

5.2 In 2020 to 26 June 2020, there have been 519 deaths ascribed to Covid-19 registered in Cumbria. Mortality peaked in mid-April and has been declining since, with a smaller second peak in early May, mainly associated with outbreaks in care homes. To put these figures in context, this is more than twice the number of deaths than in the worst flu seasons over the last 50 years. This is despite the impacts of “lockdown” in rapidly reducing the spread of the virus and bringing the death rate to a peak much earlier, and at a much lower level, than might have been expected otherwise.

5.3 Public Health England has released Age Standardised Mortality Rates for upper tier local authorities. These are death rates that have been adjusted to take account of the age structure of the population. This is crucial in understanding the impact of the epidemic at a local level. Covid-19 very disproportionately affects older age groups – and as such, County’s such as Cumbria that have an older population on average would be expected to have a higher crude death rate. As at 31 May (the latest age standardised data available) the rates were as follows:

	Males		Females	
	Deaths	Rate	Deaths	Rate
England	24,569	107.5	19,790	62.5
Northwest	3,793	127.8	3,152	77.1
Cumbria	276	105.1	217	59.7

5.4 From these figures, it can be seen that when the age structure of the population is taken into account, Cumbria’s overall death rate is slightly below the national average.

5.5 All-cause mortality rates (including deaths from Covid-19) are currently returned to the levels that would be expected in a normal year.