Report on COVID-19 deaths reported in Ireland

Report produced by Health Protection Surveillance Centre on 12/12/2022

This report includes data for COVID-19 cases notified on CIDR up to and including midnight on 10/12/2022 00:00:00 who have been notified as COVID-19 deaths

The HPSC Epidemiology of COVID-19 Data Hub provides a breakdown of notified deaths by county, age group and place of death. The Data Hub is updated each Wednesday.

Note: Data were extracted from Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system on 12/12/2022 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 13/11/2022 00:00:00 to 10/12/2022 00:00:00

Characteristics		Number of deaths
Total number of deaths		63
Age	Mean age (Years)	79
	Median age (Years)	82

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 12/12/2022. It does not include deaths of COVID-19 cases reported to CIDR in the last four weeks 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 10/12/2022 00:00:00

Characteristics		Number of Deaths	Percentage
Total number of deaths		8,223	
Sex	Female	3,819	46.4
	Male	4,404	53.6
	Unknown	0	0.0
	M:F ratio	1.15	
Case classification*	Possible	286	3.5
	Probable	142	1.7
	Confirmed	7,795	94.8
Healthcare Worker	Yes	23	0.3
	No	5,873	71.4
	Unknown	2,327	28.3
Underlying Conditions	Yes	6,213	75.6
	No	843	10.3
	Unknown	1,167	14.2
ICU Admission	Yes	927	11.3
	No	7,296	88.7

* 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 10/12/2022 00:00:00

Characteristics		Number of Deaths	Percentage	Mortality rate per 100,000
Age	Median Age (Years)	82		
	Mean Age (Years)	80		
Age group	<25 yrs	16	0.2	0.8
	25-34 yrs	33	0.4	5.0
	35-44 yrs	86	1.0	11.5
	45-54 yrs	210	2.6	33.5
	55-64 yrs	523	6.4	102.8
	65-74 yrs	1,348	16.4	360.9
	75-84 yrs	2,667	32.4	1357.2
	85+ yrs	3,335	40.6	4936.7
	Unknown	5	0.1	
	Total	8,223	100	172.7

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 10/12/2022 00:00:00

County	Number of deaths	Percentage	Mortality rate per 100,000
Carlow	114	1.4	200.2
Cavan	164	2.0	215.3
Clare	196	2.4	165.0
Cork	730	8.9	134.5
Donegal	298	3.6	187.2
Dublin	2,664	32.4	197.7
Galway	309	3.8	119.7
Kerry	183	2.2	123.9
Kildare	439	5.3	197.3
Kilkenny	152	1.8	153.2
Laois	144	1.8	170.0
Leitrim	45	0.5	140.4
Limerick	368	4.5	188.8
Longford	56	0.7	137.0
Louth	309	3.8	239.8
Mayo	332	4.0	254.4
Meath	271	3.3	138.9
Monaghan	129	1.6	210.1
Offaly	127	1.5	162.9
Roscommon	119	1.4	184.4
Sligo	63	0.8	96.1
Tipperary	198	2.4	124.1
Waterford	189	2.3	162.7
Westmeath	140	1.7	157.7
Wexford	252	3.1	168.3
Wicklow	232	2.8	162.9

Table 5: Place of death for COVID-19 deaths in Ireland, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 10/12/2022 00:00:00

Place of death	Number of deaths	Percentage
Hospital	4,467	54.3
Residential Institution*	2,473	30.1
Hospice	105	1.3
Home	504	6.1
Other	159	1.9
Unknown	515	6.3

*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 10/12/2022 00:00:00

		Number of Deaths	Percentage of total deaths	Percentage of deaths linked to outbreaks
Total number of deaths		8,223	100.0	
Deaths linked to outbreaks		4,355	53.0	100.0
Outbreaks by location	Nursing homes	2,643	32.1	60.7
	Hospital	1,099	13.4	25.2
	Community Hospitals/Long-stay units	210	2.6	4.8
	Residential institutions	127	1.5	2.9
	Other locations*	276	3.4	6.3

* 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 from March 2020 to December 2022

Year	Month	Number of deaths *
2020	March	129
2020	April	1,157
2020	May	363
2020	June	67
2020	July	17
2020	August	7
2020	September	39
2020	October	132
2020	November	190
2020	December	193
2021	January	1,424
2021	February	893
2021	March	258
2021	April	104
2021	May	45
2021	June	22
2021	July	23
2021	August	94
2021	September	193
2021	October	240
2021	November	276
2021	December	261
2022	January	327
2022	February	230
2022	March	343
2022	April	361
2022	May	133
2022	June	116
2022	July	187
2022	August	114
2022	September	63
2022	October	130
2022	November	92
2022	December	13

Number of deaths for December 2022 is incomplete.

