

Statistical bulletin

Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales, provisional: week ending 14 May 2021

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.

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Release date:
25 May 2021

Next release:
2 June 2021

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1 . Main points

- The number of deaths registered in England and Wales was affected by the Early May Bank Holiday, with 10,164 deaths registered in the week ending 14 May 2021 (Week 19); this was 2,178 more deaths than the previous week (Week 18) and 6.1% above the five-year average (588 more deaths).
- The number of deaths registered in England in the week ending 14 May 2021 (Week 19) was 9,512; this was 2,100 more deaths than the previous week (Week 18) and 6.4% above the five-year average (575 more deaths).
- The number of deaths registered in Wales in the week ending 14 May 2021 (Week 19) was 640; this was 80 more deaths than the previous week (Week 18) and 4.6% above the five-year average (28 more deaths).
- We estimate that the number of deaths actually occurring (rather than registered) in Week 19 in England and Wales was between 7,728 and 9,682.
- Of the deaths registered in Week 19 in England and Wales, 151 mentioned “novel coronavirus (COVID-19)” accounting for 1.5% of all deaths; this was an increase compared with Week 18 (129 deaths).
- The number of deaths involving COVID-19 in England increased to 145 in Week 19 compared with 124 in Week 18; for Wales the number remained similar, 5 deaths in Week 18 versus 6 deaths in Week 19.
- The number of deaths registered in the UK in the week ending 14 May 2021 was 11,556, which was 651 more than the five-year average; of deaths registered in the UK in Week 19, 164 involved COVID-19, that is, 25 more than in Week 18.

Week 18 included the Early May Bank Holiday (Monday 3 May 2021) so differences between Week 18 and Week 19 should be interpreted with caution. Comparisons with the five-year average should also be interpreted with caution as the Early May Bank Holiday can fall in either Week 18 or Week 19.

2 . Deaths registered by week

Figure 1: The number of deaths registered was above the five-year average for Week 19 in both England and Wales

Number of deaths registered by week, England and Wales, 28 December 2019 to 14 May 2021

Notes:

1. Figures exclude deaths of non-residents.
2. Based on date a death was registered rather than occurred.
3. All figures for 2020 and 2021 are provisional.
4. The number of deaths registered in a week are affected when bank holidays occur.
5. The average for 2015 to 2019 provides a comparison of the number of deaths expected per week in a usual (non-pandemic) year.

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The provisional number of deaths registered in England and Wales increased from 7,986 in Week 18 (week ending 7 May 2021) to 10,164 in Week 19 (week ending 14 May 2021). Week 18 included a Bank Holiday (Early May Day) when register offices are likely to be closed. Therefore, trends should be interpreted with caution in this week's and last week's publication.

The number of deaths was 6.1% above the five-year average (588 more deaths). The Early May Day Bank Holiday appears in different weeks depending on the year; it was in Week 18 in 2016 and 2017, whereas it was in Week 19 in 2015, 2018 and 2019. Comparisons with the five-year average should be treated with caution for Weeks 18 and 19.

In England, the number of deaths increased from 7,412 in Week 18 to 9,512 in Week 19, which was 575 more deaths (6.4% higher) than the Week 19 five-year average (Figure 1). Previously, deaths had been lower than the five-year average in England for nine consecutive weeks. Of these, 145 involved the coronavirus (COVID-19) in Week 19, a 16.9% increase compared with Week 18 (124 deaths). Of all deaths registered in Week 19 in England, 1.5% mentioned COVID-19 on the death certificate.

In Wales, the number of deaths increased from 560 in Week 18 to 640 in Week 19, which was 28 more deaths (4.6%) than the Week 19 five-year average (Figure 1). Previously, deaths had been lower than the five-year average in Wales for 10 consecutive weeks. Of these, 6 involved COVID-19 in Week 19, a similar number to Week 18 (5 deaths). Of all deaths registered in Week 19 in Wales, 0.9% mentioned COVID-19 on the death certificate.

