



Public Health
England

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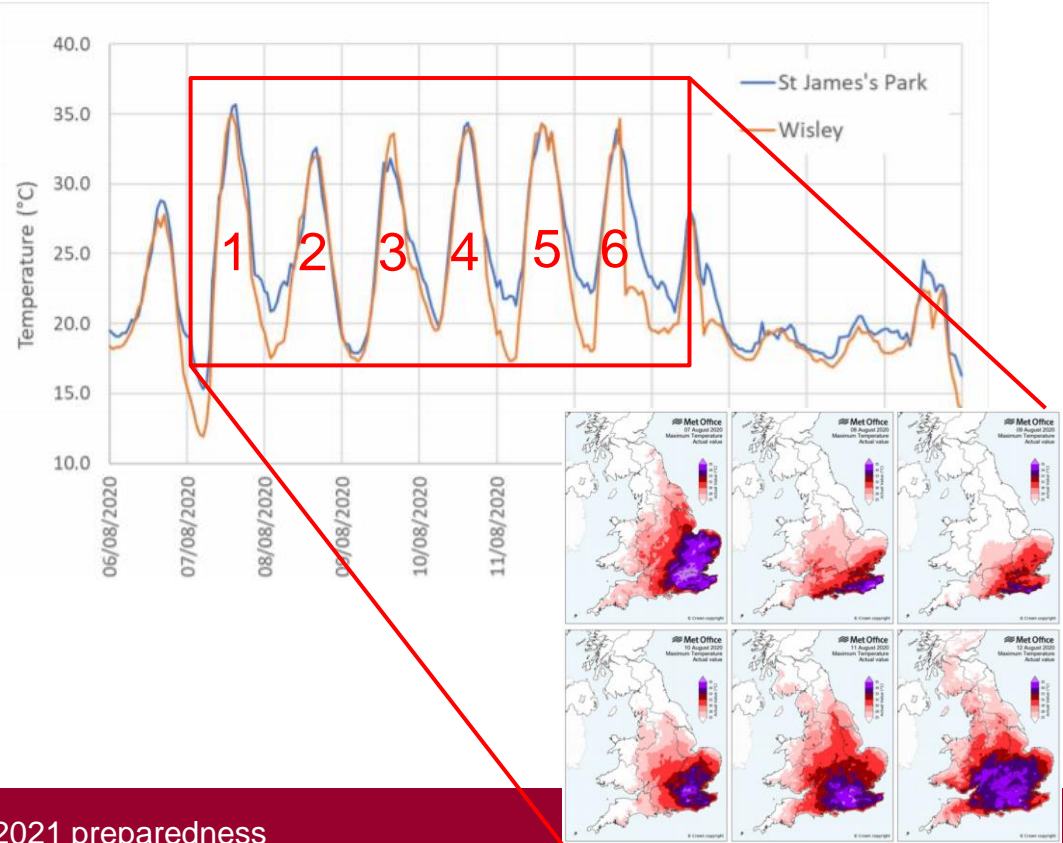
Heatwave Plan for England and Summer 2021 Preparedness

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Reflections on summer 2020

- Mixed weather overall, and only slightly warmer than average
- Three heat episodes
 - Late June
 - Late July (37.8C on 31 Jul)
 - 5-15 Aug , including.....
 - 6 days of 34C+ (7-12 Aug)
 -and 'tropical nights' 20C+

