

Statistical bulletin

Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales, provisional: week ending 11 December 2020

Provisional counts of the number of deaths registered in England and Wales, including deaths involving the coronavirus (COVID-19), by age, sex and region, in the latest weeks for which data are available.



Contact:
Sarah Caul
health.data@ons.gov.uk
+44 (0)1329 444110

Release date:
22 December 2020

Next release:
30 December 2020

Table of contents

1. [Main points](#)
2. [Deaths registered by week](#)
3. [Deaths registered by age group](#)
4. [Deaths by region in England and Wales](#)
5. [Deaths registered by place of occurrence](#)
6. [Deaths registered in the UK](#)
7. [Comparison of weekly deaths occurrence in England and Wales](#)
8. [Deaths data](#)
9. [Glossary](#)
10. [Measuring the data](#)
11. [Strengths and limitations](#)
12. [Related links](#)

1 . Main points

- The number of deaths registered in England and Wales in the week ending 11 December 2020 (Week 50) was 12,292; this was 11 fewer deaths than in Week 49.
- In Week 50, the number of deaths registered was 14.3% above the five-year average (1,542 deaths higher).
- Of the deaths registered in Week 50, 2,756 mentioned "novel coronavirus (COVID-19)", accounting for 22.4% of all deaths in England and Wales, a decrease of 79 deaths compared with Week 49; this is the second consecutive decrease.
- Of the 2,756 deaths involving COVID-19, 2,337 had this recorded as the underlying cause of death (84.8%).
- Of the 2,598 deaths that involved Influenza and Pneumonia, 320 had this recorded as the underlying cause of death (12.3%).
- The number of deaths in hospitals, care homes and private homes was above the five-year average in Week 50.
- In England, the total number of deaths increased from 11,450 (Week 49) to 11,460 (Week 50); all English regions had a higher number of deaths than the five-year average for the fifth week in a row.
- In Week 50, the number of deaths involving COVID-19 in England decreased for the second consecutive week to 2,530 deaths; the number of deaths involving COVID-19 decreased in all English regions except the East Midlands, the East of England and the South East of England.
- In Wales, the number of deaths involving COVID-19 increased from 207 deaths (Week 49) to 223 deaths (Week 50), while the total number of deaths in Week 50 was 121 deaths higher than the five-year average.
- We estimate that the number of deaths actually occurring (rather than registered) in Week 50 in England and Wales was between 10,924 and 13,523.
- The number of deaths registered in the UK in the week ending 11 December 2020 was 13,910, which was 1,625 deaths higher than the five-year average; of the deaths registered in the UK in Week 50, 3,062 deaths involved COVID-19, 98 deaths fewer than in Week 49.

[Back to table of contents](#)

2 . Deaths registered by week

Figure 1: The number of deaths was above the five-year average in Week 50

Number of deaths registered by week, England and Wales, 28 December 2019 to 11 December 2020

Notes:

1. Figures exclude deaths of non-residents.
2. Based on date a death was registered rather than occurred.
3. All figures for 2020 are provisional.
4. The number of deaths registered in Weeks 19, 20, 22, 23, 36 and 37 were affected by the Early May, Late May and August Bank Holidays (Friday 8 May 2020 in Week 19, Monday 25 May 2020 in Week 22 and Monday 31 August 2020); the impact of the Early May Bank Holiday was analysed in our [Week 20 bulletin](#).

[Download the data](#)

The provisional number of deaths registered in England and Wales decreased from 12,303 in Week 49 (week ending 4 December 2020) to 12,292 in Week 50 (week ending 11 December 2020). The number of deaths was 14.3% above the five-year average (1,542 deaths higher).

In England, the number of deaths increased from 11,450 in Week 49 to 11,460 in Week 50, which was 1,426 deaths (14.2%) higher than the Week 50 five-year average (Figure 1).

In Wales, the number of deaths decreased from 836 in Week 49 to 814 in Week 50, which was 121 deaths (17.5%) higher than the Week 50 five-year average (Figure 1).

