

### European mortality bulletin, week 20, 2015:

All-cause mortality has been within the normal range for the reporting countries during the past weeks. Data from 16 countries or regions\* was received, of these 15\*\* were included in the pooled analyses. The pooled cumulative analyses, which may accumulate even minor increases in excess mortality across countries, did detect excess all-cause mortality among the elderly during 2015 at higher levels compared with the previous four winter seasons.

In Belgium, Denmark, England, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, Portugal, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Wales excess number of deaths among the elderly was observed at the beginning of the year. For all of these countries the excess mortality observed this winter has ended and is back to expected levels. Excess all-cause mortality cannot be attributed with certainty to specific causes, but may be associated with circulating influenza, extreme cold or increase in acute respiratory illness. The winter excess coincided with circulating influenza A H3, and medium to high intensity ([FluNews Europe](#)) in most countries and additionally with cold snaps in Spain and Portugal in the first weeks of the year. Estonia, Finland and Northern Ireland did not seem to experience excess mortality among the elderly this winter season.

Excess mortality levels in most recent weeks may be difficult to interpret because adjustment for delayed registrations may be imprecise. Further, results of pooled analyses may vary dependent on which countries were included in the weekly analyses.

Pooled analyses are adjusted for variation between the included countries and for differences in the local delay in reporting.

Further details are available on <http://www.euromomo.eu>

\* Belgium, Denmark, England (UK), Estonia, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, Northern Ireland (UK), Portugal, Scotland (UK), Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Wales (UK).

\*\* Not included in the pooled analyses: Northern Ireland (UK).

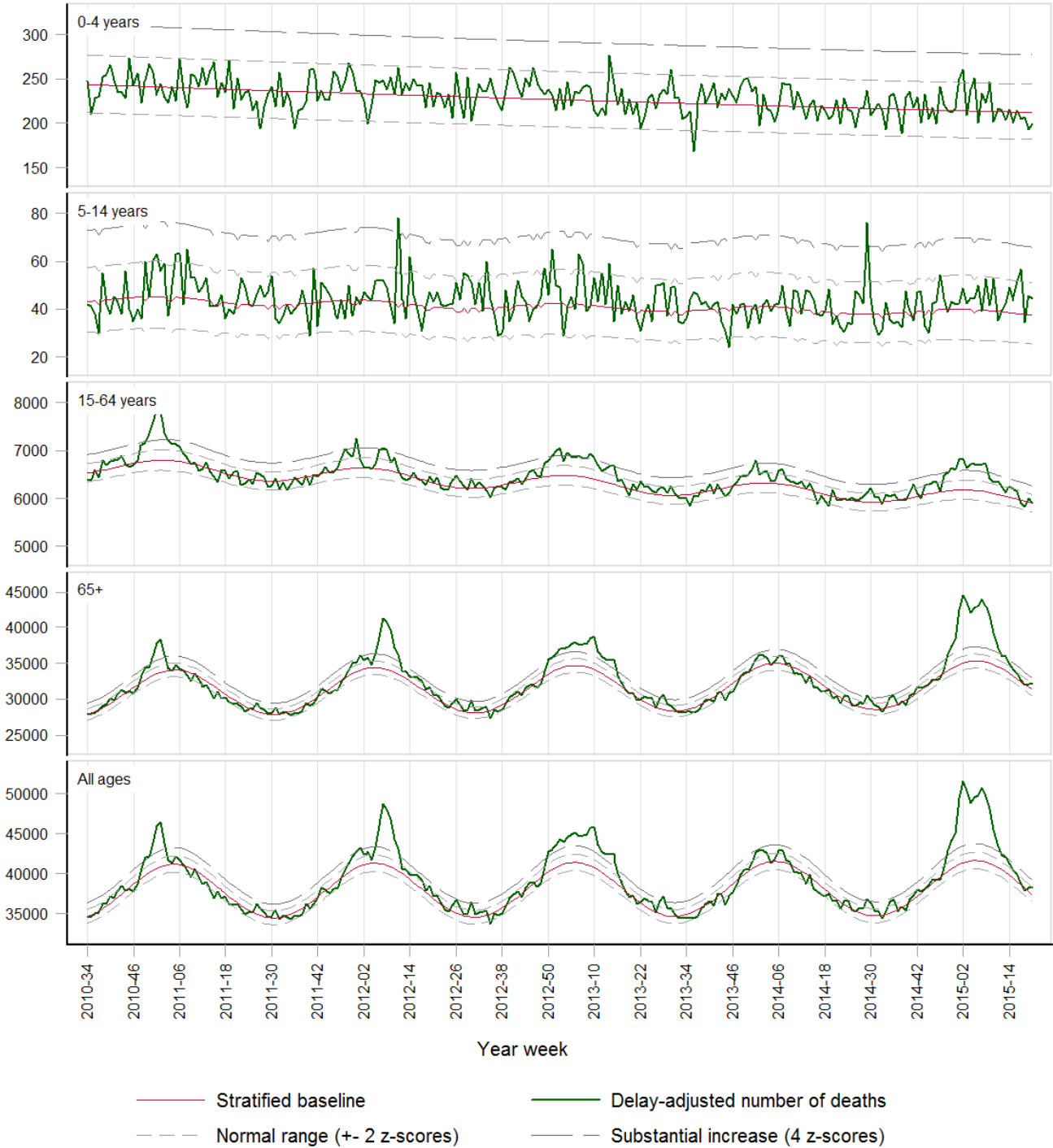
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European monitoring of excess mortality for public health action

