

Torbay has the highest under 75 mortality rate of all the counties and unitary authorities in the South West, 566 deaths in 2020, a rate of 388 per 100,000 and getting worse. ([OHID Mortality Profile](#))

In 2020, 232 of those deaths were considered preventable. Torbay's under 75 mortality rate from causes considered preventable is the highest in the South West.



Why is this important?

Many deaths aged under 75 years are preventable.



What is the local context?

Torbay has the highest premature death rates in the South West.



What should we do?

Reduce self-harm, smoking, harmful drinking and drug taking, encourage healthy lifestyles, exercise and eating. Diagnose cancers and other disease symptoms early. Reduce inequality.

Torbay Premature Death Rates

Figure 1 shows the death rate is higher for men than for women, and higher in the more deprived areas.

Fig 1 Torbay premature death rates

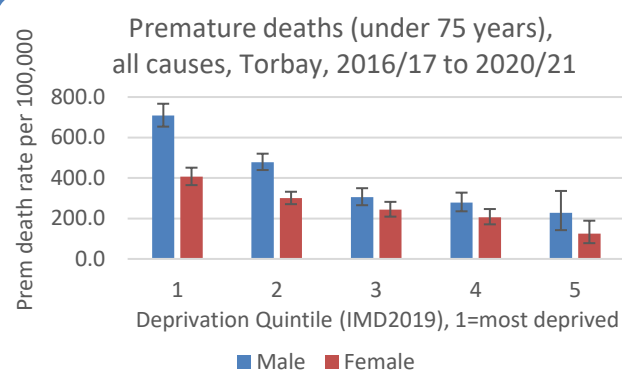


Table 1 Deaths in each age band (5yrs 2017-21)

Ages	Males	Females
0-14	11	13
15-24	19	9
25-34	42	15
35-44	69	42
45-54	196	136
55-64	427	291
65-74	859	567
0-74 Total	1623	1073

Causes for different age groups (2017-2021)

Between 2017 and 2021, 10 Torbay residents died aged 1 day or younger (e.g. from extreme prematurity, congenital malformation, infection, complications), a further 5 died before their 1st birthday (e.g. from sudden death or infection), and a further 9 before reaching 15 (e.g. from sudden death, cancer, congenital malformations, cerebral palsy, epilepsy or heart disease).

In the same years, 28 Torbay residents died aged **15-24**. 14 out of 28 were suicide or undetermined intent (11 men). Other underlying causes were different diseases (including COVID-19) and falling, drowning, poisoning, injury.

57 Torbay residents died aged **25-34**. 22 of these were suicide or undetermined intent (17 men, 5 women). Of the other 35, 10 were caused by drug poisoning, 7 by diseases of the circulatory system, 6 by cancer, 3 by traffic, 2 by drowning.

111 Torbay residents died aged **35-44**. 15 of these were suicide or undetermined intent (10 men, 5 women) and 20 others were drug poisoning. 17 were caused by circulatory system diseases; 13 by alcoholic liver disease, hepatitis or hepatic failure; 14 cancer; 7 respiratory e.g. pneumonia.

332 Torbay residents died aged **45-54**. 22 of these were suicide or undetermined (14 men, 8 women), and 27 others were drug poisoning. 95 were caused by cancer; 61 were diseases of the circulatory system; 36 alcoholic liver disease etc; 27 respiratory e.g. pneumonia or COPD; 5 motor neuron disease.

718 Torbay residents died aged **55-64**. 302 deaths were caused by cancer; 137 by diseases of the circulatory system; 80 respiratory; 39 alcoholic liver disease etc; 28 diseases of the nervous system (e.g. 8 multiple sclerosis, 6 motor neuron disease); 17 COVID-19; 15 various accidents; 9 diabetes; 7 congenital malformations;

PREMATURE DEATH IN TORBAY

11 suicide/undetermined, 7 other drug poisoning.

Overall, in the 5 years between 2017 and 2021, 2696 Torbay residents aged <75yrs died.

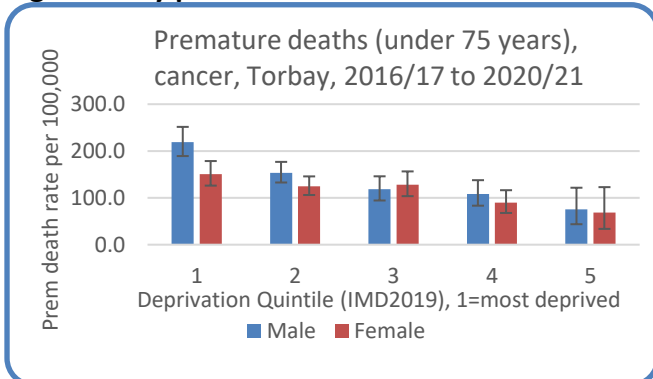
Cancers (569 men, 453 women), diseases of the circulatory system (371 men, 167 women), respiratory system (175 men, 125 women), external causes (158 men, 62 women) and diseases of the digestive (109 men, 93 women) and nervous system (68 men, 53 women) caused the most deaths.

