



# Weekly report on COVID-19 deaths reported in Ireland

Report produced by Health Protection Surveillance Centre on 01/12/2021

This report includes data for COVID-19 cases notified on CIDR up to and including midnight on 30/11/2021 who have been notified as COVID-19 deaths

Note: Data were extracted from Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system on 01/12/2021 and are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validation and update. As a result, figures in this report may differ from previously reported figures.

**Table 1: Summary characteristics of COVID-19 deaths notified in Ireland with date of death from 24/11/2021 to 30/11/2021**

Characteristics	Number of deaths	
Total number of deaths	23	
Age	Mean age (Years)	72
	Median age (Years)	72

The number of deaths described in the above table relate only to COVID-19 cases who died within this time period and whose death has been reported to CIDR up to 01/12/2021. It does not include deaths of COVID-19 cases reported to CIDR in the last week but with an earlier date of death. It also does not reflect the final number of deaths occurring for this period as the outcome may not yet have occurred, or is yet to be reported to CIDR.

**Table 2: Summary characteristics of COVID-19 deaths in Ireland, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 30/11/2021**

Characteristics		Number of Deaths	Percentage
<b>Total number of deaths</b>		5,707	
<b>Sex</b>	Female	2,665	46.7
	Male	3,042	53.3
	Unknown	0	0.0
	M:F ratio	1.14	
<b>Case classification*</b>	Possible	176	3.1
	Probable	98	1.7
	Confirmed	5,433	95.2
<b>Healthcare Worker</b>	Yes	19	0.3
	No	4,825	84.5
	Unknown	863	15.1
<b>Underlying Conditions</b>	Yes	4,854	85.1
	No	471	8.3
	Unknown	382	6.7
<b>ICU Admission</b>	Yes	672	11.8
	No	5,035	88.2

\* [Case definition](#)

**Table 3: Number and percentage of COVID-19 deaths and mortality rate per 100,000 in Ireland by age group, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 30/11/2021**

Characteristics		Number of Deaths	Percentage	Mortality rate per 100,000
<b>Age</b>	Median Age (Years)	82		
	Mean Age (Years)	80		
	Age range (Years)	14-105		
<b>Age group</b>	<25 yrs	7	0.1	0.4
	25-34 yrs	17	0.3	2.6
	35-44 yrs	43	0.8	5.8
	45-54 yrs	126	2.2	20.1
	55-64 yrs	342	6.0	67.2
	65-74 yrs	934	16.4	250.1
	75-84 yrs	1,906	33.4	970.0
	85+ yrs	2,329	40.8	3447.6
	Unknown	3	0.1	
	Total	5,707	100	119.8

Please note that due to the small number of persons who died due to COVID-19 in the age groups 0-25 years this information has been aggregated in order to protect patient confidentiality

**Table 4: Number and percentage of COVID-19 deaths and mortality rate per 100,000 in Ireland by county of notification, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 30/11/2021**

County	Number of deaths	Percentage	Mortality rate per 100,000
Carlow	77	1.3	135.2
Cavan	120	2.1	157.5
Clare	141	2.5	118.7
Cork	496	8.7	91.4
Donegal	218	3.8	136.9
Dublin	1,970	34.5	146.2
Galway	160	2.8	62.0
Kerry	91	1.6	61.6
Kildare	345	6.0	155.1
Kilkenny	92	1.6	92.7
Laois	96	1.7	113.3
Leitrim	29	0.5	90.5
Limerick	271	4.7	139.0
Longford	36	0.6	88.1
Louth	221	3.9	171.5
Mayo	221	3.9	169.3
Meath	178	3.1	91.3
Monaghan	105	1.8	171.0
Offaly	80	1.4	102.6
Roscommon	71	1.2	110.0
Sligo	40	0.7	61.0
Tipperary	118	2.1	74.0
Waterford	121	2.1	104.2
Westmeath	88	1.5	99.1
Wexford	161	2.8	107.5
Wicklow	161	2.8	113.0

**Table 5: Place of death for COVID-19 deaths in Ireland, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 30/11/2021**

Place of death	Number of deaths	Percentage
Hospital	2,921	51.2
Residential Institution*	2,020	35.4
Hospice	60	1.1
Home	238	4.2
Other	88	1.5
Unknown	380	6.7

\*Residential institution includes: community hospital/long stay unit, homeless facility, mental health facility and nursing homes.