Figure 2: The number of deaths involving COVID-19 decreased in Week 50

Deaths involving and due to COVID-19, and Influenza and Pneumonia, England and Wales, deaths registered in 2020

Notes:

1. Figures include deaths of non-residents.
2. Based on date a death was registered rather than occurred.
3. All figures for 2020 are provisional.
4. The International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition (ICD-10) definitions are as follows: coronavirus (COVID-19) (U07.1 and U07.2) and Influenza and Pneumonia (J09-J18).
5. A death can be registered with both COVID-19 and Influenza and Pneumonia mentioned on the death certificate. Deaths where both were mentioned have been counted in both categories.
6. We use the term "due to COVID-19" or "due to Influenza and Pneumonia" when referring only to deaths where that illness was recorded as the underlying cause of death. We use the term "involving COVID-19" or "involving Influenza and Pneumonia" when referring to deaths that had that illness mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, whether as an underlying cause or not.
7. The number of deaths registered in Weeks 19, 20, 22, 23, 36 and 37 were affected by the Early May, Late May and August Bank Holidays (Friday 8 May 2020 in Week 19, Monday 25 May 2020 in Week 22 and Monday 31 August 2020); the impact of the Early May Bank Holiday was analysed in our [Week 20 bulletin](#).

[Download the data](#)

The number of death registrations in England and Wales involving the coronavirus (COVID-19) decreased, from 2,835 in Week 49 to 2,756 in Week 50 – a 2.8% decrease. This is the second consecutive decrease. Of all deaths registered in Week 50, 22.4% mentioned COVID-19.

In England, the number of deaths involving COVID-19 was 2,530, 22.1% of all deaths. In Wales, 223 deaths involved COVID-19, 27.4% of all deaths.

Of the 2,756 deaths that involved COVID-19, 2,337 had this recorded as the underlying cause of death (84.8%, Figure 2). Of the 2,598 deaths that involved Influenza and Pneumonia, 320 had this coded as the underlying cause of death (12.3%).

Deaths that involved both COVID-19 and Influenza and Pneumonia have been included in both categories for consistency when comparing with the underlying cause of death. Influenza and Pneumonia has been included for comparison, as a well-understood cause of death involving respiratory infection that is likely to have somewhat similar risk factors to COVID-19. More detailed analysis is available in our [Deaths due to coronavirus \(COVID-19\) compared with deaths from influenza and pneumonia](#) release.

We have developed an experimental [statistical model](#) to estimate the number of deaths that actually occurred in a given week, rather than the number registered. For Week 49, we estimate that 12,595 deaths occurred in England and Wales, with a 95% [confidence interval](#) of 12,246 to 13,026.

Based on an incomplete count of registrations in Week 50, we estimate that the number of deaths occurring in Week 50 is likely to be 12,097, with a 95% confidence interval of 10,924 to 13,523.

These are provisional estimates that assume the pattern of occurrences can be predicted based on experience in previous years. The estimate for the most recent week always has a wider margin of error than for earlier weeks, so it should be treated with caution.

Figure 3: Deaths not involving COVID-19 remained below the five-year average in Week 50

Number of deaths registered by week, England and Wales, 28 December 2019 to 11 December 2020

Notes:

1. Figures include deaths of non-residents.
2. Based on date a death was registered rather than occurred.
3. All figures for 2020 are provisional.
4. The International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition (ICD-10) definitions are as follows; coronavirus (COVID-19) (U07.1 and U07.2).

[Download the data](#)

Between Weeks 1 and 12 in 2020, 138,916 deaths were registered, which was 4,822 fewer than the five-year average for these weeks. However, between Weeks 13 and 50, 440,598 deaths were registered, which was 72,709 more than the five-year average.

Using the most up-to-date data we have available, the number of deaths up to 11 December 2020 was 579,491, which is 67,864 more than the five-year average. Of the deaths registered by 11 December 2020, 72,546 mentioned COVID-19 on the death certificate. This is 12.5% of all deaths in England and Wales.

In England, the number of deaths up to 11 December 2020 was 543,335, which is 65,251 (13.6%) more than the five-year average. Of these, 68,341 deaths (12.6%) mentioned COVID-19.

In Wales, the number of deaths up to 11 December 2020 was 35,356, which is 3,261 (10.2%) more than the five-year average. Of these, 4,115 deaths (11.6%) mentioned COVID-19.

3 . Deaths registered by age group

In Week 50 (week ending 11 December 2020), the number of deaths involving the coronavirus (COVID-19) in England and Wales decreased in all age groups aged over 70 years [compared with Week 49](#), except for in people aged 90 years and over where there was an increase (12 more deaths). The biggest decrease was seen in those aged 70 to 74 years (30 fewer deaths). The biggest increase was seen in those aged 60 to 64 years (21 more deaths). Three-quarters of deaths involving COVID-19 were in people aged 75 years and over.

