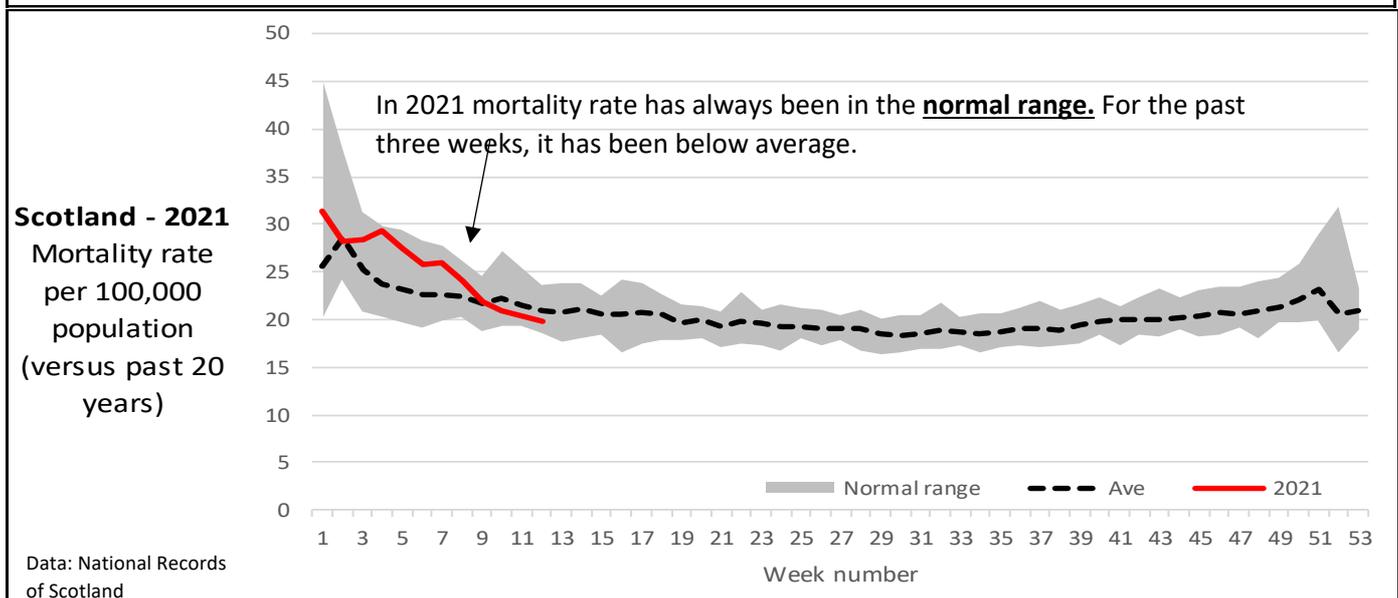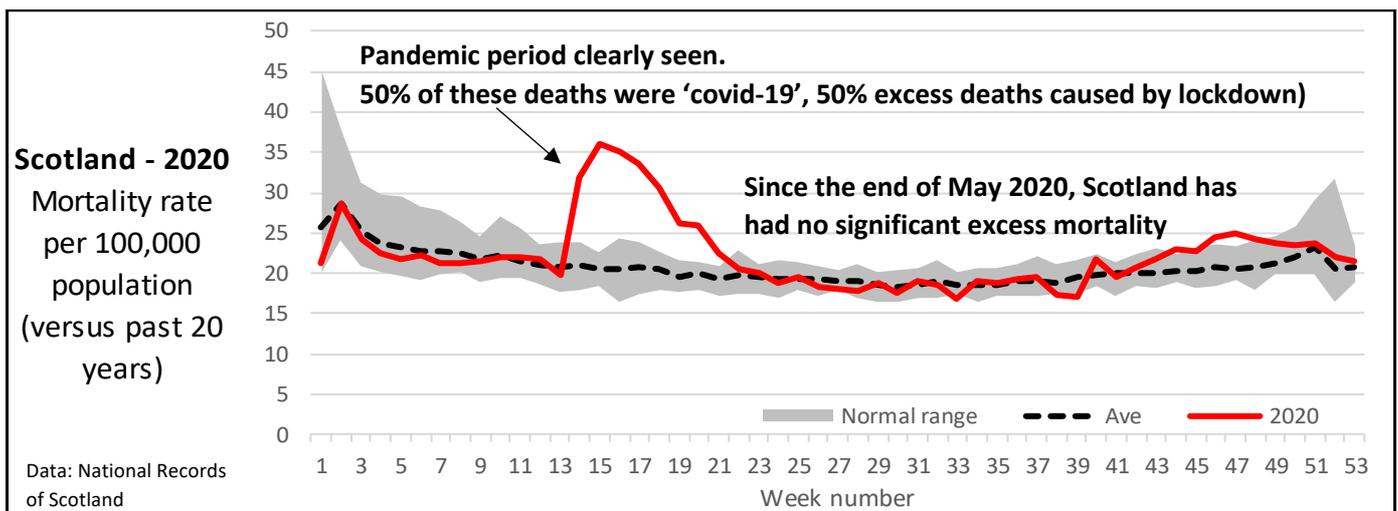# Covid-19 update for Scotland – Week 13 (Mar 31st 2021)

