

## **Weekly London mortality data by cause of death covering 1870-1939**

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This document describes the weekly London mortality data by cause of death covering 1870-1939. These data were entered from the weekly reports generated by the Registrar General's office. When using these data, please cite the following papers:

Hanlon, WW, Hansen, CW, and Kantor, J. (2021) "Temperature, Disease, and Death in London: Analyzing Weekly Data for the Century from 1866-1965." *Journal of Economic History*, 81(1), pp. 40-80.

Hanlon, WW (2018) "London Fog: A Century of Pollution and Mortality, 1866-1965." NBER Working Paper No. 24488.

The data contain the following variables:

- Date – at weekly frequency
- Year
- Week – note that most years have 52 weeks, but some have 51 and others have 53
- Cause – cause of death – note that this variable has not been extensively cleaned. Many causes appear or disappear over time in the weekly reports, so this variable will not provide consistent series across the study period
- Category – this variable combines causes in order to generate series that are fairly (though not perfectly) consistent across the study period, though less detailed than the original causes provided in the Registrar General's reports
- Mortality variables starting with "age\_" for different age groups. These variables denote the number of deaths in each age group and cause category in each year. Note that the age groups for which mortality was reported changed over time, so only some series are consistent across the full 1870-1939 period.

Important notes:

- There is an "All Causes" category in the cause data, so be careful when collapsing the data
- The data for each year do not necessarily start on Jan 1, so it is important to be careful when trying to match the data to events occurring at daily frequency.