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

Deaths involving and due to COVID-19 and influenza and pneumonia, England and Wales, deaths registered in 2020 and 2021

Notes:

1. Figures include deaths of non-residents.
2. Based on date a death was registered rather than occurred.
3. All figures for 2020 and 2021 are provisional.
4. The number of deaths registered in a week are affected when bank holidays occur.
5. The average of 2015 to 2019 provides a comparison of the number of deaths expected per week in a usual (non-pandemic) year.
6. The International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition (ICD-10) definitions are as follows: coronavirus (COVID-19) (U07.1, U07.2, U09.9 and U10.9) and influenza and pneumonia (J09 to J18).
7. 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.
8. 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.

[Download the data](#)

Of the 151 deaths in England and Wales that involved COVID-19, 108 had this recorded as the underlying cause of death (71.5%, Figure 2). Of the 1,171 deaths that involved influenza and pneumonia, 287 had this recorded as the underlying cause of death (24.5%).

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.

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 19, we estimate that 8,610 deaths occurred in England and Wales, with a 95% [confidence interval](#) of 7,728 to 9,682. This is 1,088 fewer deaths than the mean for the period 2015 to 2019 in Week 19, and a decrease of 1,011 from the Week 18 2021 estimate of 9,621 (9,274 to 10,049).

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 from all causes were above the five-year average in Week 19

Number of deaths registered by week, England and Wales, 28 December 2019 to 14 May 2021

Notes:

1. Figures include deaths of non-residents.
2. Based on date a death was registered rather than occurred.
3. All figures for 2020 and 2021 are provisional.
4. The International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition (ICD-10) definitions are available in the [Measuring the data](#) section.
5. The number of deaths registered in a week are affected when bank holidays occur.
6. The average for 2015 to 2019 provides a comparison of the number of deaths expected per week in a usual (non-pandemic) year.

[Download the data](#)

Analysis in this section includes deaths from Week 11 of 2020 (week ending 13 March 2020, the week of the first registration of a death involving COVID-19) through to Week 19 of 2021 (week ending 14 May 2021), to ensure full coverage of the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Using the most up-to-date data we have available, the number of deaths from the week ending 13 March 2020 up to 14 May 2021 was 737,168 in England and Wales. Of the deaths registered by 14 May 2021, 139,790 (19.0%) mentioned COVID-19 on the death certificate. During this period, the number of excess deaths above the five-year average was 112,834 deaths.

In England, the number of deaths between the week ending 13 March 2020 and 14 May 2021 was 691,444; of these, 131,728 deaths (19.1%) mentioned COVID-19. This was 108,244 deaths above the five-year average.

In Wales, the number of deaths for the same period was 44,826; of these, 7,878 deaths (17.6%) mentioned COVID-19. This was 5,529 deaths above the five-year average.

More about coronavirus

- Find the latest on [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in the UK](#).
- [Explore the latest coronavirus data](#) from the ONS and other sources.
- All ONS analysis, summarised in our [coronavirus roundup](#).
- View [all coronavirus data](#).
- Find out how we are [working safely in our studies and surveys](#).