In 2020 the style of 'news' reporting was dramatically changed - all media started reporting cumulative covid-19 death counts, which we have never done before. Among all causes of death worldwide in 2020, covid-19 was not among the Top 10, and even within the UK this period has not been exceptional for mortality.

To put information properly in context, we provide the below summary, all data from official sources.
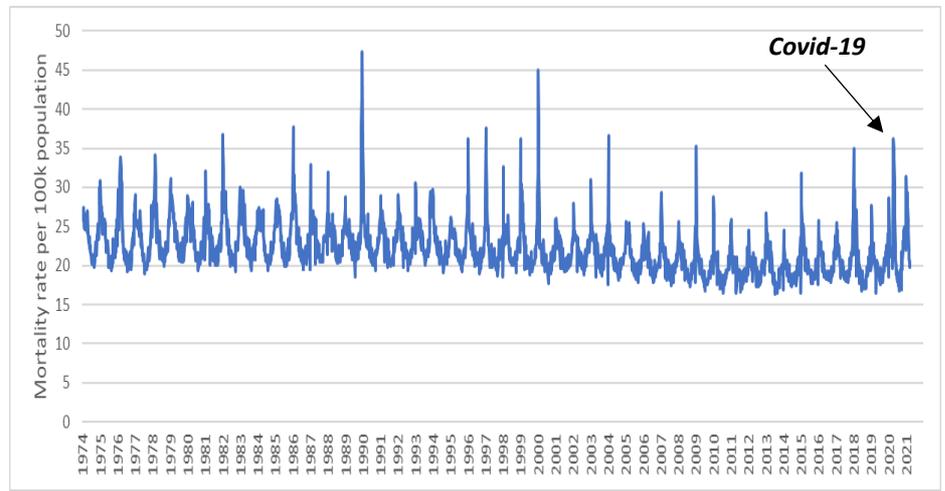
Data updates

Are more people in Scotland dying than is normal? Firstly, the short-term trends, 2020 and 2021 so far

Scotland - 2020
Mortality rate per 100,000 population (versus past 20 years)

Data: National Records of Scotland

Pandemic period clearly seen.
50% of these deaths were 'covid-19', 50% excess deaths caused by lockdown)

Since the end of May 2020, Scotland has had no significant excess mortality

Scotland - 2021
Mortality rate per 100,000 population (versus past 20 years)

Data: National Records of Scotland

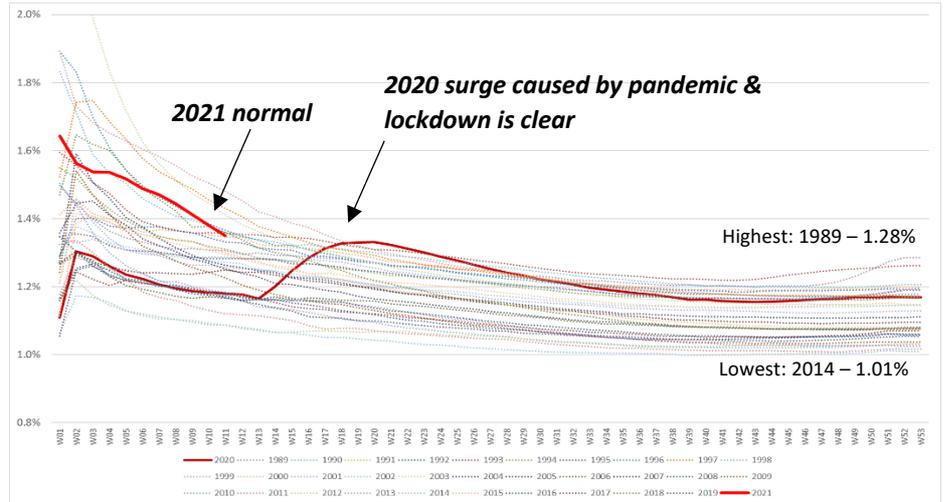In 2021 mortality rate has always been in the **normal range.** For the past three weeks, it has been below average.