Across Weeks 1 to 50 of 2020, 55.4% of all deaths involving COVID-19 were in males. There were more deaths in females aged 85 years and over (16,247) than males aged 85 years and over (14,040). However, these numbers do not account for the [population structure](#) where there are more women aged over 85 years than men.

Looking at excess deaths by age group, the number of deaths up to 11 December 2020 was above the five-year average for all age groups above 14 years (Figure 4).

Figure 4: The number of deaths in 2020 exceeded the five-year average in age groups 15 years and over

Number of deaths registered by week and age group, England and Wales, 28 December 2019 to 11 December 2020

Notes:

1. Figures include deaths of non-residents.
2. Based on date a death was registered rather than occurred.
3. All figures for 2020 are provisional.
4. The International Classification of Diseases, 10th edition (ICD-10) definitions are as follows: coronavirus (COVID-19) (U07.1 and U07.2).
5. Individual weeks may not sum to the year-to-date analysis as previous weeks have been recalculated to have the most up-to-date figures.
6. Does not include deaths where age is either missing or not yet fully coded.

[Download the data](#)

4 . Deaths by region in England and Wales

Figure 5: The number of deaths in Week 50 was higher than the five-year average in all English regions and Wales

Number of deaths in Wales and regions in England, registered between 28 December 2019 and 11 December 2020

Notes:

1. Based on area of usual residence. Geographical boundaries are based on the most up-to-date information available at the time of publication.
2. Figures exclude deaths of non-residents.
3. Based on date a death was registered rather than occurred.
4. All figures for 2020 are provisional.
5. The International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition (ICD-10) definitions are as follows; coronavirus (COVID-19) (U07.1 and U07.2).

[Download the data](#)

In Week 50 (week ending 11 December 2020), the total number of deaths registered was higher than the five-year average in all English regions and Wales for the fifth week in a row (Figure 5). The largest increase on the five-year average was for the West Midlands (353 deaths higher).

In Week 50, there were 223 deaths involving the coronavirus (COVID-19) registered in Wales – a 7.7% increase compared with Week 49 (207 deaths).

Across the English regions, the North West continued to have the largest number of deaths involving COVID-19 (426 deaths), although the number of deaths is a decrease compared with the 458 deaths in Week 49. The highest proportion of deaths involving COVID-19 was seen in Yorkshire and The Humber.

Deaths involving COVID-19 decreased in Week 50 in six out of nine English regions, with the largest decreases seen in Yorkshire and The Humber. More detailed geographic analysis can be found in our [Monthly mortality analysis release](#).

Table 1: The number of deaths registered was above the five-year average in all English regions and Wales
Number of deaths in Wales and regions in England, registered week ending 11 December 2020

Region name	Number of deaths	Five-year average	Difference	Percentage above average
West Midlands	1,432	1,079	353	32.7
East Midlands	1,199	925	274	29.6
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,326	1,069	257	24.0
Wales	814	693	121	17.5
North East	661	568	93	16.4
North West	1,691	1,482	209	14.1
East	1,224	1,131	93	8.2
London	1,065	1,002	63	6.3
South East	1,706	1,640	66	4.0
South West	1,156	1,137	19	1.7

Source: Office for National Statistics – Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales

Notes

1. Based on area of usual residence. Geographical boundaries are based on the most up-to-date information available at the time of publication.
2. Figures exclude deaths of non-residents.
3. Based on date a death was registered rather than occurred.
4. All figures for 2020 are provisional.
5. The averages are based on the number of death registrations in each region, recorded for each corresponding week over the previous five years. Moveable public holidays, when register offices are closed, affect the number of registrations made in the published weeks and in the corresponding weeks in previous years.

5 . Deaths registered by place of occurrence

The year-to-date analysis shows that, of deaths involving the coronavirus (COVID-19) up to Week 50 (week ending 11 December 2020), 66.9% (48,557 deaths) occurred in hospital, with the remainder occurring in care homes (18,964 deaths), private homes (3,500 deaths), hospices (981 deaths), other communal establishments (287 deaths) and elsewhere (257 deaths).

Between Weeks 49 and 50, the number of deaths involving COVID-19 decreased in hospitals (80 deaths fewer) and care homes (12 deaths fewer) while it increased in private homes (seven deaths more) and other locations (six deaths more). Deaths involving COVID-19 in hospitals as a proportion of all deaths in hospitals decreased to 36.4% in Week 50. Deaths involving COVID-19 in care homes as a proportion of all deaths in care homes decreased to 21.4% in Week 50.

Detailed analysis on deaths of care home residents is available in [Deaths involving COVID-19 in the care sector, England and Wales: deaths occurring up to 12 June 2020 and registered up to 20 June 2020](#).

