

## **Announcement of methodological changes to Cancer survival in England - lifetables**

### **Background**

The ONS Small Area Population Estimates (LSOA21) provide updated and more detailed population figures for neighbourhoods across England and Wales. These figures replace the earlier LSOA11 populations and have been used to build the lifetables for our cancer survival analysis, ensuring estimates reflect the most current population structure.

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2015 and 2019 were originally published using 2011 LSOA boundaries. The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) has produced adjusted versions of IMD 2015 and IMD 2019 mapped to the 2021 LSOA boundaries, allowing consistent use with the newer population estimates.

### **Methodological changes**

To build our lifetables, we request ONS data that includes the number of deaths registered each year and the mid-year population estimates by single year of age, age group, sex, Government Office Region, and IMD quintile. The variable sex from the ONS data is matched to the NDRS collected gender for survival analysis. All other variables in the ONS data are matched directly to their corresponding variables in the NDRS data.

We now use the number of deaths and mid-year population estimates split by LSOA21 and link them to OHID's adjusted IMD 2015 and IMD 2019 lookup tables to derive IMD quintiles. The IMD 2015 lookup is used for the years 2012–2013, and the IMD 2019 lookup is used for 2014 onwards.

### **Timing**

The first publication to be affected by this change will be the April 2026 release, which will cover cancers diagnosed between 2018 and 2022.

**Impact**

The impact of the above changes on the lifetables is expected to be minimal. Survival estimates which use these lifetables are not expected to change substantially.

**Future plans**

The lifetables will be updated in 2026 to use the newly published Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025.

**Further information**

Questions and feedback on the publication are welcomed and should be sent to [NDRSenquires@nhs.net](mailto:NDRSenquires@nhs.net) or alternatively call 0300 303 5678.