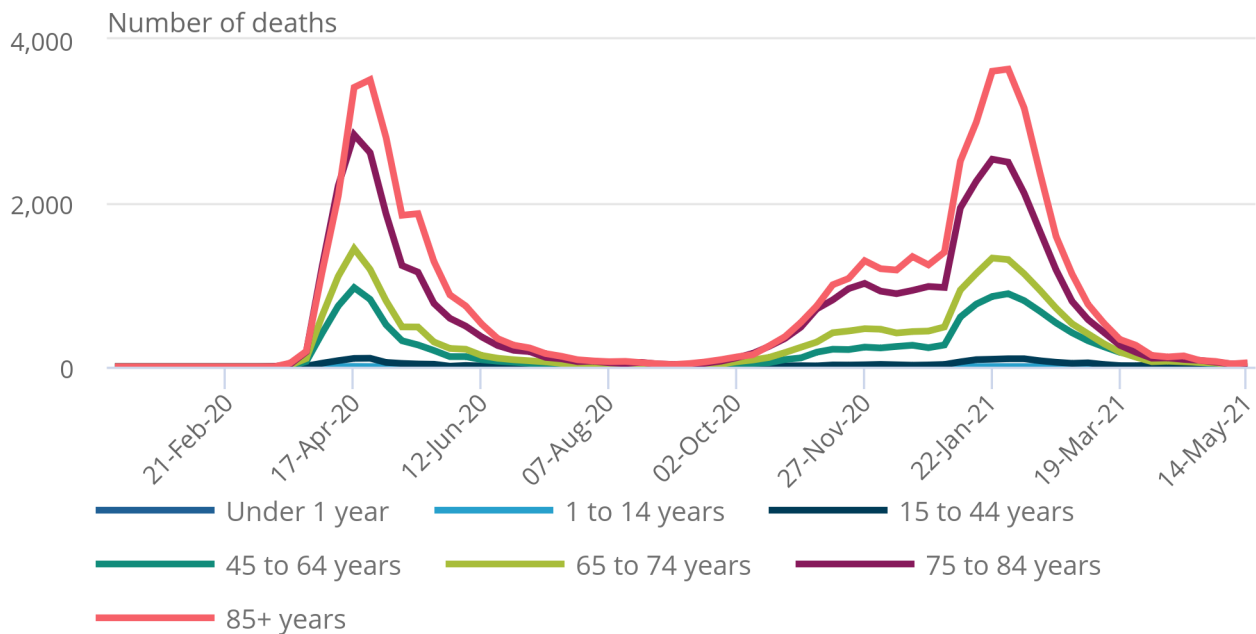
3 . Deaths registered by age group

Figure 4: The majority of deaths involving COVID-19 were in those aged 75 years and over in Week 19

Number of deaths involving COVID-19 by age group, England and Wales, registered between 28 December 2019 and 14 May 2021

Figure 4: The majority of deaths involving COVID-19 were in those aged 75 years and over in Week 19

Number of deaths involving COVID-19 by age group, England and Wales, registered between 28 December 2019 and 14 May 2021



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

Notes:

1. Figures include deaths of non-residents.
2. Based on date a death was registered rather than occurred.
3. All figures for 2020 and 2021 are provisional.
4. The International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition (ICD-10) definitions are available in the [Measuring the data](#) section.
5. The number of deaths registered in a week is affected when bank holidays occur.
6. Does not include deaths where age is either missing or not yet fully coded.

In Week 19 (week ending 14 May 2021), the number of deaths involving the coronavirus (COVID-19) in England and Wales increased or remained the same in the majority of the five-year age groups compared with Week 18. The majority (55.0%) of deaths involving COVID-19 were in people aged 75 years and over.

4 . Deaths by region in England and Wales

Figure 5: The number of deaths in Week 19 was higher than the five-year average in Wales and all of the English regions

Number of deaths in Wales and regions of England, registered between 28 December 2019 and 14 May 2021

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 and 2021 are provisional.
5. The International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition (ICD-10) definitions are available in the [Measuring the data](#) section.
6. The number of deaths registered in a week are affected when bank holidays occur.
7. The average for 2015 to 2019 provides a comparison of the number of deaths expected per week in a usual (non-pandemic) year.

[Download the data](#)

In Week 19 (week ending 14 May 2021), the total number of deaths registered was greater than the five-year average in every English region and Wales (Figure 5). The largest increase compared with the five-year average was in the West Midlands (15.7% more deaths). The smallest increase compared with the five-year average was in the East of England (0.4% more deaths).

Deaths involving the coronavirus (COVID-19) increased in five of the nine English regions compared with Week 18, with deaths involving COVID-19 decreasing in London, the North West, South East and South West of England. The largest increase was reported in Yorkshire and The Humber (17 more deaths), whereas the largest decrease was reported in London (8 fewer deaths). 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 Wales and all of the English regions
 Number of deaths in Wales and regions in England, registered week ending 14 May 2021

| Region name | Number of deaths | Five-year average | Difference | Percentage above average |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| West Midlands | 1,112 | 961 | 151 | 15.7 |
| South West | 1,125 | 1,010 | 115 | 11.4 |
| East Midlands | 921 | 833 | 88 | 10.6 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 1,060 | 963 | 97 | 10.1 |
| North East | 548 | 519 | 29 | 5.6 |
| Wales | 640 | 612 | 28 | 4.6 |
| London | 908 | 883 | 25 | 2.8 |
| South East | 1,525 | 1,485 | 40 | 2.7 |
| North West | 1,282 | 1,257 | 25 | 2.0 |
| East | 1,031 | 1,027 | 4 | 0.4 |

