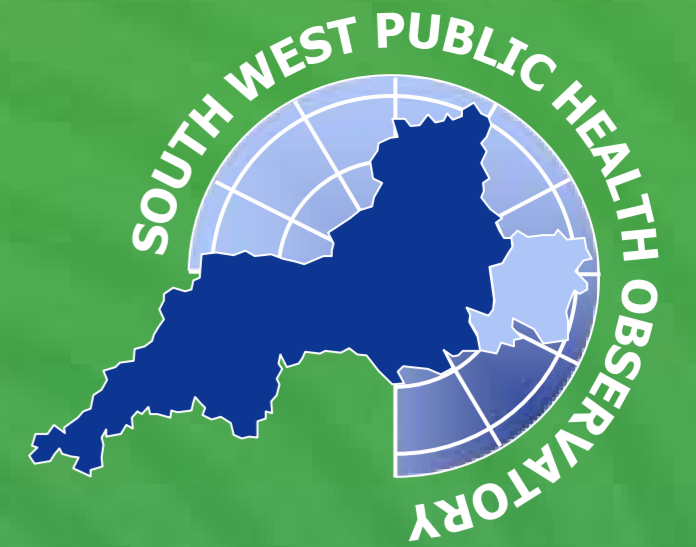


The Demographics of Dorset and their Effect on End of Life Care

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Introduction

The Weldmar Hospicecare Trust asked the South West Public Health Observatory (SWPHO) to look into the likely effects of future demographics on end of life care in Dorset. This analysis draws on ongoing investigations into end of life care for the National End of Life Care Intelligence Network.

Results

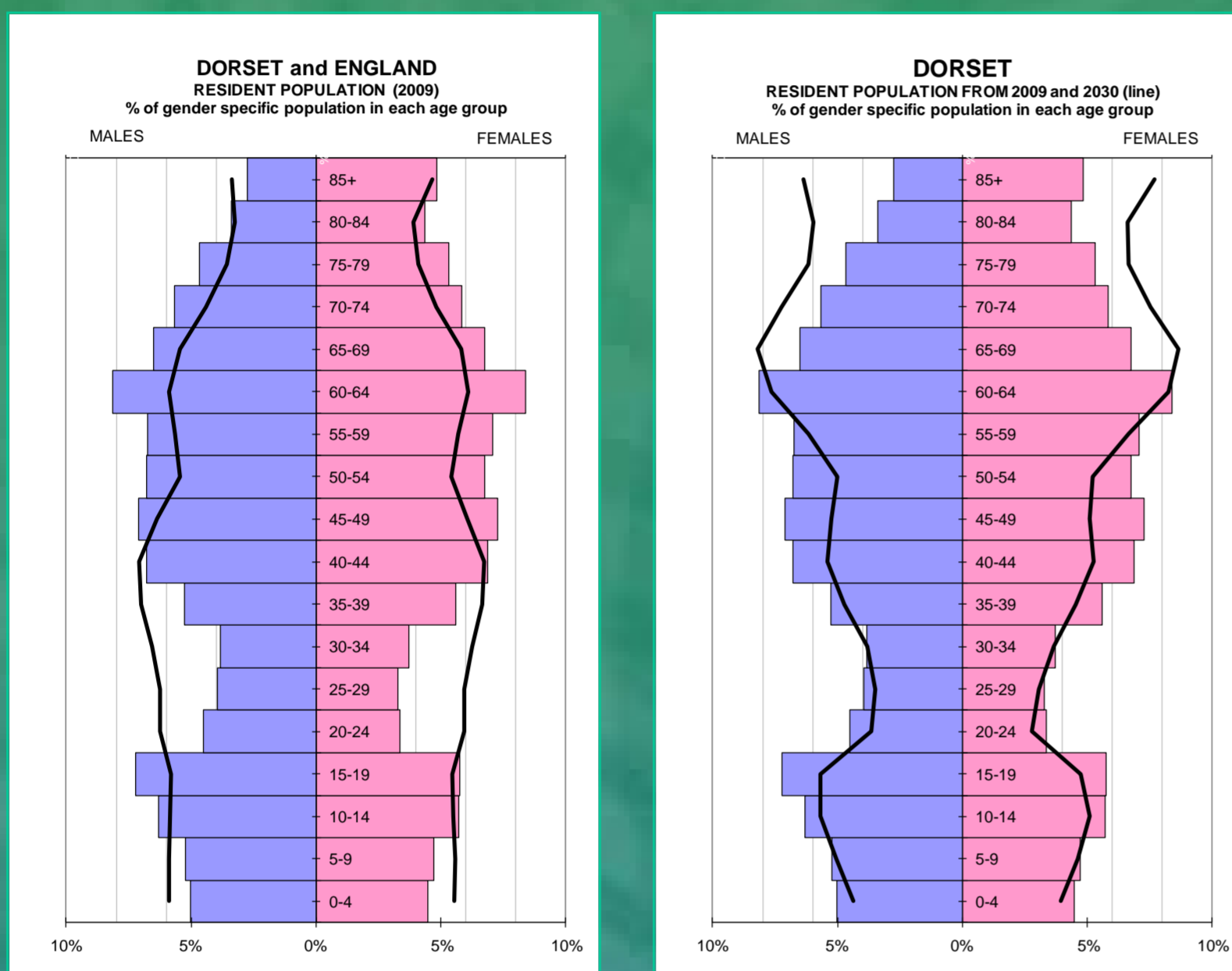
The population of Dorset is older than average and the proportion of people aged over 65 is expected to increase over the next 20 years (Figures 1 and 2). This is not due to people 'retiring in' but young adults leaving and families migrating in (Table 1).

