

JUST. NEWS RELEASE

Friday 19th January 2024



Biggest surge in excess deaths among 50-64 year olds since start of Covid-19 pandemic, Just Group finds

- OHID data reveals excess mortality rates have increased by 9% since the pandemic
- 50-64 year olds and the North West saw the biggest surge in deaths of 15% and 11% respectively
- Emphasises need to consider every eventuality when thinking about retirement options

Analysis of yesterday's **Office for Health Improvement and Disparities** (OHID) excess mortality data¹ by **retirement specialist Just Group** revealed a sobering rise in the number of excess deaths across England since the Covid-19 outbreak.

Since the beginning of the pandemic - 27th March 2020 - to 29th December 2023, a total of 2,079,687 deaths were registered in England, among which there were 171,376 excess deaths, indicating a 9% increase in the number of total excess deaths relative to expected deaths (1,908,311) across this period.

When split by age, those aged between 50-64 years old experienced the greatest uptick in the number of excess deaths relative to expected deaths, with an excess mortality rate of 15%. There was a 10% rise in the excess death rate among those aged between 25-49 years old, and a further 9% increase in the 65-74 year old cohort.

Similarly, when looking at regional disparities in excess mortality rates, the North West, West Midlands, and London saw the most significant rise in excess deaths since the pandemic, surging by 11%, 11% and 10% respectively.

These findings were corroborated by last week's harrowing life expectancy data² which demonstrated that between 2020 and 2022, the life expectancy at birth in the UK was 78.6 years for males and 82.6 years for females, marking a drop of 38 weeks from 79.3 years for males and 23 weeks from 83.0 years for females when compared with pre-pandemic figures (2017 to 2019).

Age group	Expected deaths	Excess Deaths	Registered Deaths	Excess Mortality Rate (%)
50-64	193,962	30,059	224,021	15%
25-49	73,680	7,699	81,379	10%
65-74	305,611	27,795	333,406	9%
75-84	556,807	46,782	603,589	8%
85+	759,376	58,439	817,815	8%
0-24	18,903	574	19,477	3%

Region	Expected deaths	Excess Deaths	Registered Deaths	Excess Mortality Rate (%)
North West	272,549	30,158	302,707	11%
West Midlands	209,329	23,320	232,649	11%
London	189,390	19,296	208,686	10%
East Midlands	174,603	16,910	191,513	10%
North East	106,572	10,072	116,644	9%
Yorkshire & Humber	199,075	18,709	217,784	9%
South East	315,335	23,312	338,647	7%
East of England	222,275	14,946	237,221	7%
South West	219,183	14,653	233,836	7%
England	1,908,311	171,376	2,079,687	9%

Commenting on the data, **Stephen Lowe, group communications director at retirement specialist Just Group** said, "Yesterday's data reveals the scale of the excess deaths experienced from the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020 and its effect in particular on older cohorts.

"It follows last week's ONS life expectancy data which showed that higher mortality rates in 2020-22 had set back improvements in UK life expectancy by about a decade. These are sobering figures but amid the doom and gloom it is important to remember that historic numbers tell us little about how the future might turn out, especially about how our own individual futures may turn out.

"An average life expectancy figure only tells us an age at which we have a 50:50 chance of achieving, it is not a target. We are as likely to live longer as die sooner. That is why financial planners seek to cover all the eventualities when giving advice to clients so retirement plans can work in all scenarios."

ENDS

Enquiries

Media

Stephen Lowe, Group Communications Director

Lucy Grubb, Head of Media & PR

Telephone: +44 (0) 1737 827 301
press.office@wearejust.co.uk

Temple Bar Advisory

Alex Child-Villiers
Sam Livingstone
Juliette Packard

Telephone: +44 (0) 20 7183 1190

Notes to Editors

1 – Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), Excess mortality in England and English regions, 18th January 2024

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/excess-mortality-in-england-and-english-regions>

2 – Office for National Statistics (ONS), National Life Tables, life expectancy in the UK: 2020 to 2022-11th January 2024

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/lifeexpectancies/bulletins/nationallifetablesunitedkingdom/2020to2022>

About Just

Just (Just Group plc) is a FTSE-listed specialist UK financial services company.

A leader in the individual retirement income, care and defined benefit de-risking markets, Just has been trusted to manage more than £26 billion of customers' retirement savings and has helped customers release over £6.5 billion from their properties.

Just provides the following wide range of products, advice and professional services to individual customers, financial intermediaries, corporate clients and pension scheme trustees:

Marketed Products

- De-risking solutions for pension scheme trustees who want to remove the financial uncertainty of operating defined benefit pension schemes;
- Individually underwritten retirement income products delivering a guaranteed income for life;
- Long term care plans that provide those people moving into residential care with peace of mind by knowing a regular payment will be made to the care provider for the rest of their life;
- Lifetime mortgages for people who want to safely release some of the value from their home.

Professional services

- Regulated financial advice and guidance services for individuals wanting help in using their pension savings and/or releasing some of the value from their home; and
- A range of business services tailored for our corporate clients, ranging from consultancy and software development to fully outsourced customer service delivery and marketing services.

The companies within Just Group are authorised and regulated in the United Kingdom by the Financial Conduct Authority and / or the Prudential Regulation Authority.