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 and 2021 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.
6. The number of deaths registered in a week are affected when bank holidays occur.
7. The average for 2015 to 2019 provides a comparison of the number of deaths expected per week in a usual (non-pandemic) year.

5 . Deaths registered by place of occurrence

Table 2: Most deaths involving COVID-19 have occurred in hospitals
Number of deaths involving COVID-19 by place of occurrence, England and Wales, registered between 28 December 2019 and 14 May 2021

| Place of death | 28 December 2019 to 14 May 2021 | Week ending 14 May 2021 |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Private home | 7,943 | 28 |
| Hospital (not including psychiatric) | 96,592 | 94 |
| Hospice | 2,082 | 3 |
| Care home | 32,154 | 25 |
| Other communal establishment | 499 | 0 |
| Elsewhere | 520 | 1 |

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 include deaths of non-residents.
3. Based on date a death was registered rather than occurred.
4. All figures for 2020 and 2021 are provisional.
5. The International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition (ICD-10) definitions are available in the Measuring the data section.

Between Weeks 18 and 19, the number of deaths involving the coronavirus (COVID-19) increased in care homes (11 more), hospitals (7 more) and private homes (5 more). There were 4 deaths in other locations, 1 fewer than in Week 18. Deaths involving COVID-19 in hospitals as a proportion of all deaths in hospitals fell to 2.2% in Week 19 (2.6% in Week 18). Deaths involving COVID-19 in care homes accounted for 1.3% of all deaths in care homes, an increase from Week 18 (1.0%).

Detailed analysis on deaths of care home residents is available in [Deaths involving COVID-19 in the care sector, England and Wales: deaths registered between week ending 20 March 2020 and week ending 2 April 2021](#).

From Week 1 2021 (week ending 8 January 2021) onwards, we have published a [dataset of weekly deaths of care home residents](#).

As well as the 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 2020 (the first day when data were collected using the CQC's new method of identifying deaths involving COVID-19) to 21 May 2021, there were 29,372 deaths of residents in care homes involving COVID-19. Of these deaths, 8 were notified in the week up to 21 May 2021.

Because of a revision of the coding for the CQC data, it has been identified that some deaths between 2 November 2020 and 22 April 2021 initially coded as "not COVID-19" have been updated to either "confirmed COVID-19" or "'suspected COVID-19". More information relating to this update can be found in the [accompanying dataset](#). 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 2020 and 6 May 2021, there were 1,920 deaths of residents in care homes involving COVID-19.

Figure 6: Deaths in Week 19 were above the five-year average in private homes and other settings, but below the five-year average in hospitals and care homes

Number of excess deaths by place of occurrence, England and Wales, registered between 7 March 2020 and 14 May 2021

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 and 2021 are provisional.
5. The International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition (ICD-10) definitions are available in the [Measuring the data](#) section.
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](#).
7. The average for 2015 to 2019 provides a comparison of the number of deaths expected per week in a usual (non-pandemic) year.

[Download the data](#)

In Week 19, the number of deaths in private homes was 41.2% above the five-year average (926 excess deaths) and deaths in other settings were 0.9% above the five-year average (7 excess deaths). Deaths within care homes were 0.9% below the five-year average (19 deaths fewer) and deaths in hospitals were 7.2% below the five-year average (328 deaths fewer).

