the 2011/2012 winter season.

Individual country analysis showed a diverse temporal pattern of all-cause mortality in people aged 65 years and above during the winter season 2012/2013. In most countries all-cause mortality has been within the normal range for the past 3 to 4 weeks, however, some countries still showed mortality levels of above 2 z-scores from the baseline among people aged 65 years and older. If these are real increases or artefacts due to imprecise adjustment for delayed registration is being investigated. For countries that had seen an increase in all-cause mortality this winter, some observed increases at the end of 2012 (Denmark, Ireland, Sweden, UK (England, Scotland), while others observed increases some weeks later in the beginning of 2013 (Belgium, France, Germany (Hesse), Ireland, Netherlands, Switzerland). There are several countries that have no or only very moderate mortality increases (i.e. to around 2 z-scores above the baseline) so far (Finland, Greece, Portugal, Spain).

The diverse mortality pattern may be explained by the pattern of influenza activity this season in Europe, but other factors such as the long, cold winter may also have played a role.





European monitoring of excess mortality for public health action

Pooled analysis was adjusted for variation between the included countries and for differences in local delay of reporting. Further details are available on <http://www.euromomo.eu/results/pooled.html>