Cancers

Men's cancers included bronchus/lung (122), pancreas (44), prostate (42), oesophagus (30), brain (27), liver (21), kidney (21), rectum (19), bladder (12), stomach (11), skin melanoma (11), colon (10), bile duct (10), and many more.

Women's cancers included bronchus/lung (97), breast (63), pancreas (22), brain (22), ovary (19), oesophagus (18), skin melanoma (13), colon (13), bile duct (10), rectum (10), endometrium (10), cervix uteri (9), bladder (8) and many more.

Fig 2 Torbay premature death rates: cancers



About 73% of Torbay men's lung cancer, and 68% of women's, is smoking-attributable, as well as 71%/65% of larynx cancer, 59%/53% of pharynx cancer, 41%/34% of bladder cancer, 40%/34% of oesophagus cancer, and 35%/30% of oral cancer.

Cardiovascular diseases

Atherosclerotic heart disease killed 102 men and 28 women, **chronic ischaemic heart disease** 60 men and 11 women, **acute myocardial infarction** 63 men and 20 women. 39% of ischaemic heart disease is smoking-attributable.

Alcohol-specific conditions killed 125 Torbay residents under 75 between 2017 and 2021 (67

men and 58 women). Only 8 deaths were for older ages. Deaths from liver disease have recently been increasing. In 2020, 38 liver disease premature deaths were considered preventable.

Drug poisoning killed 94 residents under 75 between 2017 and 2021 (62 men and 32 women). 29 were intentional or undetermined intent (18 men, 11 women). 4 deaths were for older ages.

Fig 3 Torbay: cardiovascular diseases

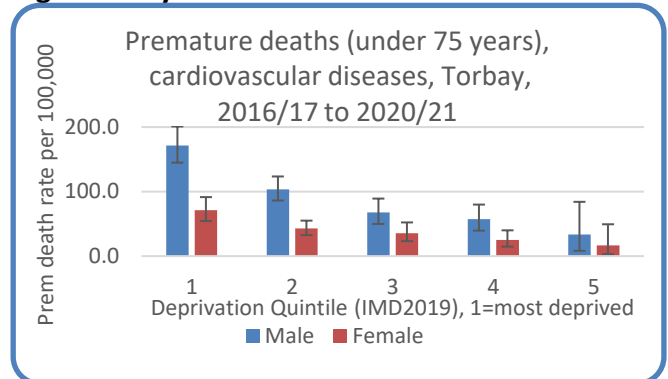
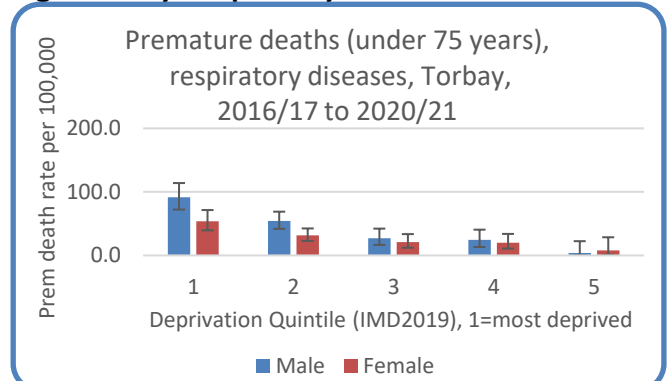


Fig 4 Torbay: respiratory diseases



Over 50% of COPD is smoking-attributable.

COVID-19 killed 38 men and 13 women under 75 years of age in 2020-21, and a further 151 older residents. **Flu:** in the 5 years 2017-2021, flu killed 11 Torbay residents under 75, and a further 26 older residents. Between Feb 2020 and Feb 2022, flu did not kill any Torbay residents.

Drowning killed 13 Torbay residents under 75 between 2017 and 2021. Of 22 premature deaths in 11 years, 10 were accidental (falling/swept in, coastering, boat, jetski, swimming, bath), 4 were intentional, and 8 were undetermined/open.

Road traffic accidents killed 9 Torbay residents under 75 (and sequelae of accidents killed 2).

Falls killed 21.

Data: Primary Care Mortality Database, NHS Digital. Populations: ONS. IMD2019: gov.uk.