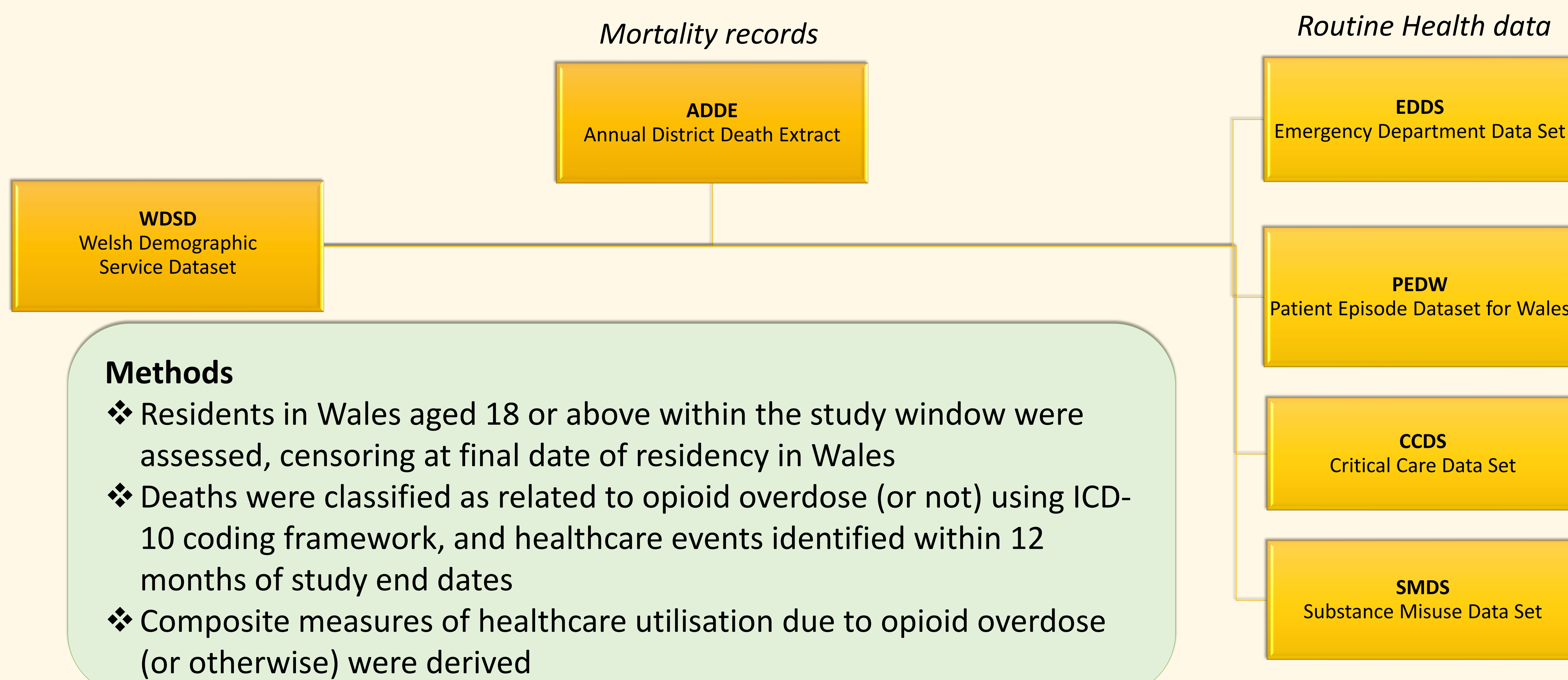


Introduction & Aim

- ❖ The incidence of fatal opioid overdoses is a growing and significant health concern in developed countries
- ❖ We aimed to describe demographic attributes and healthcare utilisation of individuals who died due to opioid overdose in Wales using routine data
- ❖ This research is a part of the TIME study on the feasibility of using Take-Home Naloxone kits to reduce deaths related to opioid overdose

Design & Data

- ❖ A retrospective cross-sectional analysis was conducted for data from January 1st 2015 to November 30th 2021
- ❖ Anonymised individual-level records from six Welsh data sources were linked within the SAIL databank



Methods

- ❖ Residents in Wales aged 18 or above within the study window were assessed, censoring at final date of residency in Wales
- ❖ Deaths were classified as related to opioid overdose (or not) using ICD-10 coding framework, and healthcare events identified within 12 months of study end dates
- ❖ Composite measures of healthcare utilisation due to opioid overdose (or otherwise) were derived

Results

Demographic characteristics

- ❖ 1,105 deaths related to opioid overdose
- ❖ Predominantly male (n=785, 71%), middle-aged (25% opioid overdoses aged 46-55; mean age: 44.3 years) and resident in the most deprived areas (40%)
- ❖ 50% of deaths were classified as accidental; heroin was explicitly noted in 60% of cases

Healthcare utilisation events 1 year prior to deaths

- ❖ Opioid overdose related: 144 (13%) cases in EDDS, 56 (5%) cases in PEDW and 165 (15%) cases in SMDS
- ❖ All other events: 682 (62%) cases in EDDS; 483 (44%) cases in PEDW; 118 (11%) cases in CCDS; 243 (22%) cases in SMDS

No healthcare event recorded

- ❖ Over a quarter of cases (n=307, 28%) had no recorded healthcare event, whether related to opioid overdose or other events

Conclusion

- ❖ People who died with an opioid related cause were predominantly male, middle-aged and more likely to live in relatively deprived areas
- ❖ Healthcare utilisation for opioid-related causes in 12 month prior to death was generally low
- ❖ 28% of decedents had no recorded contact at all with acute care providers