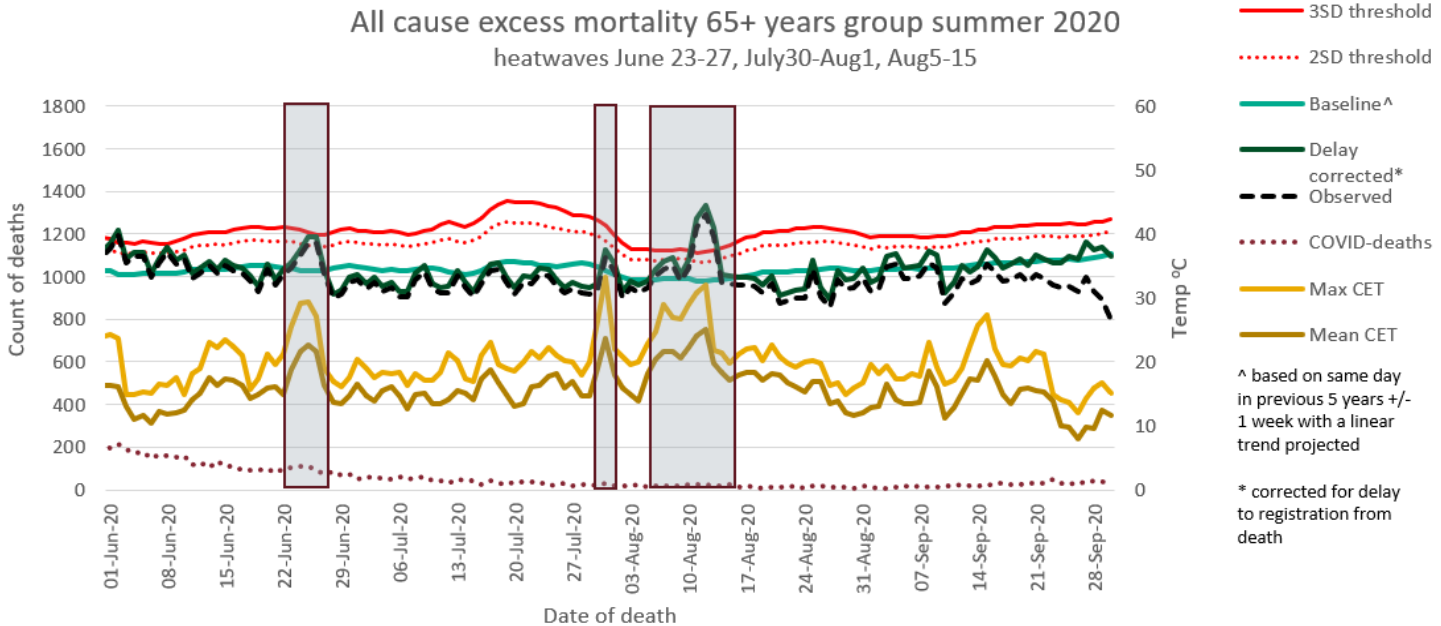


Forecast for summer 2021

- Relative to 1981-2010 average, the odds again are slightly skewed towards **warmer outcomes** for the UK as a whole
- Greater than normal chance of impacts from hot weather , including heatwaves



Heat-health impacts, 2020: mortality



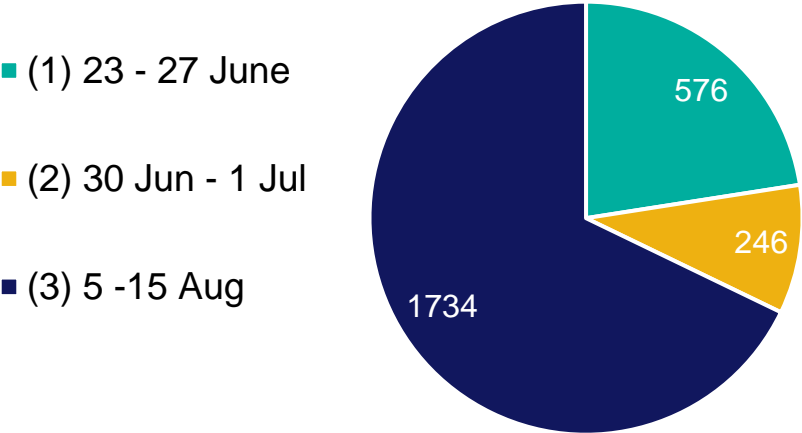
The time series illustrates the very rapid increase in deaths once temperatures start to rise; therefore, the window of opportunity for preventative action is short. During each episode of heat in summer 2020, a corresponding peak can be observed in all cause mortality among the 65+ years group

Source: [Heatwave mortality monitoring report: 2020](#)

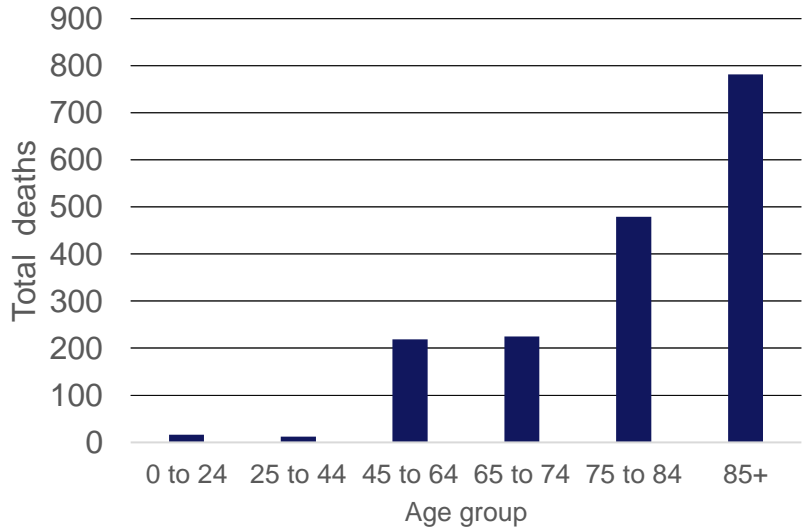
Total all-cause excess mortality – summer 2020