As well as Office for National Statistics (ONS) data, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) provides numbers of deaths involving COVID-19 in care homes in England that are based on the date the death was notified to the CQC. From 10 April (the first day when data were collected using the CQC's new method of identifying deaths involving COVID-19) to 18 December 2020, there were 18,016 deaths of residents in care homes involving COVID-19. Of these deaths, 499 were notified in the week up to 18 December. More information on the data provided by the CQC can be found in our [joint transparency statement](#).

In Wales, the Welsh Government publishes [the number of deaths of care home residents involving COVID-19](#) notified to the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW). Between 1 March and 18 December 2020, there were 1,170 deaths of residents in care homes involving COVID-19.

More information on how these numbers have compared throughout the pandemic can be found in our previous [Comparison of weekly death occurrences in England and Wales release](#).

Figure 6: Excess deaths in private homes rose, while excess deaths in hospitals, care homes, and other locations continued to fall in Week 50

Number of excess deaths by place of occurrence, England and Wales, registered between 7 March 2020 and 11 December 2020

Notes:

1. Based on area of usual residence. Geographical boundaries and communal establishments are based on the most up-to-date information available.
2. Figures include deaths of non-residents.
3. Based on date a death was registered rather than occurred.
4. All figures for 2020 are provisional.
5. The International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition (ICD-10) definitions are as follows: coronavirus (COVID-19) (U07.1 and U07.2).
6. "Other" includes deaths in communal establishments other than hospitals and care homes, in hospices, and that occurred "elsewhere". More information on the place of death definitions used is available in the accompanying dataset.

[Download the data](#)

In Week 50, the numbers of deaths in private homes, hospitals and care homes were all above the five-year average (857, 665, and 36 deaths above the five-year average respectively). The number of deaths in other locations was 41 below the five-year average (Figure 6).

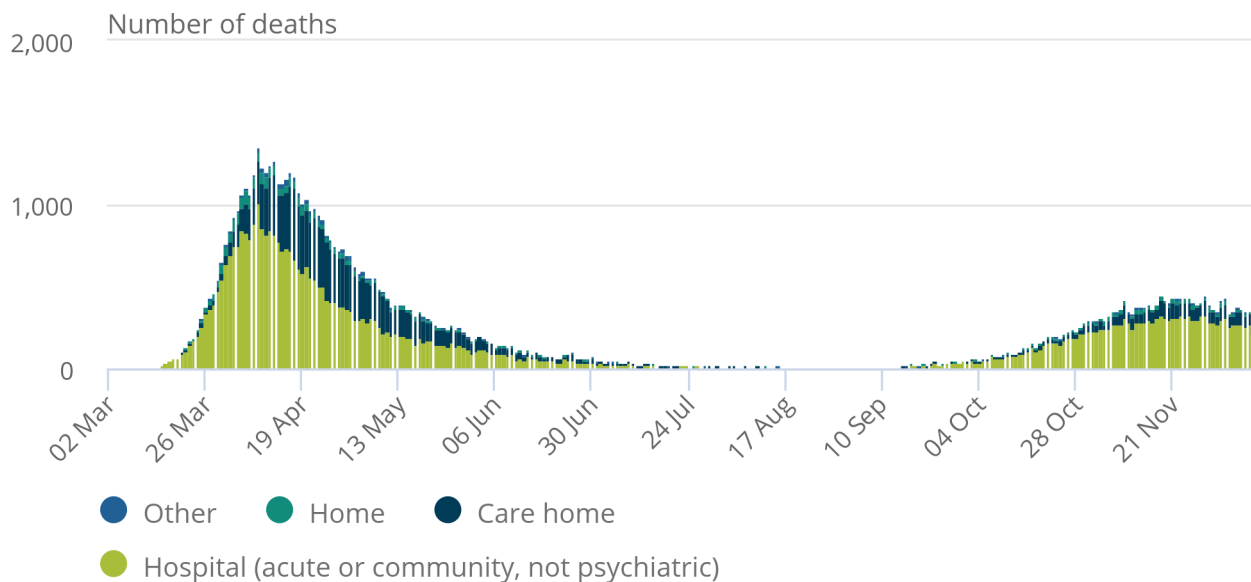
Looking in more detail at deaths in private homes in Week 50, males accounted for 452 excess deaths, compared with 405 for females. Overall, 78.3% of the excess deaths in private homes were of those aged 70 years and over (671 excess deaths); this has increased from 74.3% (548 excess deaths) in Week 49. The [Deaths in private homes](#) release provides analysis for deaths registered from 28 December 2019 to 11 September 2020. In addition, more [detailed analysis of excess deaths in England](#) is produced by Public Health England (PHE) on a weekly basis.

