

Biggest single year rise in deaths in almost 50 years

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Further articles in this series can be found at <http://www.hcaf.biz/emergencyadmissions.html>

Many of you will have seen the recent article in the Telegraph reporting that 2015 saw the biggest single year rise in deaths in England and Wales in almost 50 years.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/health/12158930/Biggest-annual-rise-in-deaths-for-almost-fifty-years-prompts-warnings-of-crisis-in-elderly-care.html>

Various experts including spokespersons from Public Health England have made vague statements about a wake-up call, the hint that the deaths may have arisen due to government cuts, or even due to influenza. The potential involvement of influenza is an illogical suggestion since there were no reports during 2015 of a huge influenza epidemic required to instigate such a high number of deaths, neither were there any extended heat waves or periods of cold, and cuts to local authority budgets have been around for some time.

Obviously members of the press can only be guided by the opinion of experts, however sometimes experts can be wrong, and maybe sometimes have not been shown all the facts, or in rare instances may attempt to misinform.

Somewhat curiously, Public Health England encountered a similar situation following another of these events in 2012, additional research was promised but was never forthcoming, see:

http://www.hcaf.biz/2015/PHE_Life_Expectancy.pdf

http://www.hcaf.biz/2013/PHE_BJHCM.pdf

I have been publishing papers regarding this topic for the past seven years, and a quick summary of the salient points is as follows:

- This is part of a longer time series of unexplained increases in deaths (and medical admissions)
- On all occasions the increase in deaths shows spatial spread across the UK and elsewhere in Europe and other Western countries
- The large rise in 2015 actually commenced in the latter half of 2014, hence was partly divided between two calendar years

- The reported increase would have been far larger if the percentage change had been calculated from the start of the event
- Both emergency medical admissions, emergency department attendances, and NHS staff sickness absence, show an equally large and parallel increase
- The percentage increase gets larger as the spatial unit gets smaller, i.e. as size approximates a social network
- Deaths exhibit the highest increase in those with existing neurological disorders, but also occur in a cluster of other diagnoses/conditions

You do not have to believe my explanation; however I would strongly advise that you obtain copies of my research to enable you to reach an informed conclusion. Attached is the link to a list of publications, many of which are available as drafts from www.hcaf.biz – those that are not, can be obtained by typing the title of the paper into an internet search.

http://www.hcaf.biz/2010/Publications_Full.pdf