



Weekly report on COVID-19 deaths reported in Ireland

Report produced by Health Protection Surveillance Centre on 27/10/2021

This report includes data for COVID-19 cases notified on CIDR up to and including midnight on 26/10/2021 who have been notified as COVID-19 deaths

Note: Data were extracted from Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system on 27/10/2021 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 20/10/2021 to 26/10/2021

Characteristics	Number of deaths	
Total number of deaths	14	
Age	Mean age (Years)	83
	Median age (Years)	83

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 27/10/2021. 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 26/10/2021

Characteristics		Number of Deaths	Percentage
Total number of deaths		5,436	
Sex	Female	2,571	47.3
	Male	2,865	52.7
	Unknown	0	0.0
	M:F ratio	1.11	
Case classification*	Possible	175	3.2
	Probable	97	1.8
	Confirmed	5,164	95.0
Healthcare Worker	Yes	18	0.3
	No	4,661	85.7
	Unknown	757	13.9
Underlying Conditions	Yes	4,692	86.3
	No	425	7.8
	Unknown	319	5.9
ICU Admission	Yes	595	10.9
	No	4,841	89.1

* [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 26/10/2021

Characteristics		Number of Deaths	Percentage	Mortality rate per 100,000
Age	Median Age (Years)	83		
	Mean Age (Years)	80		
	Age range (Years)	17-105		
Age group	<25 yrs	5	0.1	0.3
	25-34 yrs	15	0.3	2.3
	35-44 yrs	40	0.7	5.4
	45-54 yrs	113	2.1	18.0
	55-64 yrs	301	5.5	59.1
	65-74 yrs	870	16.0	232.9
	75-84 yrs	1,827	33.6	929.8
	85+ yrs	2,262	41.6	3348.4
	Unknown	3	0.1	
	Total	5,436	100	114.2

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 26/10/2021

County	Number of deaths	Percentage	Mortality rate per 100,000
Carlow	73	1.3	128.2
Cavan	119	2.2	156.2
Clare	128	2.4	107.7
Cork	470	8.6	86.6
Donegal	202	3.7	126.9
Dublin	1,910	35.1	141.8
Galway	151	2.8	58.5
Kerry	72	1.3	48.7
Kildare	340	6.3	152.8
Kilkenny	86	1.6	86.7
Laois	90	1.7	106.3
Leitrim	25	0.5	78.0
Limerick	251	4.6	128.8
Longford	32	0.6	78.3
Louth	207	3.8	160.6
Mayo	216	4.0	165.5
Meath	170	3.1	87.2
Monaghan	103	1.9	167.8
Offaly	78	1.4	100.1
Roscommon	64	1.2	99.2
Sligo	38	0.7	58.0
Tipperary	107	2.0	67.1
Waterford	115	2.1	99.0
Westmeath	79	1.5	89.0
Wexford	156	2.9	104.2
Wicklow	154	2.8	108.1

Table 5: Place of death for COVID-19 deaths in Ireland, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 26/10/2021

Place of death	Number of deaths	Percentage
Hospital	2,742	50.4
Residential Institution*	1,980	36.4
Hospice	55	1.0
Home	216	4.0
Other	79	1.5
Unknown	364	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 26/10/2021

	Number of Deaths	Percentage
Deaths linked to outbreaks	3,509	64.6
Outbreaks by location		
Nursing homes	2,185	62.3
Hospital	825	23.5
Community Hospitals/Long-stay units	139	4.0
Residential institutions	103	2.9
Other locations*	257	7.3

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

Regarding deaths associated with COVID-19 hospital outbreaks notified to the HPSC, it cannot be automatically assumed that all of these cases acquired their infection in hospital as this information is not always reported to the surveillance system.

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

Year	Month	Number of deaths *
2020	March	129
2020	April	1,161
2020	May	363
2020	June	67
2020	July	17
2020	August	7
2020	September	39
2020	October	132
2020	November	189
2020	December	194
2021	January	1,421
2021	February	892
2021	March	258
2021	April	99
2021	May	42
2021	June	18
2021	July	21
2021	August	81
2021	September	164
2021	October	116

* Date of death reported for 5,410 of the deaths.
 Number of deaths for October 2021 is incomplete.