* Date of death reported for 8,236 of the deaths.

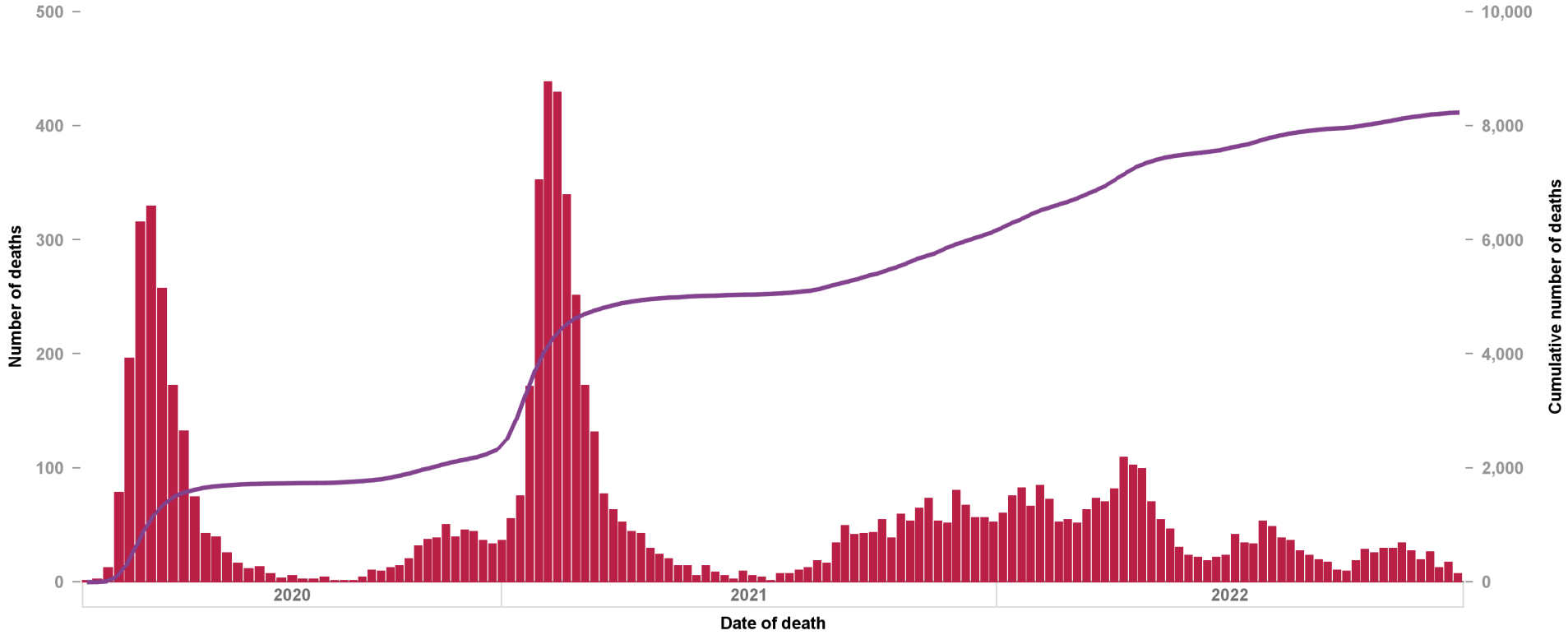

Figure 1: Total number of COVID-19 deaths in Ireland and cumulative number by week of death, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 10/12/2022 00:00:00. Date of death reported for 8,236 of deaths.

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 08:47 on 12/12/2022. 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 or ≥ 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