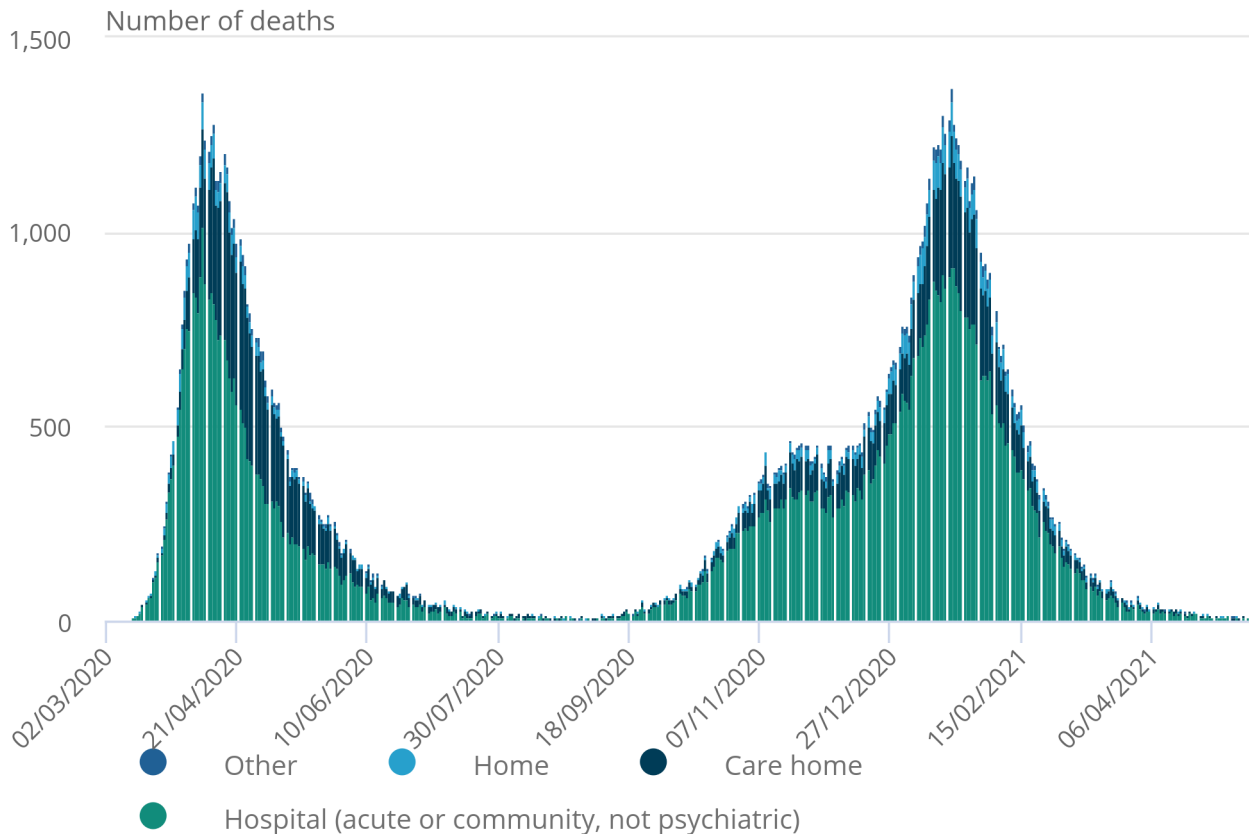
In addition, more [detailed analysis of excess deaths in England](#) is produced by Public Health England (PHE) on a weekly basis.

Figure 7: The majority of deaths involving COVID-19 occurring in Week 19 were in hospital

Number of deaths involving COVID-19 by place of occurrence, England and Wales, occurring up to 14 May 2021 and registered up to 22 May 2021

Figure 7: The majority of deaths involving COVID-19 occurring in Week 19 were in hospital

Number of deaths involving COVID-19 by place of occurrence, England and Wales, occurring up to 14 May 2021 and registered up to 22 May 2021



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 22 May 2021.
3. All figures for 2020 and 2021 are provisional.
4. The International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition (ICD-10) definitions are available in the [Measuring the data](#) section.
5. This chart includes deaths from the week ending 6 March 2020 onwards. Three deaths involving COVID-19 occurred prior to this (in the week ending 31 January (Week 5), week ending 7 February (Week 6) and week ending 28 February (Week 9)) and are not included in the chart.