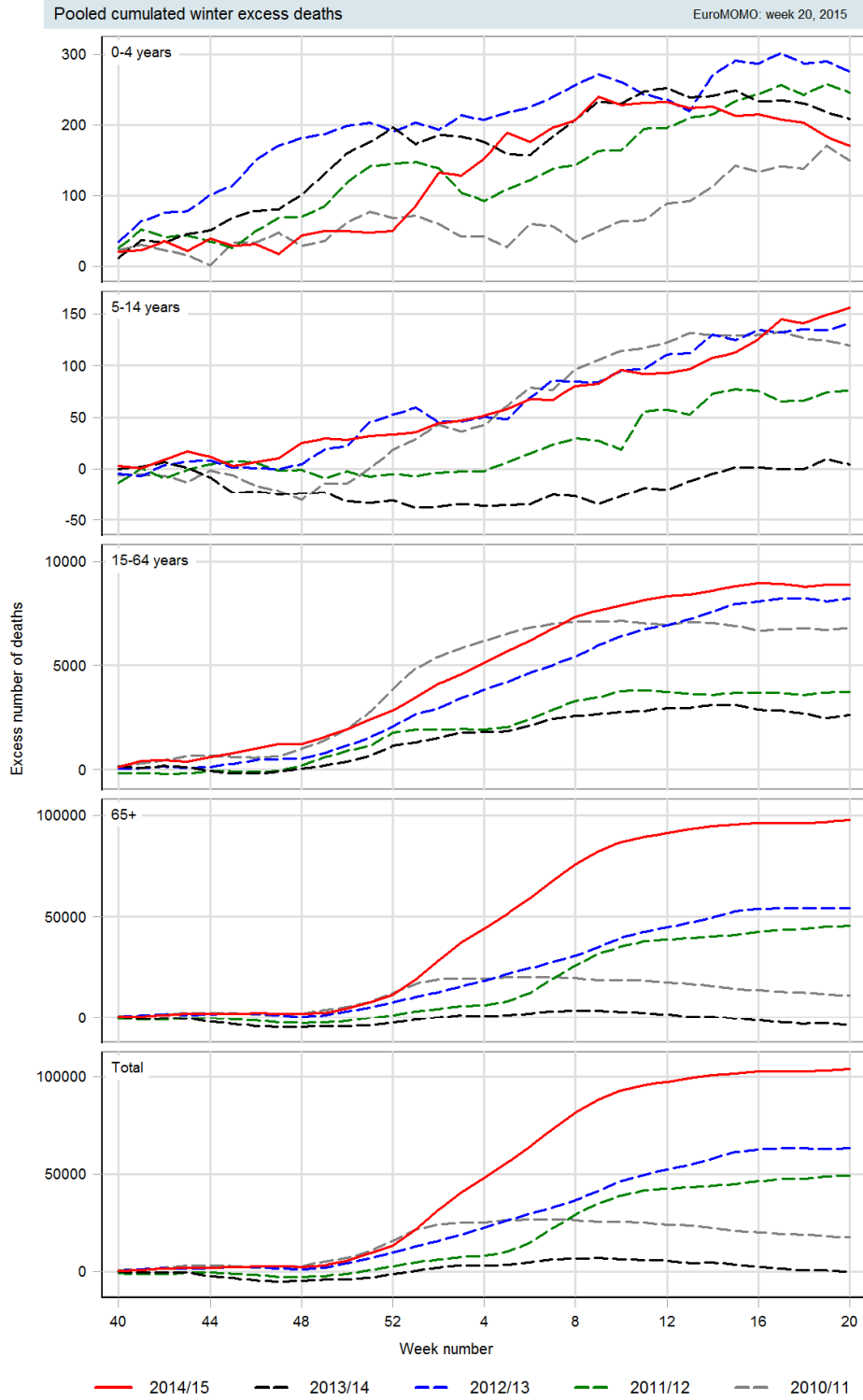
Pooled number of deaths

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**Participating countries:**

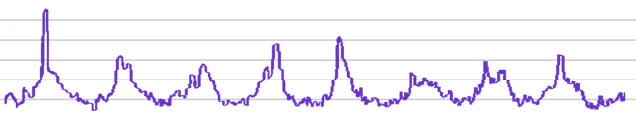
Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden  
Switzerland, UK (England), UK (Scotland), UK (Wales)



**Participating countries:**

Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden  
 Switzerland, UK (England), UK (Scotland), UK (Wales)

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