Title

An Unprecedented Demographic Transition: Tens of Thousands of Additional Deaths among the Elderly in England and Wales, 2010-2015

Funding Statement

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Covering Letter

10/10/2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached our manuscript, “An Unprecedented Demographic Transition: Tens of Thousands of Additional Deaths among the Elderly in England and Wales, 2010-2015”, for your consideration.

We believe this manuscript addresses a very important and urgent issue relating to rapidly worsening mortality trends in England & Wales, and will be of interest to your readers. Unlike existing research which is emerging on this area, our manuscript explores and quantifies the trends in excess mortality in England and Wales by carefully estimating counter-factual mortality risks at different ages, and how they could be expected to have changed over time if trends observed up until 2010 had continued. Using this method we estimate nearly 32,000 additional deaths by the age of 89 years since 2010, with substantial worsening in mortality after 2012. We argue these estimates are conservative both because we do not include older ages, who have much higher baseline mortality risks, and because an alternative model specification, described in the appendix, estimated even higher numbers of deaths.

In a commitment to open data and reproducible research, the code used to produce the analyses are freely available from the following location:

<https://github.com/JonMinton/danny_elderly_mort/>

Although providing the above URL will identify me as an author on the paper, I would be happy for this to be shared, perhaps in an anonymised form, to any reviewer if requested.

Kind regards,

Dr Jon Minton

On behalf of all authors