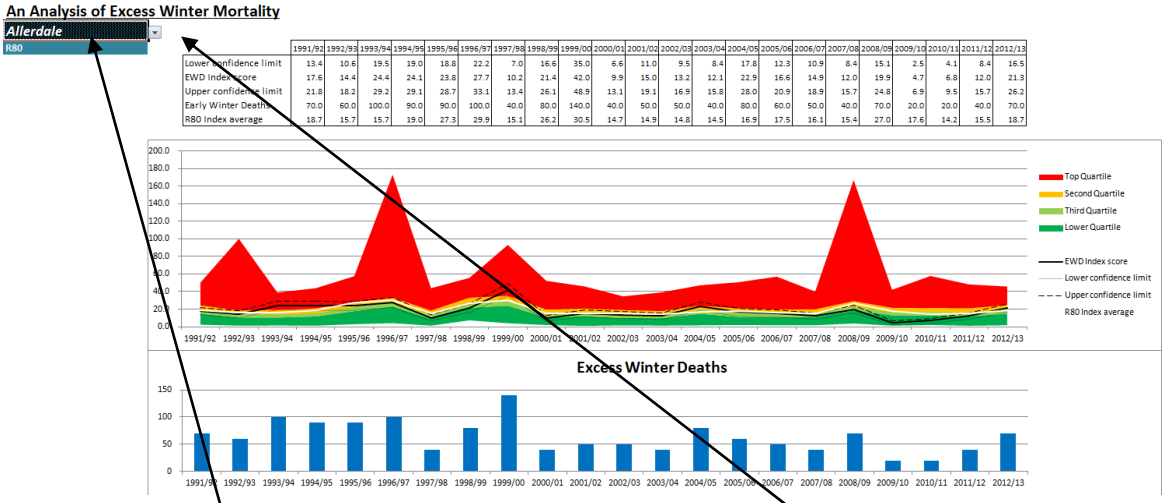
**A simple guide to RSN online spreadsheets – An Analysis of Excess Winter Mortality**

The attached spreadsheet presents information on excess winter mortality in your local authority area.

The spreadsheet allows the user to select their local authority of interest; the table and charts then present the total number of excess winter deaths, the excess winter death index score and associated lower and upper confidence intervals, and the index rural average for authorities of similar rural nature to that chosen.

Data used in this spreadsheet's construction comes from the Office for National Statistics.

To select your chosen authority, please follow these instructions:




Select the highlighted cell containing an authority name.

Clicking on the grey square containing a blue triangle presents the full list of authorities to choose from.

NB.

### *Excess winter deaths*

*The ONS standard method defines the winter period as December to March, and compares the number of deaths that occurred in this winter period with the average number of deaths occurring in the preceding August to November and the following April to July:*

*EWM = winter deaths - average non-winter deaths*

*This produces the number of excess winter deaths, which is then rounded to the nearest 10 for final data and to the nearest 100 for provisional data.*

### *Excess winter mortality index*

*The EWM index is calculated so that comparisons can be made between sexes, age groups and regions, and is calculated as the number of excess winter deaths divided by the average non-winter deaths, expressed as a percentage:*

*EWM Index = (EWM/Average of non winter deaths)*100*

*An EWM index of 20 shows that there were 20 per cent more deaths in winter compared with the non-winter period.*

### *Confidence intervals*

*The EWM index is presented with 95 per cent confidence intervals.*

*The lower and upper confidence limits form a confidence interval, which is a measure of the statistical precision of an estimate and shows the range of uncertainty around the estimated figure. Calculations based on small numbers of events are often subject to random fluctuations. As a general rule, if the confidence interval around one figure overlaps with the interval around another, it is not possible to say with certainty that there is more than a chance difference between the two figures.*

I hope this helps and the spreadsheet provides a useful snapshot of the situation in your area. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact dan.worth@sparse.gov.uk