

Sir Bob Russell, MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

November 2014

Dear Sir Bob,

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking the Minister for the Cabinet Office how often (a) pneumococcal disease and (b) pneumococcal community-acquired pneumonia was mentioned on death certificates in England and Wales in each of the last 15 years. [212755]

The mortality data held by ONS come from the information collected when a death is registered. All the conditions mentioned on the death certificate are coded using the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). Conditions were coded using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for 1999 and 2000 and the Tenth Revision (ICD-10) from 2001 to 2013 (the latest year available). The ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes used to define pneumococcal disease are not directly comparable; therefore the answer has been split into two tables.

Table 1 provides the number of deaths where pneumococcal disease was mentioned on the death certificate, in England and Wales, registered from 1999 to 2000.

Table 2 provides the number of deaths where pneumococcal disease was mentioned on the death certificate, in England and Wales, registered from 2001 to 2013.


Information on where a disease was acquired is not routinely collected at death registration, therefore it cannot be stated how many deaths involved (b) community-acquired pneumonia.

In deaths from causes such as pneumonia and septicaemia, it is very common for the certifying doctor not to state the type of infection involved. For example in 2013 there were 12,652 deaths registered with an underlying cause of pneumonia of unspecified type (ICD-10 code J18.9) and the proportion of these that were caused by pneumococcal pneumonia is unknown.

The number of deaths registered in England and Wales each year by sex, age, cause, marital status, and place of death are published annually on the National Statistics website at:

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/vsob1/mortality-statistics--deaths-registered-in-england-and-wales--series-dr-/index.html

Yours sincerely,



Glen Watson
Director General for ONS

Table 1: Number of deaths where pneumococcal disease was mentioned on the death certificate, England and Wales, registered from 1999 to 2000^{1,2}

| Year | Pneumococcal septicaemia | Pneumococcal infection NOS | Pneumococcal meningitis | Lobar pneumonia | Any Pneumococcal disease ³ |
|------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1999 | 78 | 4 | 67 | 0 | 145 |
| 2000 | 95 | 6 | 67 | 0 | 166 |

¹ Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9). The specific causes which are included and their corresponding ICD-9 codes, are shown in Box 2.

² Figures are based on deaths registered rather than deaths occurring in a calendar year. Further information on registration delays for a range of causes can be found on the ONS website: www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/user-guidance/health-and-life-events/impact-of-registration-delays-on-mortality-statistics/index.html

³ In some cases more than one condition is mentioned on a death certificate, so the total of the four conditions will not sum to the number of deaths where any pneumococcal disease was mentioned.

Box 1: ICD-9 codes used to define pneumococcal disease

| ICD-10 code | Description |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| 038.2 | Pneumococcal septicaemia |
| 041.2 | Pneumococcal infection NOS |
| 048.1 | Lobar pneumonia |
| 320.1 | Pneumococcal meningitis |

Table 2: Number of deaths where pneumococcal disease was mentioned on the death certificate, England and Wales, registered from 2001 to 2013^{1,2}

| Year | Pneumonia due to Streptococcus pneumoniae - pneumococcus | Septicaemia due to Streptococcus pneumoniae - Pneumococcal sepsis | Pneumococcal meningitis | Pneumococcal arthritis and polyarthritis | Any Pneumococcal disease ³ |
|------|--|---|-------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 2001 | 107 | 93 | 68 | 1 | 107 |
| 2002 | 119 | 83 | 60 | 0 | 119 |
| 2003 | 114 | 85 | 81 | 0 | 114 |
| 2004 | 107 | 82 | 68 | 0 | 107 |
| 2005 | 120 | 79 | 66 | 0 | 120 |
| 2006 | 138 | 77 | 57 | 1 | 138 |
| 2007 | 123 | 73 | 64 | 0 | 123 |
| 2008 | 151 | 55 | 58 | 0 | 151 |
| 2009 | 163 | 67 | 50 | 1 | 163 |
| 2010 | 167 | 74 | 59 | 0 | 167 |
| 2011 | 168 | 62 | 46 | 0 | 168 |
| 2012 | 121 | 68 | 39 | 0 | 121 |
| 2013 | 147 | 51 | 40 | 0 | 147 |

¹ Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The specific causes which are included and their corresponding ICD-10 codes, are shown in Box 1.

² Figures are based on deaths registered rather than deaths occurring in a calendar year. Further information on registration delays for a range of causes can be found on the ONS website: www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/user-guidance/health-and-life-events/impact-of-registration-delays-on-mortality-statistics/index.html

³ In some cases more than one condition is mentioned on a death certificate, so the total of the four conditions will not sum to the number of deaths where any pneumococcal disease was mentioned.

Box 2: ICD-10 codes used to define pneumococcal disease

| ICD-10 code | Description |
|-------------|--|
| J13 | Pneumonia due to Streptococcus pneumoniae - pneumococcus |
| A403 | Sepsis due to Streptococcus pneumoniae - Pneumococcal sepsis |
| G001 | Pneumococcal meningitis |
| M001 | Pneumococcal arthritis and polyarthritis |