Figure 7: Over 75% of deaths involving COVID-19 occurring in Week 50 were in hospital

Number of deaths involving COVID-19 by place of occurrence, England and Wales, occurring up to 11 December 2020 and registered up to 19 December 2020

Figure 7: Over 75% of deaths involving COVID-19 occurring in Week 50 were in hospital

Number of deaths involving COVID-19 by place of occurrence, England and Wales, occurring up to 11 December 2020 and registered up to 19 December 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics – Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales

Notes:

1. Figures include deaths of non-residents.
2. Based on date of death, registered up to 19 December 2020.
3. All figures for 2020 are provisional.
4. The International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition (ICD-10) definitions are as follows: coronavirus (COVID-19) (U07.1 and U07.2).
5. This chart includes deaths from week ending 6 March 2020 onwards. Three deaths involving COVID-19 occurring prior to this (in the week ending 31 January (Week 5), week ending 7 February (Week 6) and week ending 28 February (Week 9) are not included in the chart.

Figure 7 is based on date of death for deaths registered up to 19 December 2020, rather than date of registration. As more deaths are registered, deaths per day are likely to increase, especially for later dates. Looking at the number of deaths that occurred in Week 50, 75.2% of deaths occurred in hospitals, and care homes accounted for 19.4% of all deaths involving COVID-19; this may change as more deaths are registered.

A death of a man aged 80 to 84 years was registered in the week ending 4 September 2020 (Week 36) that occurred in the week ending 31 January 2020 (Week 5). This is the earliest known death involving COVID-19 in the UK. There was also a death of a man aged 55 to 59 years registered in the week ending 21 August 2020 (Week 34) that occurred in the week ending 7 February (Week 6), and a death of a woman aged 30 to 34 years that was registered by 24 October 2020 and occurred in the week ending 28 February 2020 (Week 9).

