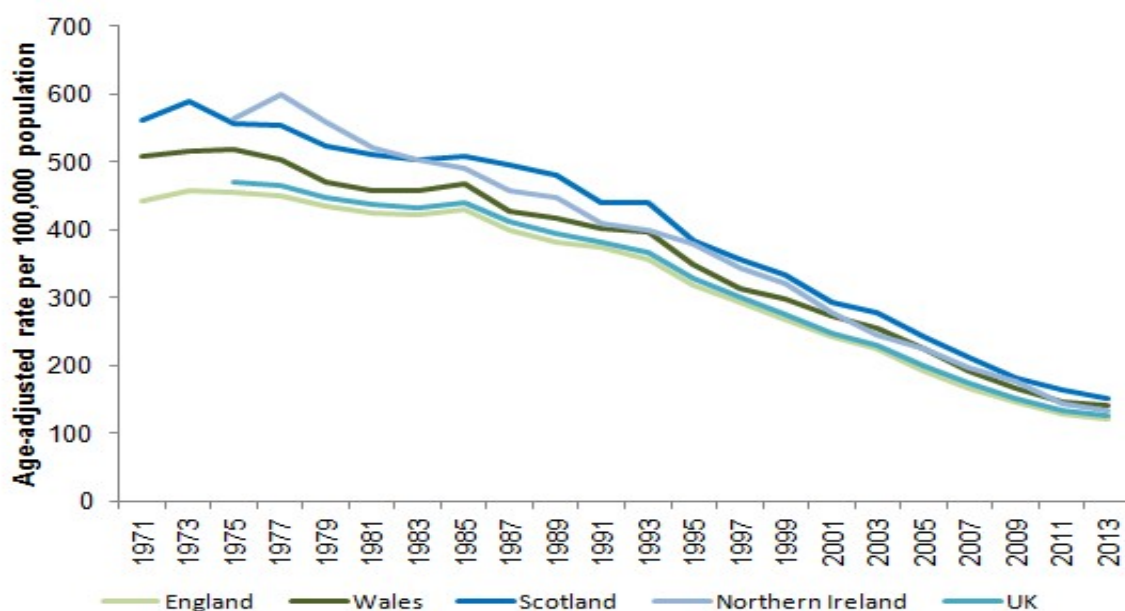


Coronary Artery Disease

Introduction

In recent years, the prognosis for patients with coronary artery disease has improved dramatically. Between 2007 and 2016, the mortality rate in Scotland fell by 39.6%¹. Similar falls in deaths occurred in the other three countries in the United Kingdom. Figure 1 gives further details of the decline in mortality in the UK countries since 1971.

Figure 1: Coronary artery disease mortality in United Kingdom, England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland Age-adjusted mortality rates per 100,000 population¹.



The decline is multi-factorial, and includes falling rates of cigarette smoking, improvements in the detection and management of hypertension and widespread use of statins to lower cholesterol. In addition, the development and timely use of thrombolysis and other interventions in acute coronary syndrome have had an impact².

The number of new cases of cardiovascular disease (CVD) has decreased over the past decade by 26.7% but it still remains one of the leading causes of death in