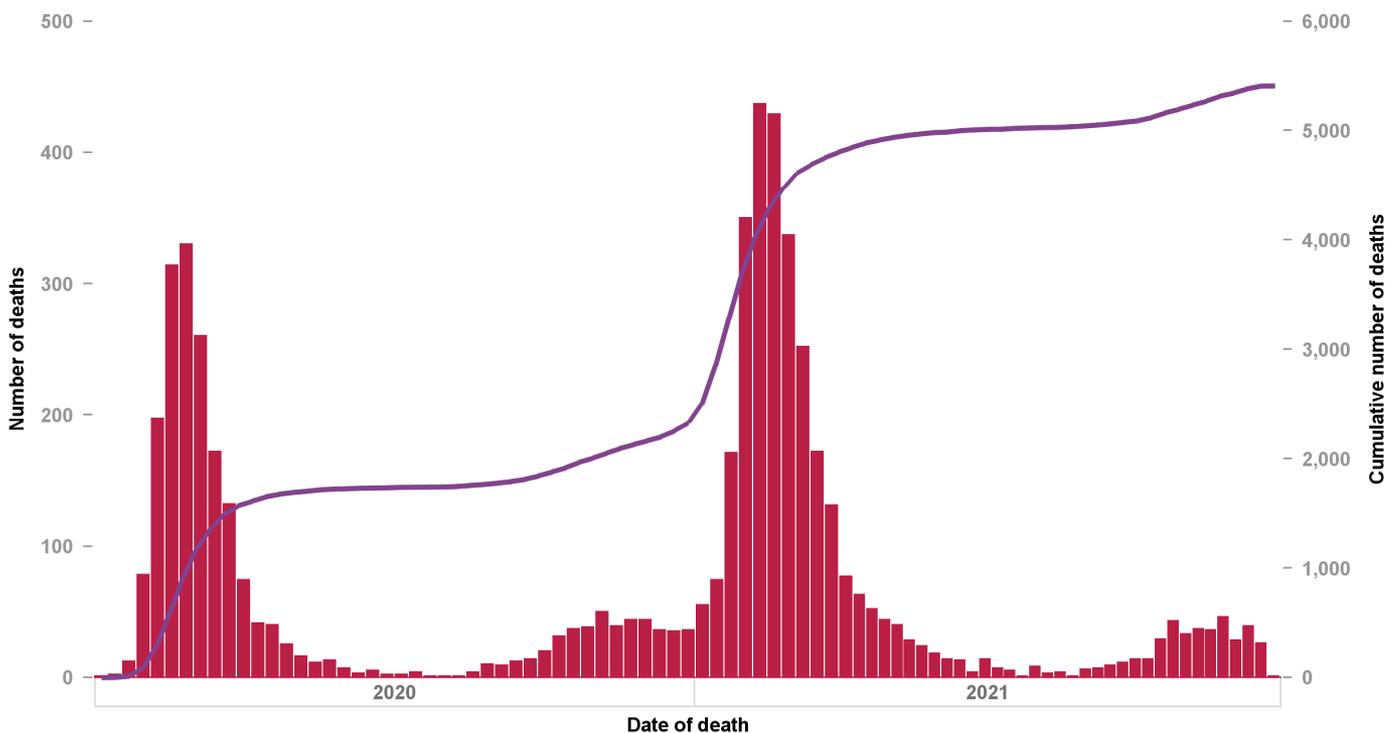


Figure 1: Total number of COVID-19 deaths in Ireland and cumulative number by week of death, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 26/10/2021. Date of death reported for 5,410 of deaths.

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.

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Technical Notes

1. Data Source

Data are based on statutory notifications and were extracted from Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system at 08:02 on 27/10/2021. 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 ≥ 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 ≥ 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 ≥ 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](#)