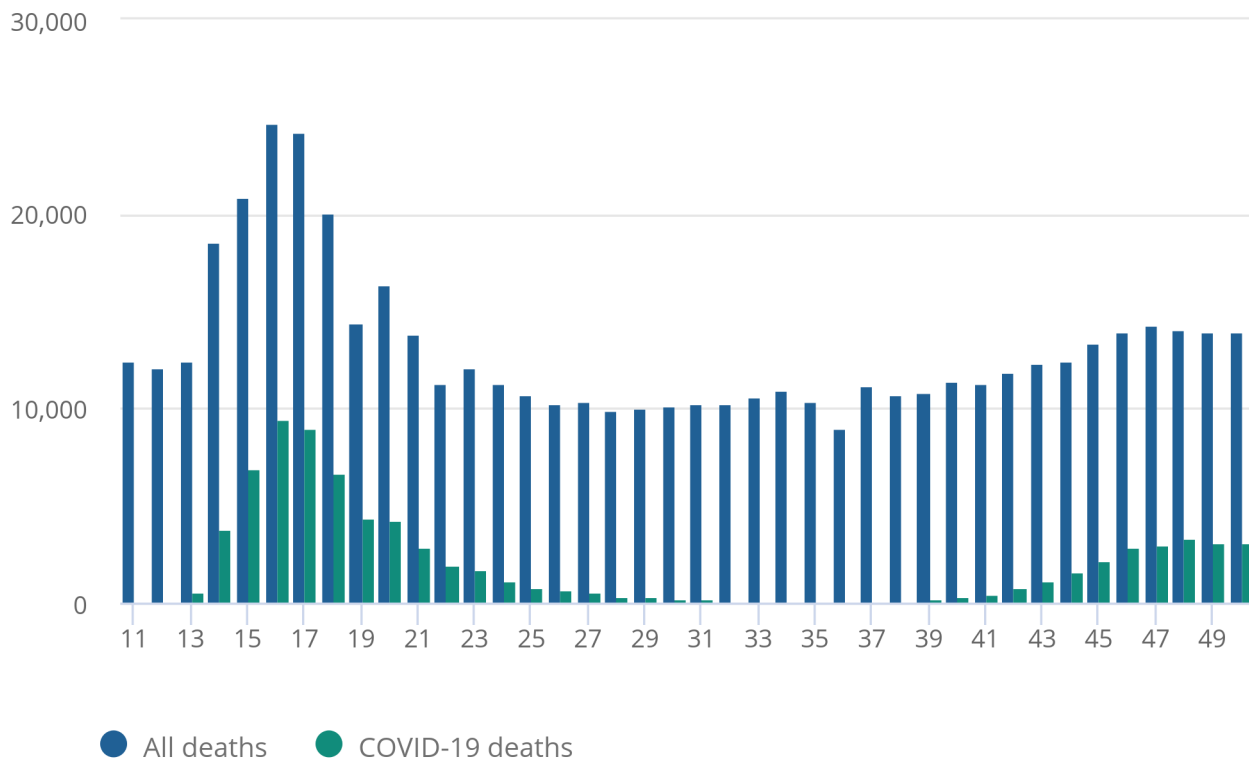
6 . Deaths registered in the UK

Figure 8: Deaths in the UK involving COVID-19 decreased in Week 50 for the second week in a row

Number of deaths registered by week, UK, week ending 13 March 2020 to week ending 11 December 2020

Figure 8: Deaths in the UK involving COVID-19 decreased in Week 50 for the second week in a row

Number of deaths registered by week, UK, week ending 13 March 2020 to week ending 11 December 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics, National Records of Scotland, and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

Notes:

1. Figures exclude deaths of non-residents.
2. Based on date a death was registered rather than occurred.
3. All figures for 2020 are provisional.
4. The International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition (ICD-10) definitions are as follows: coronavirus (COVID-19) (U07.1 and U07.2).
5. [National Records of Scotland](#) produce figures for Scotland.
6. [Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency](#) produce figures for Northern Ireland.

Across the UK, there were 13,910 deaths (all causes) registered in Week 50 (week ending 11 December 2020), which was 1,625 deaths higher than the UK five-year average and 59 fewer deaths than in Week 49. Of these deaths, 3,062 involved the coronavirus (COVID-19), 98 deaths fewer than in Week 49 (a 3.1% decrease) (Figure 8).

In Week 50, England had the highest number of deaths involving COVID-19, with 2,530 deaths, followed by Wales with 223 deaths, Scotland with 222 deaths and Northern Ireland with 87 deaths.

7 . Comparison of weekly deaths occurrence in England and Wales

We previously published this section as a [separate article](#) on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) website, which provided a more thorough description of the differences between different data sources. This section will look at the number of deaths by date of death produced by the ONS compared with death notifications reported by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). For Wales, we can also compare the reconciled DHSC data by date of death released by Public Health Wales (PHW).

On 12 August 2020, Public Health England (PHE) revised their data series to include two measures: deaths of positively tested individuals where the death occurred within 28 days and deaths within 60 days of a positive test. More information on these changes can be found in their [technical summary](#).

In England, including deaths that occurred up to 11 December 2020 but were registered up to 19 December 2020, of those we have processed so far, the number involving the coronavirus (COVID-19) was 69,440.

The [comparative number of death notifications](#) reported by the DHSC on GOV.UK (based on data from PHE) where the deaths occurred within 28 days of testing was 55,948 and the number of deaths by date of death showed 56,575.

In Wales, including deaths that occurred up to 11 December 2020 but were registered up to 19 December 2020, of those we have processed so far, the number involving COVID-19 was 4,200. The comparative number of death notifications reported by the DHSC on GOV.UK (based on data from PHW) where the death occurred within 28 days of testing was 2,849 and the number of deaths by date of death was 2,932 deaths.

8 . Deaths data

[Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales, provisional](#)

Dataset | Released 22 December 2020

Provisional counts of the number of deaths registered in England and Wales, by age, sex and region, in the latest weeks for which data are available. Includes data on coronavirus (COVID-19) deaths.

[Death registrations and occurrences by local authority and health board](#)

Dataset | Released 22 December 2020

Provisional counts of the number of deaths registered in England and Wales, including deaths involving COVID-19, by local authority, health board and place of death in the latest weeks for which data are available.

[Number of deaths in care homes notified to the Care Quality Commission, England](#)

Dataset | Released 22 December 2020

Provisional counts of deaths in care homes caused by COVID-19 by local authority. Published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and Care Quality Commission (CQC).

