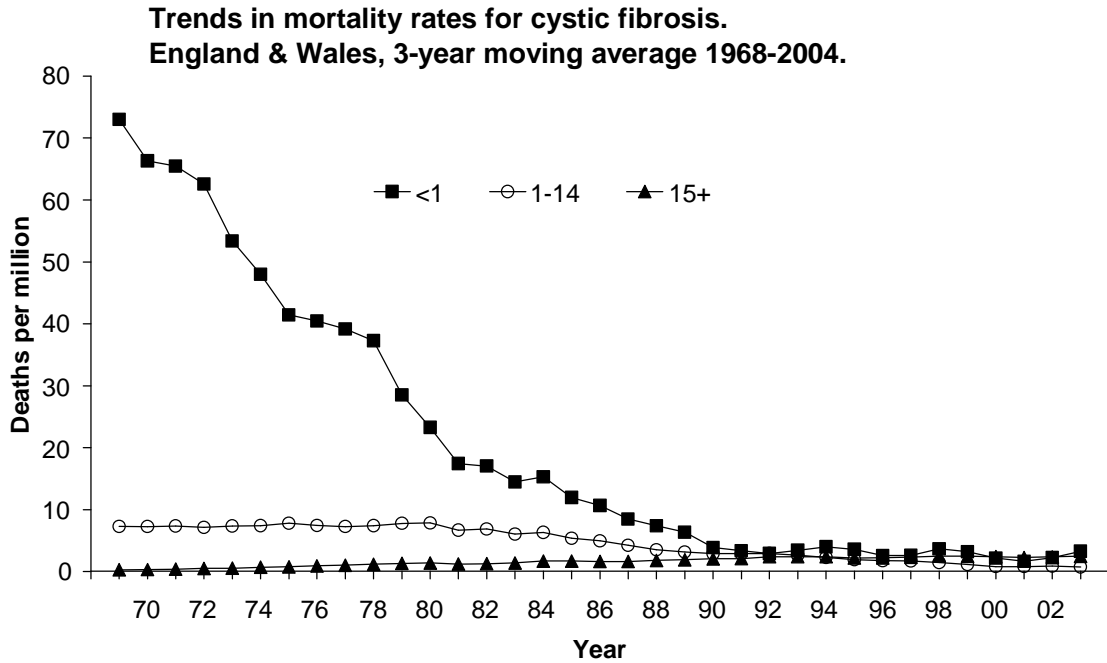


Trends in mortality rates for cystic fibrosis, England & Wales, 1968-2004.

There were 125 deaths attributed to cystic fibrosis in England & Wales in 2004 and total numbers have remained fairly steady over the last twenty years. However, the distribution of age at death has changed. There has been a marked decrease in deaths in children, particularly in children aged under 1, and a corresponding increase in deaths among adults as life expectancy has increased (figure 1).

Figure 1

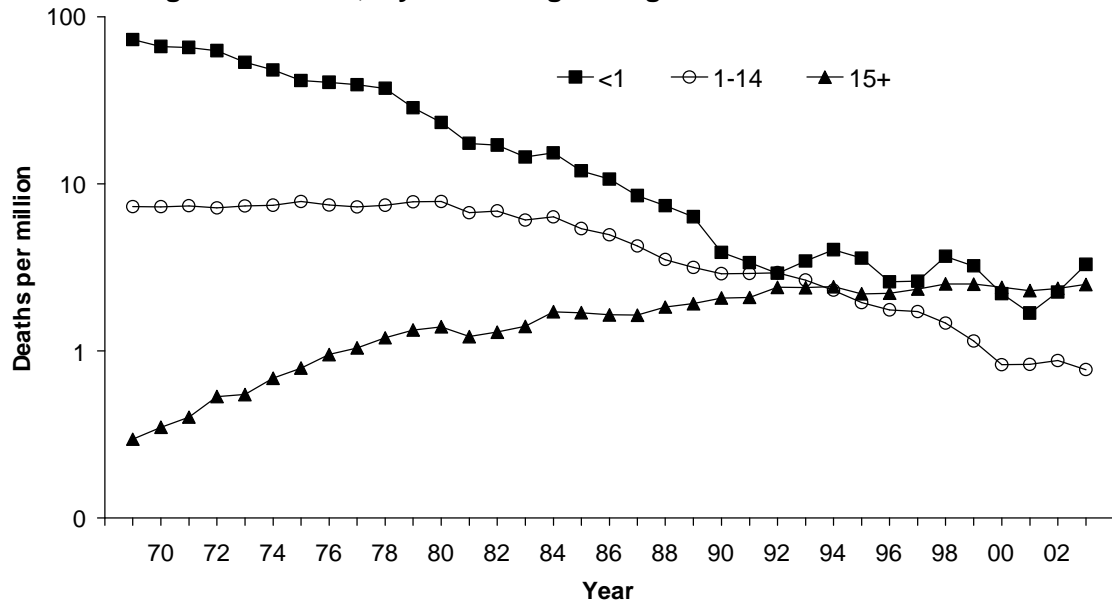


The data has been presented as a 3-year moving average. For example, the data point for 1970 is calculated as the average number of deaths for 1969-1971 divided by the average population for 1969-1971. This has the effect of smoothing the data making it easier to see patterns over time when the total number of deaths is low.

Figure 2 shows the same data on a log scale. This shows more clearly the decrease in mortality in children aged 1-14 years and the increasing mortality in adults.

Figure 2

**Trends in mortality rates for cystic fibrosis, log scale.
England & Wales, 3-year moving average 1968-2004.**



See also our earlier factsheet on cystic fibrosis (Factsheet 95/2).