**Research in Context**

**Evidence before the study**

There is a growing body of research demonstrating that the effects of recessions and political responses to these recessions are distinct, and recently released data shows absolute increases in death rates in some elderly populations in England & Wales after 2012, reversing decades-long trends towards reduced mortality.

**Added value of this study**

This study compares the mortality rates at different ages after 2010 against those which would be expected if falling mortality trends seen up to 2010 had continued. This allows the scale of ‘excess deaths’ seen since 2010 to be quantified, and indicates that mortality trends became sharply worse since 2012, leading to over 42,000 more deaths than would otherwise have been expected between 2012 and 2015.

**Implications of the available evidence**

The sharp worsening in mortality trends after 2012 rather than 2008, and the concentration of these deaths in elderly populations who are likely more dependent on effective health and social care than younger populations, suggests that lower levels of investment in health and social care could be the cause of these ‘excess deaths’.