Here the long term mortality trend in Scotland, this time weekly deaths per 100k population, 1974-2021 While 2020 was one of the periodic higher years, it was clearly nothing exceptional. In the past, we have several far worse periods that we managed without the draconian measures seen this year.
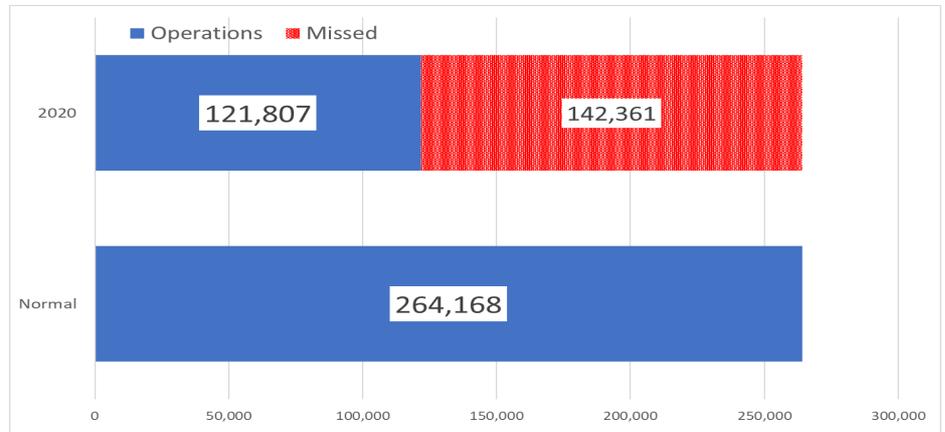
Sadly, each year between 1.01% to 1.28% of the population pass away. This chart shows how that rate develops each year, starting high (winter mortality) and settling. 2020 ended up at 1.17%, quite an average year (not what we may think from the media).
So far, mortality in 2021 is identical to 2018.
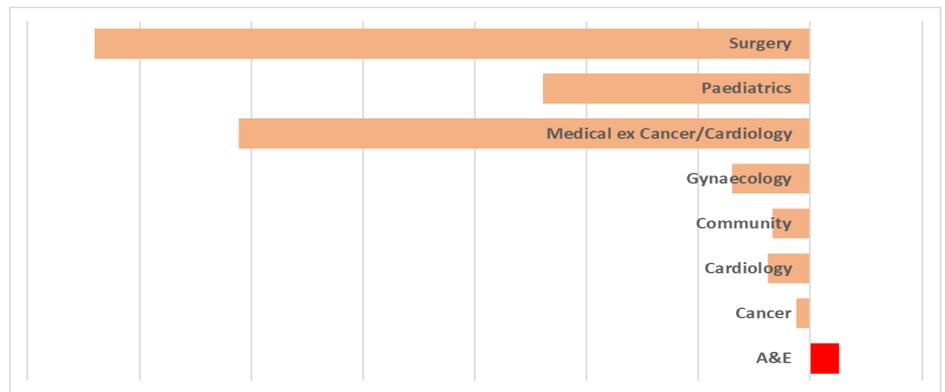Is it what you expected?

What is the impact on health?
In a normal year NHS Scotland carries out 265,000 operations – 720 per day.
In 2020 over half of those did not happen. Patients in Scotland missed 140,000 operations, 390 per day.
We have a huge impact on future health.

What have we missed? The chart is NHS data of hospital admissions. A&E was surprisingly higher than normal, but we can see especially surgery hugely down, among others.

We hope this was useful, and will continue to update on a regular basis.