### Directly age-standardised mortality rate (all causes) per 100,000 females, all ages, 2001-03 to 2012-14 (3-year rolling averages)

**Definition**
Directly age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 female population (all ages) from all causes (ICD-10: A00-Y00). Rates are standardised to European Standard Population.

**Source**
Office for National Statistics (ONS) Mid-year estimates for female population in the respective calendar years.

**Strengths & Limitations**
1. Three-year rolling death data are used to create a smoother line which is easier to interpret and less susceptible to annual fluctuation.
2. Data are based on the latest revisions of ONS population estimates for the respective years. Data are based on the original underlying cause of death.
3. The European Standard Population (ESP) is an artificial population structure which is used in the weighting of mortality or incidence data to produce Directly Standardised Rates (DSRs), also known as age-standardised rates (ASRs). The ESP is divided into quinary age bands, which correspond to the age bands used by the observations and population figures. Each age band is assigned a value which is used to standardise the rate obtained from the observations and population.
4. Eurostat, the statistical institute of the European Union, decided at the end of 2012 to bring this population structure up to date. Up to 2014, indicators were directly standardised against ESP released in 1976. For both sexes, mortality rates for all causes of death registered in 2012 were significantly higher when calculated using the 2013 ESP compared with the 1976 ESP (figure 2). This is to be expected as deaths predominantly occur at older ages and the larger number of older people in the 2013 ESP exerts more influence on these summary figures. This affects three year pooled data for 2010-12 onwards.

### Epidemiological Facts

1. The long term decline in the all cause mortality rate among females may have plateaued in most Oxfordshire districts. To confirm whether this is a trend it will need to be monitored in future years.
2. Apart from Cherwell and West Oxfordshire, districts in Oxfordshire have significantly lower rates than England.
3. The European Standard Population (ESP) is an artificial population structure which is used in the weighting of mortality or incidence data to produce Directly Standardised Rates (DSRs), also known as age-standardised rates (ASRs). The ESP is divided into quinary age bands, which correspond to the age bands used by the observations and population.
4. At district level rates fluctuate a little more but they also appear to be levelling off.

### Benchmarking

1. Overall Oxfordshire has significantly lower mortality rates in females than England but no longer significantly lower than the South East region.
2. Apart from Cherwell and West Oxfordshire, districts in Oxfordshire have significantly lower rates than England.
3. At district level rates fluctuate a little more but they also appear to be levelling off.

### Expert interpretation and conclusions with additional information

1. For the most recent data point, the rate in Cherwell is significantly higher than Oxfordshire as a whole.

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**Table**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>England</th>
<th>South East England</th>
<th>Prospering Southern England</th>
<th>Oxfordshire</th>
<th>Cherwell</th>
<th>Oxford City</th>
<th>South Oxfordshire</th>
<th>Vale of White Horse</th>
<th>West Oxfordshire</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>2001-03</td>
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*Units: thousand*

- **Key:**
  - Light blue: significantly lower rate compared to Oxfordshire rate.
  - Dark blue: significantly lower rate compared to England rate.
  - Red: significantly lower rate compared to England rate.

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**Limitations**

1. RAG rating is amber. This indicator needs active monitoring to assess whether recent district trends continue.
2. In general Oxfordshire has a population of women that have a long life expectancy and slight variations in trends may not be a cause for concern. More information is required to understand variations between population groups if prevention of long term illness and early death is to be effective.

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**Reference:**
Office for National Statistics (ONS) Mid-year estimates for female population in the respective calendar years.

*Figures in thousands*

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  - Dark blue: significantly lower rate compared to England rate.
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