Try the new way to filter and download these data:

- [Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales by age and sex: COVID-19](#)
- [Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales by region: COVID-19](#)
- [Death registrations and occurrences by local authority and place of death](#)
- [Death registrations and occurrences by health board and place of death](#)

9 . Glossary

Coronavirus (COVID-19) deaths

Coronavirus (COVID-19) deaths are those deaths registered in England and Wales in the stated week where COVID-19 was mentioned on the death certificate. A doctor can certify the involvement of COVID-19 based on symptoms and clinical findings – a positive test result is not required. Definitions of COVID-19 for deaths in Scotland and Northern Ireland are similar to England and Wales.

10 . Measuring the data

More quality and methodology information on strengths, limitations, appropriate uses, and how the data were created is available in the [Mortality statistics in England and Wales QMI](#).

To meet user needs, we publish very timely but provisional counts of death registrations in England and Wales in our [Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales, provisional dataset](#). These are presented by sex, age group and regions (within England) as well as for Wales as a whole. To allow time for registration and processing, these figures are published 11 days after the week ends. Because of the rapidly changing situation, in this bulletin we have also given provisional updated totals based on the latest available death registrations, up to 11 December 2020.

Because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, our regular weekly deaths release now provides a separate breakdown of the number of deaths involving COVID-19: that is, where COVID-19 or suspected COVID-19 was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, including in combination with other health conditions. If a death certificate mentions COVID-19, it will not always be the main cause of death but may be a contributory factor. This bulletin summarises the latest weekly information and will be updated each week during the pandemic.

From the bulletin dated 3 November 2020, we have added two additional analyses.

Previously, we gave a breakdown of deaths involving COVID-19 into those where COVID-19 was the underlying cause of death (“due to COVID-19”) and those where it was a contributory factor (“involving COVID-19”) in the [monthly mortality analysis](#); because of high public interest, this distinction is now shown in Figure 2 of the weekly bulletin.

This bulletin is based mainly on the date deaths are registered, not the date of death, because of the [time taken for a death to be registered](#). Deaths in England and Wales are normally registered within five days, but there can be a considerably longer delay in some circumstances, particularly when the death is referred to a coroner.

We have developed a statistical model to estimate the number of deaths likely to have occurred in each week, based on previous experience of the pattern of registration delays, including the effects of bank holidays. The method is described in the article [Predicting total weekly death occurrences in England and Wales: methodology](#) and the results are shown in the tab, "Estimated total deaths 2020", of the [accompanying dataset](#).

These figures are different from the [daily surveillance figures on COVID-19 deaths](#) published by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) on the GOV.UK website, for the UK as a whole and its constituent countries. Figures in this report are derived from the formal process of death registration and may include cases where the doctor completing the death certificate diagnosed possible cases of COVID-19, for example, where this was based on relevant symptoms but no test for the virus was conducted.

From 29 April 2020, the DHSC started to publish as their [daily announced figures on deaths from COVID-19](#) for the UK a new series that uses improved data for England produced by Public Health England (PHE). These figures provide a count of all deaths where a positive test for COVID-19 has been confirmed, wherever that death has taken place, a change from previously reporting only confirmed COVID-19 deaths in hospitals. Figures for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland had already begun to include deaths outside hospitals, so this change ensured that the UK-wide series had a shared and common definitional coverage. A [statement](#) was published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), which provides more detail of the changes.

On 12 August 2020, the PHE data series was revised to include two measures: deaths of positively tested individuals where the death occurred within 28 days and deaths within 60 days of a positive test. More information on these changes can be found in their [technical summary \(PDF, 854KB\)](#).

In contrast to the GOV.UK figures, we include only deaths registered in England and Wales, which is the legal remit of the ONS. Tables 2 and 3 provide an overview of the differences in definitions between sources.

Table 2: Definitions of COVID-19 deaths between different sources

	DHSC COVID-19 (as published on GOV.UK) before 29 April	DHSC COVID-19 (as published on GOV.UK) between 29 April and 12 August	DHSC COVID-19 (as published on GOV.UK) from 12 August	ONS COVID-19 deaths registered	ONS COVID-19 death occurrence (actual date of death)	NHS England	Public Health Wales
Coverage	UK (however we only include England and Wales breakdowns for comparable coverage with ONS data)	UK (however we only include England and Wales breakdowns for comparable coverage with ONS data)	UK (however we only include England and Wales breakdowns for comparable coverage with ONS data)	Registrations in England and Wales	Registrations in England and Wales	England only	Wales only
				Selected UK figures are included in the weekly release	In discussions with devolved nations to create UK estimates in the near future		
Inclusion	Deaths in hospitals	Includes any place of death, including care homes and community	Includes any place of death, including care homes and community	Any place of death, including care homes and community	Any place of death, including care homes and community	Deaths in hospitals	Includes any place of death, including care homes and community
	Deaths where the patient has tested positive for COVID-19	Deaths where the patient has tested positive for COVID-19	Deaths where the patient has tested positive for COVID-19 within 28 and 60 days of testing	Deaths where COVID-19 has been mentioned on the death certificate	Deaths where COVID-19 has been mentioned on the death certificate	Deaths where patient has been tested for COVID-19	Deaths where patient has been tested for COVID-19
Timeliness	Provided daily but not officially registered	Provided daily but not officially registered	Provided daily but not officially registered	Weekly registrations are 11 days behind because of the time taken to register, process and publish	Weekly registrations are 11 days behind because of the time taken to register, process and publish	Updated daily for each date of death	Updated daily for each date of death
				Registered in the week ending 11 December (week 50)	Deaths which occurred in week 50 but were registered up to 19 December		