Figure 7 is based on date of death for deaths registered up to 22 May 2021, 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 19, 67.1% of deaths occurred in hospitals, and care homes accounted for 17.8% of all deaths involving COVID-19; this may change as more deaths are registered.

The earliest known death involving COVID-19 occurred in the week ending 31 January 2020 (Week 5).

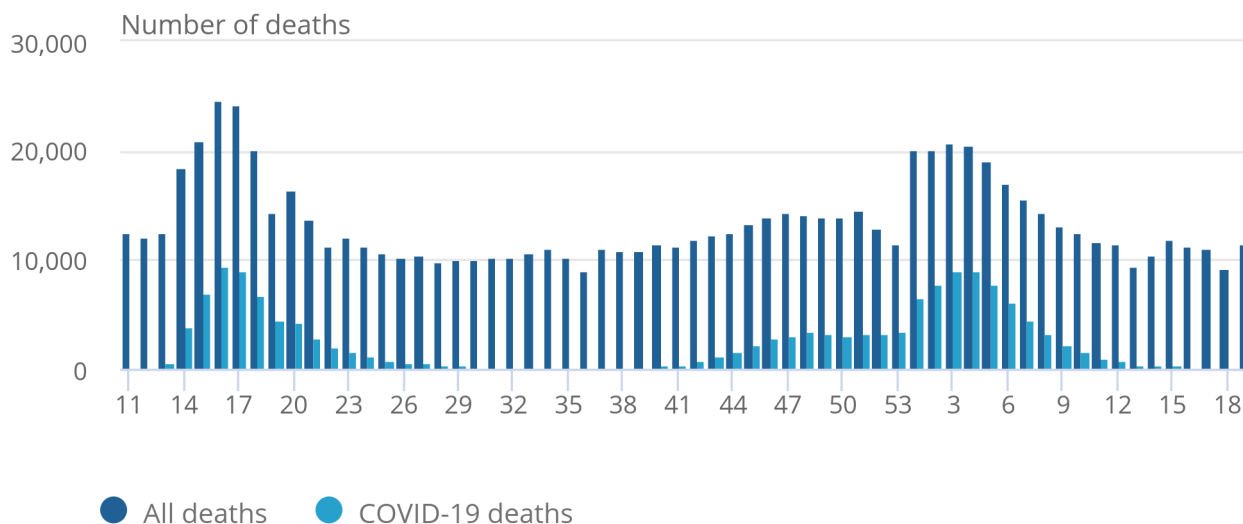
6 . Deaths registered in the UK

Figure 8: Deaths involving COVID-19 increased in the UK in Week 19

Number of deaths registered by week, UK, week ending 13 March 2020 to week ending 14 May 2021

Figure 8: Deaths involving COVID-19 increased in the UK in Week 19

Number of deaths registered by week, UK, week ending 13 March 2020 to week ending 14 May 2021



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

Notes:

1. Figures include deaths of non-residents that were registered in each country.
2. Based on date a death was registered rather than occurred.
3. All figures for 2020 and 2021 are provisional.
4. The International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition (ICD-10) definitions are available in the [Measuring the data](#) section.
5. National Records of Scotland produce figures for Scotland with an updated back series. We update the back series until the end of the calendar year, therefore the UK total in 2021 may differ from previous weeks in 2021, but the 2020 UK total will remain constant.
6. Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency produce figures for Northern Ireland.

Across the UK, there were 11,556 deaths (all causes) registered in Week 19 (week ending 14 May 2021), which was 651 more deaths than the UK five-year average, and 2,346 more deaths than in Week 18 (week ending 7 May 2021).

Using the most up-to-date data we have available, from the week ending 13 March 2020 up to 14 May 2021, the number of deaths was 834,671. The number of deaths involving the coronavirus (COVID-19) was 152,068, and the number of excess deaths above the five-year average was 116,380.

Deaths in England and Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland were all above the five-year average in Week 19. Of these deaths, 164 involved COVID-19, 25 more deaths than in Week 18 (18.0% increase) (Figure 8).

