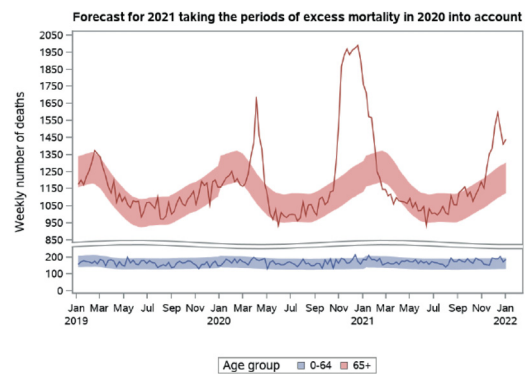
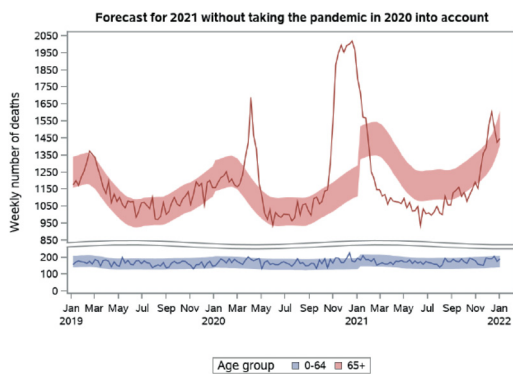




Mortality monitoring during the COVID-19 pandemic

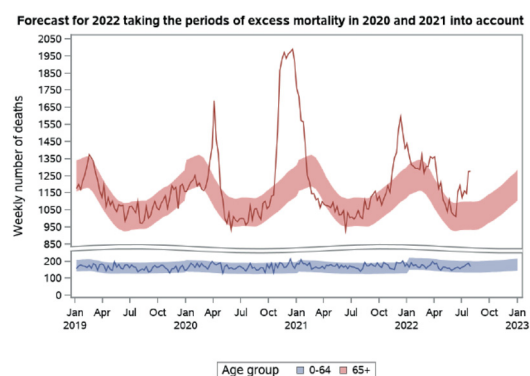
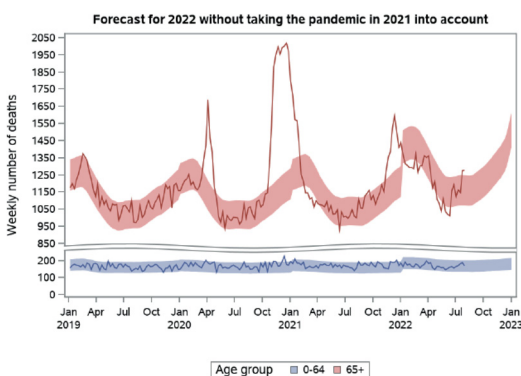
In Switzerland, a method for the monitoring of excess mortality was developed by the Federal Statistical Office (FSO) after the heat wave of 2003. The current national weekly mortality monitoring is in place since 2013. During the COVID-19 pandemic the system was a substantial part of the public health surveillance system and a reliable tool to trace mortality. A key concept is excess mortality, which is based on comparing weekly observed and expected numbers of deaths. Estimating expected weekly deaths based on deaths observed in previous years is therefore critical. Because of the high excess mortality during the 2020 pandemic, the estimates of the numbers of expected deaths for 2021 proved to be heavily biased upward when the standard estimation method was used. In order to continue weekly reporting, it was necessary to use the 2020 expected numbers for 2021 as well.



Periods of excess mortality

1. Period: 16.03.2020 – 19.04.2020
2. Period: 19.10.2020 – 31.01.2021
3. Period: 08.11.2021 – 09.01.2022

Subsequently, the estimation method was changed to take into account periods with excess mortality. For these periods, the observed numbers are replaced by the expected ones when the observation was more than one standard deviation above the expectation for the 65+ years of age group.



The extended method provided reliable estimates for the prognosis of mortality in 2021 and 2022.