Source: Office for National Statistics – Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales

Table 3: Definitions of COVID-19 deaths in care homes between different sources

	ONS COVID-19 deaths registered	ONS COVID-19 death occurrence (actual date of death)	Care Quality Commission deaths in care homes (date of notification received)	Care Inspectorate Wales deaths in care homes (date of notification received)
Coverage	Registrations in England and Wales	Registrations in England and Wales	Death notifications sent by registered care home operators in England to CQC	Death notifications sent by registered care home operators in Wales to CIW
	Selected UK figures are included in the weekly release	In discussions with devolved nations to create UK estimates in the near future		
Inclusion	Any place of death, including care homes	Any place of death, including care homes	Deaths in care homes - deaths of care home residents that occurred elsewhere are also collected	Deaths in care homes - deaths of care home residents that occurred elsewhere are also collected
	Deaths where COVID-19 has been mentioned on the death certificate	Deaths where COVID-19 has been mentioned on the death certificate	Deaths where the care home provider has stated COVID-19 as a suspected or confirmed cause of death on the death notification	Deaths where the care home provider has stated COVID-19 as a suspected or confirmed cause of death on the death notification
Timeliness	Weekly registrations are 11 days behind because of the time taken to register, process and publish	Weekly registrations are 11 days behind because of the time taken to register, process and publish	Daily deaths notifications by date of notification - these take on average 4 days to receive and process	Daily deaths notifications by date of notification
			Data are published weekly by ONS	Data are published weekly by Welsh Government

Source: Office for National Statistics – Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales

We will publish accompanying articles periodically, giving enhanced information such as age-standardised and age-specific mortality rates for recent time periods and breakdowns of deaths involving COVID-19 by associated pre-existing health conditions.

There is usually a delay of at least five days between occurrence and registration. More information on this issue can be found in our [impact of registration delays release](#).

Our [User guide to mortality statistics](#) provides further information on data quality, legislation and procedures relating to mortality and includes a [glossary of terms](#).

11 . Strengths and limitations

Figures are based on the date the death was registered, not when it occurred. There is usually a delay of at least five days between occurrence and registration. More information on this issue can be found in our [impact of registration delays release](#).

12 . Related links

[Deaths registered in England and Wales: 2019](#)

Bulletin | Released 1 July 2020

Registered deaths by age, sex, selected underlying causes of death and the leading causes of death. Contains death rates and death registrations by area of residence and single year of age.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) latest data and analysis](#)

Web page | Updated as and when new data become available

Brings together the latest data and analysis on the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in the UK and its effect on the economy and society.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) roundup](#)

Blog | Updated as and when new data become available

Catch up on the latest data and analysis related to the coronavirus pandemic and its impact on our economy and society.

[Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy and society](#)

Bulletin | Released 10 December 2020

Early experimental data on the impact of the coronavirus on the UK economy and society. These faster indicators are created using rapid response surveys, novel data sources and experimental methods.

[Monthly mortality analysis, England and Wales: November 2020](#)

Bulletin | Released 19 November 2020

Provisional death registration data for England and Wales, broken down by sex, age and country. Includes deaths due to COVID-19 and leading causes of death.

[Deaths involving COVID-19 by local area and socioeconomic deprivation: deaths occurring between 1 March and 31 July 2020](#)

Bulletin | Released 28 August 2020

Provisional counts of the number of deaths and age-standardised mortality rates involving COVID-19 between 1 March and 31 July 2020 in England and Wales. Figures are provided by age, sex, geographies down to local authority level, and deprivation indices.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) latest insights](#)

Interactive tool | Updated as and when data become available

Explore the latest data and trends about the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic from the ONS and other official sources.