In Week 19, England had the highest number of deaths involving COVID-19 with 145 deaths, followed by Northern Ireland with 7 deaths and Scotland and Wales with 6 deaths each.

7 . Comparison of weekly deaths occurrences in England and Wales

This section will look at the number of deaths involving COVID-19 by date of death produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) compared with death notifications reported on the [GOV.UK Coronavirus in the UK dashboard](#). For Wales, we can also compare the data by date of death released by Public Health Wales (PHW).

Table 3: Number of deaths from different sources in England and Wales that occurred between 2 March 2020 and 14 May 2021

| | Office for National Statistics - death occurrences | GOV.UK deaths occurring within 28 days of testing by Date of Notification | GOV.UK deaths occurring within 28 days of testing by Date of Death |
|----------------|---|--|---|
| England | 131,953 | 112,304 | 112,317 |
| Wales | 7,880 | 5,558 | 5,562 |

Source: Office for National Statistics - Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales and GOV.UK Coronavirus in the UK

Notes

1. Details for the data included in GOV.UK figures can be found on the GOV.UK website. The notes below refer only to Office for National Statistics data.
2. Figures include deaths of non-residents.
3. Based on date of death, registered up to 22 May 2021.
4. All figures for 2020 and 2021 are provisional.
5. The International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition (ICD-10) definitions are available in the Measuring the data section.

8 . Deaths data

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

Dataset | Released 25 May 2021

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 25 May 2021

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 25 May 2021

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).

[Care home resident deaths registered in England and Wales, provisional](#)

Dataset | Released 25 May 2021

Provisional counts of the number of deaths registered of care home residents in England and Wales, by region. Includes data on coronavirus (COVID-19) deaths. Data are weekly and provisional.

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 for death occurrences based on the latest available death registrations, up to 22 May 2021.

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.

The data for 2020 are based on a 53-week year. Because the number of days in a week is seven, when there are 52 weeks, we only cover 364 days of the 365 days in the year, which results in one remaining day each calendar year not included in the 52 weeks. With the occurrence of leap years, it is sometimes necessary to add a 53rd week to the end of the calendar, which was the case in 2020. This happens every five years, with the last time there was a Week 53 being in 2015. Given the low frequency of Week 53, it is more appropriate to compare the 2020 figures with the average for Week 52, than to compare it with a single year from five years previous.

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.

Influenza and pneumonia has been included for comparison (Figure 2), as a well-understood cause of death involving respiratory infection that is likely to have somewhat similar risk factors to COVID-19.

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 4 and 5 provide an overview of the differences in definitions between sources.

From the week ending 26 February 2021 (Week 8), new International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) codes for COVID-19 issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) have been implemented for deaths involving COVID-19. The new codes are U09.9 (Post-COVID condition, where the acute COVID had ended before the condition immediately causing death occurred) and U10.9 (Multisystem inflammatory syndrome associated with COVID-19 (also called Kawasaki-like syndrome), a specific, uncommon effect of COVID-19 in children). These are in addition to the existing codes of U07.1 (COVID-19, virus identified) and U07.2 (COVID-19, virus not identified, that is, COVID-19 stated to be unconfirmed or suspected).

Table 4: Definitions of COVID-19 deaths between different sources

| | DHSC COVID-19 (as published on GOV.UK) before 29 April 2020 | DHSC COVID-19 (as published on GOV.UK) between 29 April and 12 August 2020 | DHSC COVID-19 (as published on GOV.UK) from 12 August 2020 | 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 14 May 2021 (week 19) | Deaths which occurred in week 19 but were registered up to 22 May 2021 | | |

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

Table 5: 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.

[Monthly mortality analysis, England and Wales: April 2021](#) Bulletin | Released 20 May 2021 Provisional death registration data for England and Wales, broken down by sex, age and country. Includes analysis of deaths due to COVID-19 compared with the leading causes of death. Datasets include deaths due to COVID-19 by local area and socioeconomic deprivation.

[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.

[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.

[Economic activity and social change in the UK, real-time indicators](#) Bulletin | Released 20 May 2021 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.