**Table 6: Summary of COVID-19 deaths linked to outbreaks in Ireland, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 30/11/2021**

	Number of Deaths	Percentage
<b>Deaths linked to outbreaks</b>	3,597	63.0
<b>Outbreaks by location</b>		
Nursing homes	2,227	61.9
Hospital	851	23.7
Community Hospitals/Long-stay units	145	4.0
Residential institutions	108	3.0
Other locations*	266	7.4

\* Other locations include community outbreak, extended family, hotel, other, other healthcare service, private house, public house, religious/other ceremony, workplace

A death linked to an outbreak in a particular setting does not of itself indicate that transmission occurred within that setting. A case may be detected as part of an outbreak investigation, and associated with an outbreak, despite exposure and transmission having occurred elsewhere.

**Table 7: Number of COVID-19 deaths in Ireland by month of death, cases with a date of notification from March 2020 to December 2021**

Year	Month	Number of deaths *
2020	March	129
2020	April	1,162
2020	May	363
2020	June	67
2020	July	17
2020	August	7
2020	September	39
2020	October	132
2020	November	190
2020	December	196
2021	January	1,420
2021	February	892
2021	March	258
2021	April	101
2021	May	42
2021	June	19
2021	July	20
2021	August	84
2021	September	176
2021	October	205
2021	November	160

\* Date of death reported for 5,679 of the deaths.  
 Number of deaths for December 2021 is incomplete.