Deaths in Dorset are set to increase in number, especially amongst the oldest people (Figure 3).

If falls in the mortality rates from stroke and heart disease seen in the last decade continue, the increased demand for end of life care may come from elderly people with cancer and respiratory disease (Figure 4).

Figures 1 and 2: Population distribution in Dorset and England, 2009 and 2030

(Dorset values in colour blocks, England values black line)



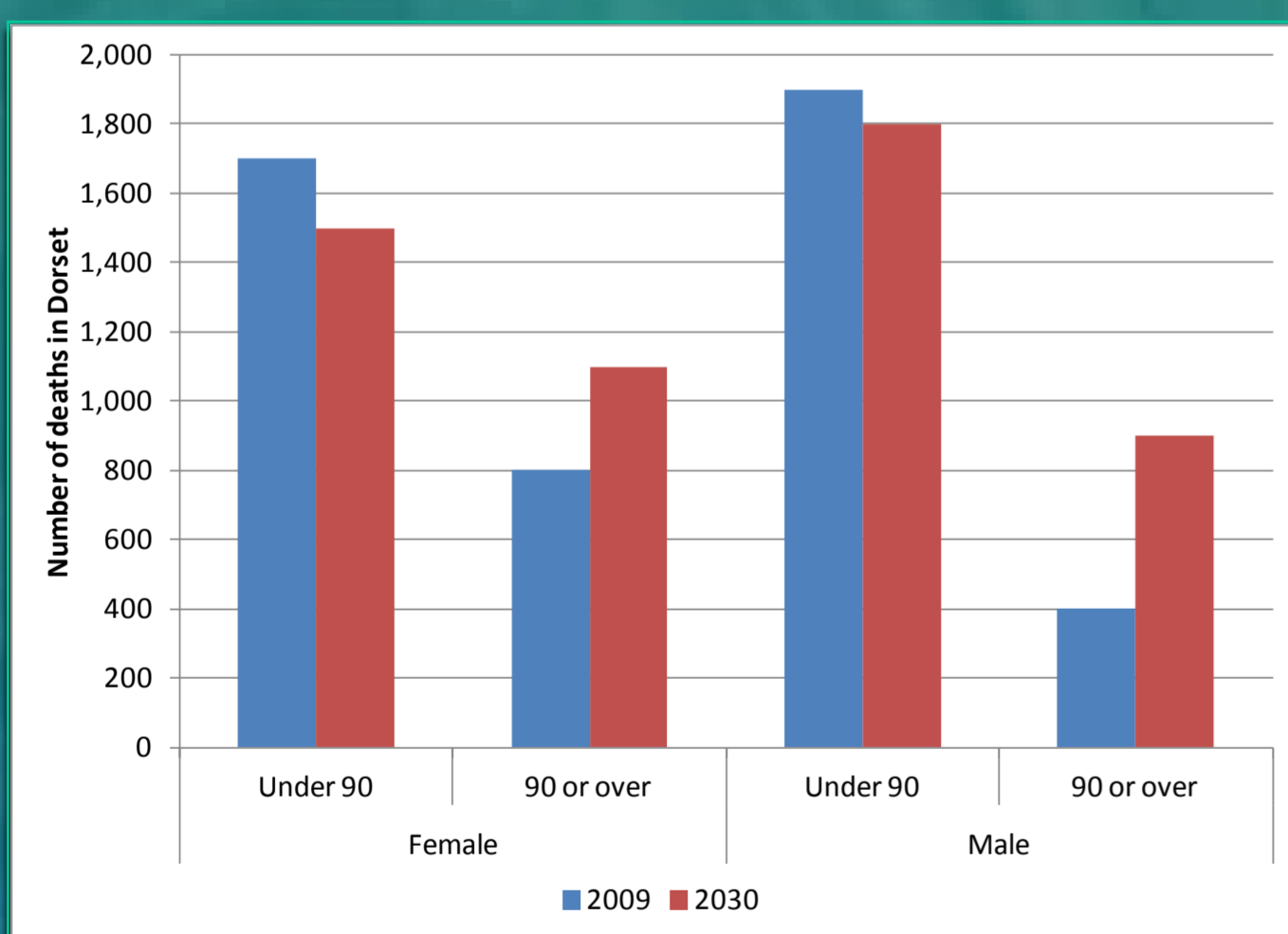
Source: Office for National Statistics

Table 1: Migrations in and out of Dorset (number of people)