A total of 2,556 excess all-cause deaths occurred across the three episodes of heat

Excess deaths during heatwave episodes, summer 2020



Total excess all-cause mortality during Episode 3 by age



Source: *Heatwave mortality monitoring report: 2020*

2020 excess mortality – location and cause

- Significant excess mortality was observed in deaths at home, in care homes and in hospitals for 65+ years group compared to non-heatwave days.
- Deaths at home and in hospitals increased significantly in the <65 years group during episode 3 when compared to non-heatwave days in 2020
- Underlying cause of death categories of circulatory deaths, respiratory deaths and Alzheimer's and Dementia deaths all observed significant excess mortality across all three heat period in the 65+ years group

Heatwave Plan for England 2021



- Provides advice for professionals, organisations, and individuals to enable them to plan for and respond to hot weather
- Supported by the Met Office, Department for Health and Social Care, NHS England and the Local Government Association
- Recognition that concurrent risks of heatwave and COVID-19 could amplify risks to health

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heatwave-plan-for-england>

Heat-Health Alerts

Figure 2.1: Heatwave Alert levels

Level 0	Long-term planning <i>All year</i>
Level 1	Heatwave and Summer preparedness programme <i>1 June – 15 September</i>
Level 2	Heatwave is forecast – Alert and readiness <i>60% risk of heatwave in the next 2–3 days</i>
Level 3	Heatwave Action <i>Temperature reached in one or more Met Office National Severe Weather Warning Service regions</i>
Level 4	Major incident – Emergency response <i>Central Government will declare a Level 4 alert in the event of severe or prolonged heatwave affecting sectors other than health</i>

PHE's Heat-Health Alerting Service, operated by the Met Office, has moved to a new, upgraded platform. **New users must register their email address to receive alerts.**

LOCAL Threshold temperatures

Threshold maximum day and night temperatures defined by the Met Office National Severe Weather Warning Service (NSWWS) region are set out below.

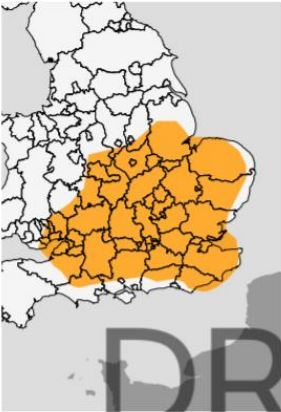
NSWWS Region	Day	Night
London	32	18
South East	31	16
South West	30	15
Eastern	30	15
West Midlands	30	15
East Midlands	30	15
North West	30	15
Yorkshire and Humber	29	15
North East	28	15

National Severe Weather Warning Service (NSWWS)

Met Office National Severe Weather Warning Service

Amber warning
Extreme Heat

Between
On Issue and **23:59 Mon 12 Apr 2021**



EXERCISE EXERCISE - Increasing temperatures this week will bring potential health issues and some transport disruption.


What to expect

- EXERCISE EXERCISE. Adverse health effects are likely to be experienced by those vulnerable to extreme heat. The wider population are likely to experience some adverse health effects including sunburn, dehydration, fatigue and other heat related illnesses.
- Some changes in working practices and daily routines likely to be required. An increased chance that some heat-sensitive systems and equipment may fail, leading to power cuts and the loss of other services to some homes and businesses.
- More people are likely to visit coastal areas, lakes and rivers leading to an increased risk of water safety incidents. Some delays to road, rail and air travel are likely, with potential for welfare issues for those who experience prolonged delays.

DRAFT

Further details

High temperatures this week will reach 39 C across many parts of southern and eastern England, and 37 C across the midlands and south Wales, with minimum temperatures not falling below 20 C at night.



Medium likelihood of medium impacts

- New Met Office Extreme Heat Warning
- Designed for the most impactful extreme heat episodes, such as last August.
- Focus on impacts to the general population and to infrastructure
- AMBER and RED warnings only
- Closely coordinated with Heat-Health Alerts in England
- Can be extended across UK in consultation with Devolved Administrations

Key messages

- Summer 2020 observed the highest mortality since the introduction of the Heatwave Plan for England in 2004.
- The duration, severity and intensity of heat does not fully explain the magnitude of the health impacts observed in 2020 compared with previous years. Analysis indicates that COVID-19 was a risk amplifier.
- The Heatwave Plan for England contains guidance on the actions to plan for, and respond to hot weather in order to minimise the negative effects on population health.
- New users can register their email address to receive Health-Health alerts.

Contact

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