



Cold kills: The impact of cold homes on health in Stockton-on-Tees

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Why is it important?: The impact of cold homes...

- Increased risk of Death
- Increased risk of respiratory illness, strokes and heart attacks
- Increased injuries (from fire hazards and falls)
- Worsening symptoms of arthritis
- Impaired mental health and social isolation
- Adverse affects on children's education
- Increased demand on GP surgeries, hospitals and other health services
- Increased demand on social care

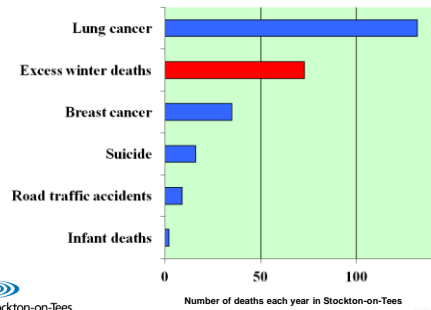


Excess Winter Deaths

- UK: 27,000 Excess Winter Deaths (EWDs) per yr
- Stockton-on-Tees:
 - 15% more deaths during the winter months
 - 70 EWDs per year
 - Common causes of EWDs: respiratory disease, heart attacks & strokes
 - EWDs in Stockton are similar to England with very limited improvement in last 10 yrs
 - More EWDs in Stockton than other countries with much colder winters.



Cold kills on a grand scale...



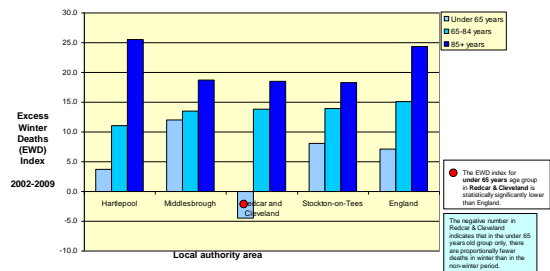
Risk Factors for EWDs

- Being elderly
- Having an underlying health condition
- Living in poor housing
- Living in fuel poverty
- Living alone
- Having a learning disability
- Being very young.

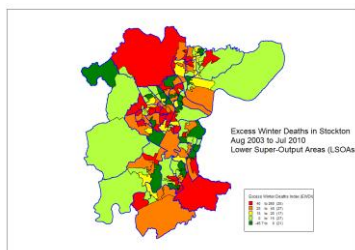


The effects of cold on older age...

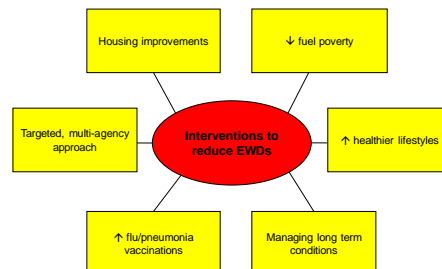
- People aged 85 years and over are more than twice as likely to die in winter than those under 65 years
- The risk increases consistently with older age.



EWDs in Stockton-on-Tees



Interventions to reduce the risk of EWDs...



What can SBC and partners do?

- Provide strategic leadership & strengthen multi-agency partnerships
 - From April 2013 - LAs responsible for strategies to reduce Seasonal Excess Deaths (SEDs) within their populations
 - Stockton Preventing SEDs and Illness Strategy
- Support the Warm Homes Healthy People Project
- Ensure consistent messages to the public & partners
- Proactive measures to improve the housing stock
- Proactive measures to reduce fuel poverty
- Work with partners to refine the process to identify & target interventions

Further information...

- Public Health Intelligence Service. Cold kills: The scale of excess winter deaths in County Durham and Tees Valley 1993-2003. (2005). www.teespublichealth.nhs.uk
- Department of Health. Cold Weather Plan for England - Making the Case: Why cold weather planning is essential to health and well-being. http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_130925.pdf