	Inflow	Outflow	Balance
0-14	3,864	2,803	1,062
15-29	6,406	7,978	-1,571
30-44	4,910	3,945	969
45-64	4,463	3,339	1,125
65+	2,192	1,972	218
All ages	21,835	20,037	1,798

Source: Office for National Statistics and Dorset County Council

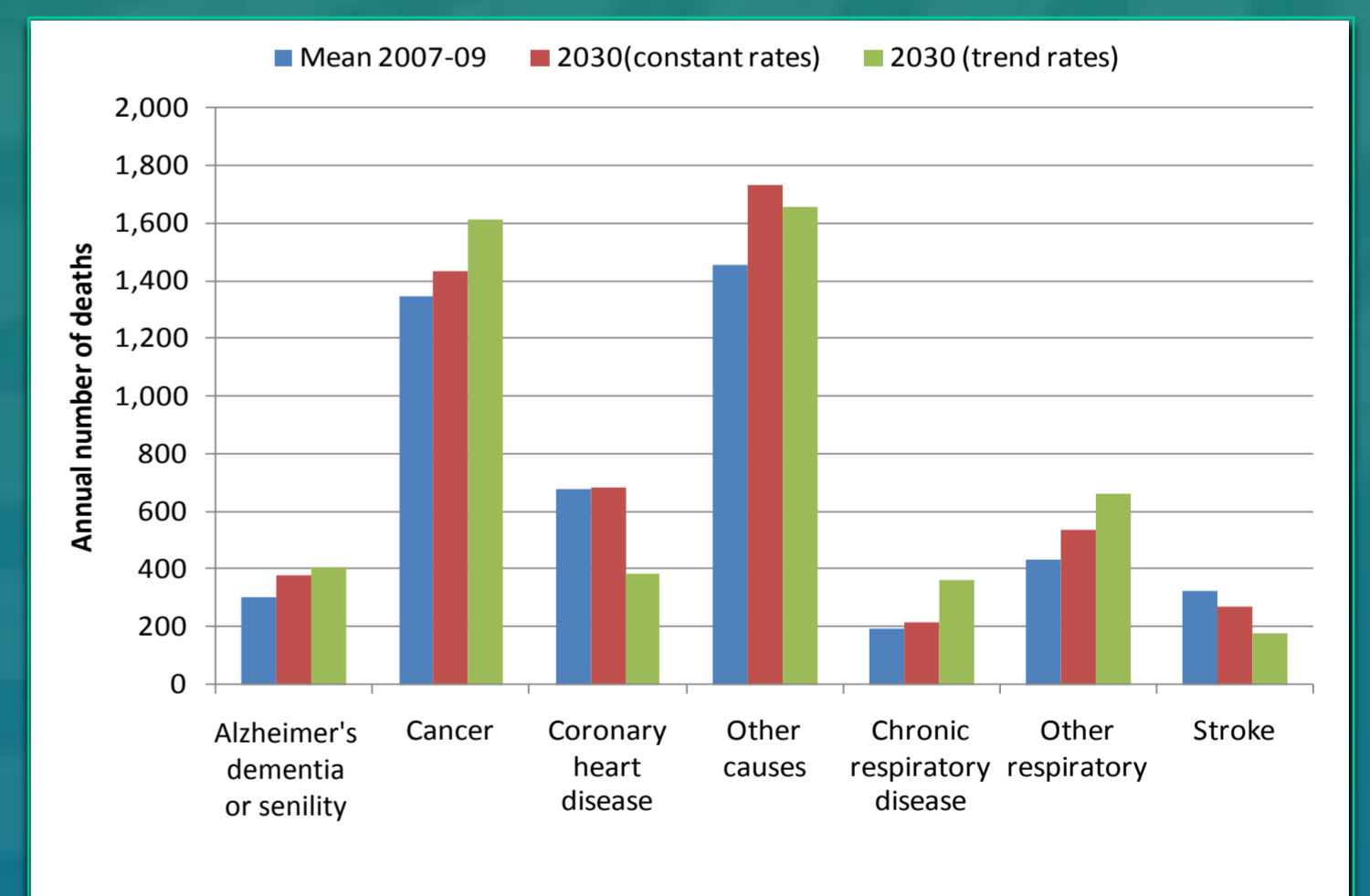
Figure 3: Deaths in Dorset, 2009 and 2030



Source: Office for National Statistics

Figure 4: Deaths in Dorset by cause, mean 2007/09 and projections for 2030

Two estimates for deaths in 2030, each based on 2030 population projections:
i) calculated assuming 2007-09 age- and sex-specific mortality rates remain constant
ii) calculated from trends of age- and sex-specific mortality rates (2001-09) projected to 2030.



Source: Office for National Statistics/South West Public Health Observatory

Conclusions

- More people will enjoy good health well into old age
- Total deaths will increase in the long term
- Older people are more likely to be coping with multiple co-morbidities at the end of life
- Likely increased demand for home-based social care
- Working population in Dorset is not expected to increase much
- Effects of migration make these issues more acute in Dorset

www.endoflifecare-intelligence.org.uk