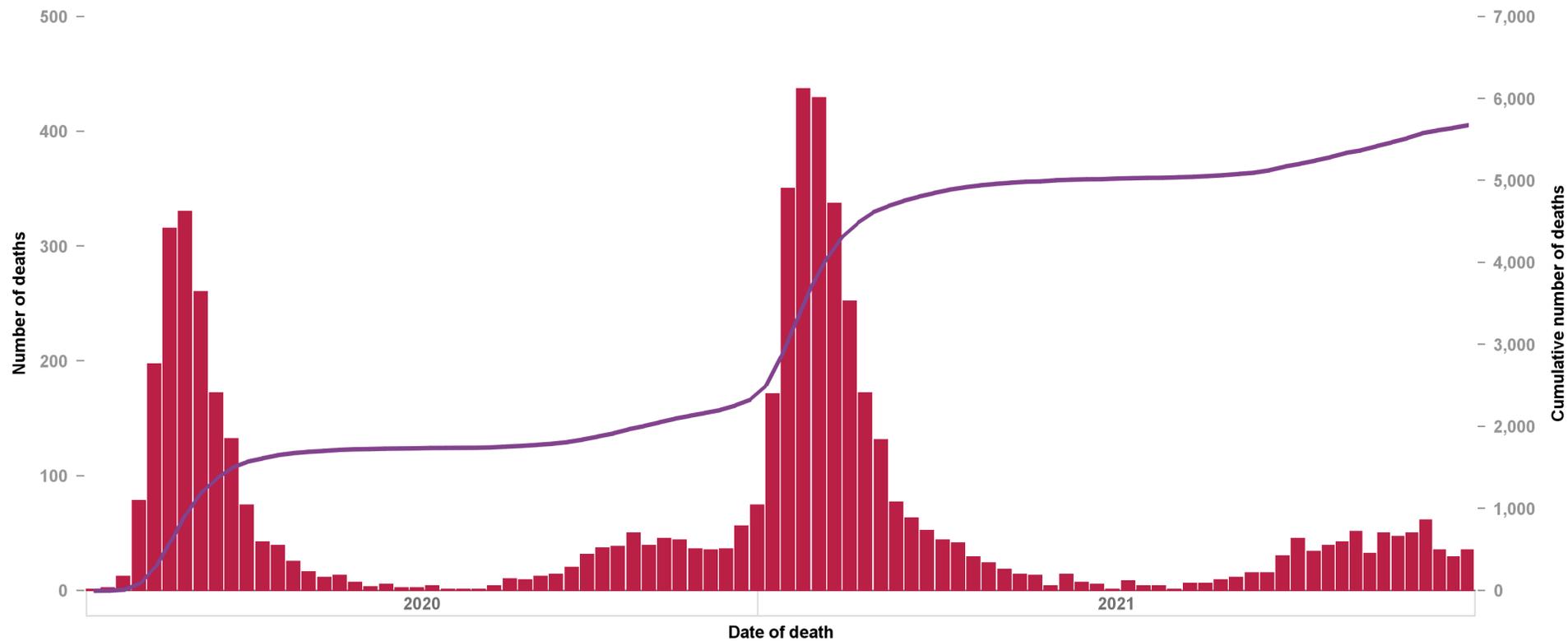


Figure 1: Total number of COVID-19 deaths in Ireland and cumulative number by week of death, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 30/11/2021. Date of death reported for 5,679 of deaths.

## **Acknowledgments**

Sincere thanks are extended to all those who are participating in the collection of data and reporting of data used in these reports. This includes the HSE COVID-19 Contact Management Programme (CMP), staff in ICU units, notifying clinicians, laboratory staff, public health doctors, nurses, surveillance scientists, microbiologists and administrative staff.

**Report prepared by COVID-19 Epidemiology Team, HPSC**

## Technical Notes

### 1. Data Source

Data are based on statutory notifications and were extracted from Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system at 09:04 on 01/12/2021. Data are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validation and update. As a result, figures in this report may differ from previously published figures.

### 2. Population Data

Population data were taken from Census 2016. Data were aggregated into the following age groups for the analysis of deaths for the entire pandemic: 0-24 years, 25-34 years, 35-44 years, 45-54 years, 55-64 years, 65-74 years, 75-84 years and  $\geq 85$  years. Data were aggregated into the following age groups for the analysis of deaths with date of death in the past 7 days: 0-64 years, 65-74 years, 75-84 years and  $\geq 85$  years.

### 3. Definition of a COVID-19 death used by HPSC

For surveillance purposes, COVID-19 deaths include deaths in all possible, probable and confirmed COVID-19 cases (as per the COVID-19 case definition) and all should be notified, unless there is a clear alternative cause of death that cannot be related to COVID-19 infection (e.g. trauma). There should be no period of complete recovery\* from COVID-19 between the illness and death. All COVID-19 deaths are notified regardless of the setting, including home, community and hospital settings. HPSC reports all deaths among these COVID-19 cases as outlined above and does not just confine the death reporting to those who die within 28 days of a positive test. This is in line with how COVID-19 cases are reported by the majority of European countries and follows WHO guidance for COVID-19 death surveillance.

\*Please note that discharge from ICU or hospital is not in itself evidence of recovery. To determine if the case had recovered, it should be based on clinical assessment or alternatively a period of  $\geq 3$  months must have elapsed since the case was initially diagnosed with COVID-19 and the case must have no evidence of COVID-19 infection prior to death as assessed by a clinician.

Deaths not reported as COVID-19 deaths:

1. Persons with COVID-19 may die directly due to accidents. Such deaths are not due to COVID-19 and should not be certified as such. This decision not to certify as COVID-19 death will be based on clinical judgement.
2. In some instances, a death due to COVID-19 may not be attributed to another disease (e.g. cancer) and would be counted as a COVID-19 death independently of pre-existing conditions that are suspected of triggering a severe course of COVID-19.

More resources:

[COVID-19 interim case definition](#)

[Epidemiology of COVID-19 in Ireland Frequently Asked Questions](#)