

Statistical bulletin

# Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales, provisional: week ending 31 July 2020

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



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# 1 . Main points

- The number of deaths registered in England and Wales in the week ending 31 July 2020 (Week 31) was 8,946; this was 55 more deaths than in Week 30.
- In Week 31, the number of deaths registered was 1.0% below the five-year average (90 deaths fewer); this is the seventh consecutive week that deaths have been below the five-year average.
- The number of deaths in care homes, hospitals and other communal establishments remained below the five-year average in Week 31, while the number of deaths in private homes continued to be higher than the five-year average (676 more deaths).
- Of the deaths registered in Week 31, 193 mentioned "novel coronavirus (COVID-19)", the lowest number of deaths involving COVID-19 in the last 19 weeks and a 11.1% decrease compared with Week 30 (217 deaths), accounting for 2.2% of all deaths in England and Wales.
- The number of deaths involving COVID-19 decreased across the majority of the English regions, while five regions had fewer overall deaths than the five-year average.
- In Wales, the total number of deaths remained below the five-year average (41 deaths) for Week 31, while the number of deaths involving COVID-19 increased to 10 deaths (from seven deaths in Week 30).
- Of all deaths involving COVID-19 registered up to Week 31, 63.4% occurred in hospital with the remainder mainly occurring in care homes (29.7%), private homes (4.7%) and hospices (1.4%).
- The number of deaths registered in the UK in the week ending 31 July 2020 (Week 31) was 10,242, which was 42 deaths fewer than the five-year average; of the deaths registered in the UK in Week 31, 201 deaths involved COVID-19.

## 2 . Deaths registered by week

### Figure 1: The number of deaths in England and Wales involving COVID-19 decreased for the 15th consecutive week

Number of deaths registered by week, England and Wales, 28 December 2019 to 31 July 2020

The provisional number of deaths registered in England and Wales increased from 8,891 in Week 30 (week ending 24 July 2020) to 8,946 in Week 31 (week ending 31 July 2020). The number of deaths was 1.0% below the five-year average (90 fewer deaths) (Figure 1). This is the seventh consecutive week that weekly deaths have been below the five-year average.

The coronavirus (COVID-19) has had a large impact on the number of deaths registered over the last few months and is the main reason for deaths increasing above what is expected (the five-year average). The disease has had a larger impact on those most vulnerable (for example, those who already suffer from a medical condition) and those at older ages. Some of these deaths would have likely occurred over the duration of the year but have occurred earlier because of COVID-19. These deaths occurring earlier than expected could contribute to a period of deaths below the five-year average.

The number of death registrations involving COVID-19 decreased from 217 in Week 30 to 193 in Week 31, the lowest number of COVID-19 deaths registered since Week 12 (week ending 20 March) when 103 deaths involved COVID-19. Of all deaths registered in Week 31, 2.2% mentioned COVID-19, down from 2.4% in Week 30.

In England, the number of deaths increased from 8,317 in Week 30 to 8,404 in Week 31, which was 32 deaths fewer than the Week 31 average. Of the Week 31 deaths, 2.2% (183 deaths) involved COVID-19 in England.

In Wales, the number of deaths decreased from 565 in Week 30 to 531 in Week 31, which was 41 deaths fewer than the five-year average. Of these, 1.9% (10 deaths) involved COVID-19 in Wales.

In Week 31, 12.5% of all deaths mentioned "Influenza and Pneumonia", COVID-19 or both, compared with 13.2% in Week 30. "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.

## **Figure 2: The number of excess deaths involving COVID-19 continued to decrease**

Number of deaths registered by week, England and Wales, 28 December 2019 to 31 July 2020

Between Weeks 1 and 12, 138,916 deaths were registered, which was 4,822 fewer than the five-year average for these weeks. However, between Weeks 13 and 31, 241,180 deaths were registered, which was 57,749 more than the five-year average. Week 31 showed a continuation of the decreasing trend in excess deaths with 90 fewer deaths than the five-year average (Figure 2). Detailed analysis on non-COVID-19-related deaths is available in [Analysis of death registrations not involving coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

Looking at the year-to-date (using the most up-to-date data we have available), the number of deaths up to 31 July was 380,064 which is 52,895 more than the five-year average. Of the deaths registered by 31 July, 51,710 mentioned COVID-19 on the death certificate, 13.6% of all deaths in England and Wales.

Looking at the year-to-date for England and Wales separately, the number of deaths for England was 356,989, which is 51,288 (16.8%) more than the five-year average. Of these, 49,122 (13.8%) mentioned COVID-19. In Wales, the number of deaths up to 31 July was 22,512, which is 2,002 (9.8%) more than the five-year average; of these, 2,513 deaths (11.2%) mentioned COVID-19.

### 3 . Deaths registered by age group

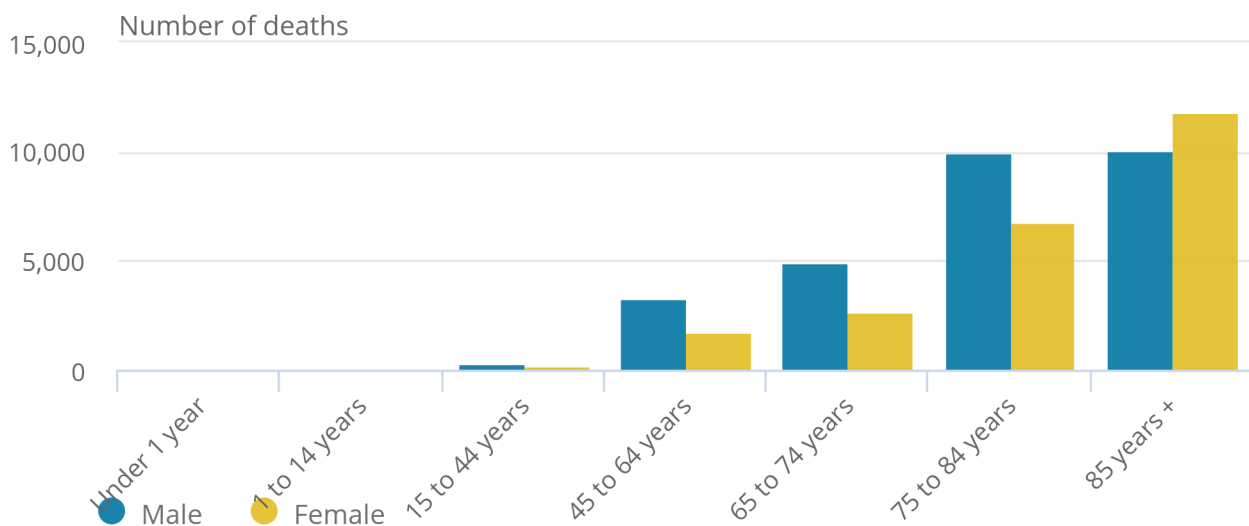
In Week 31, the number of deaths involving the coronavirus (COVID-19) in England and Wales decreased or remained the same across the majority of age groups. The number of deaths involving COVID-19 remained mostly higher in the older age groups with those aged 80 to 84 years accounting for the highest number of deaths involving COVID-19 (20.2%). The highest proportions of deaths involving COVID-19 were for those aged 65 to 69 years (2.7%) and 80 to 84 years (2.7%). For those aged 5 to 9 years, 20.0% of deaths involved COVID-19 in Week 31, although this was out of a total of five deaths.

**Figure 3: The number of deaths involving COVID-19 was highest in males across the majority of age groups**

Number of deaths involving COVID-19 by sex and age group, England and Wales, registered between 28 December 2019 and 31 July 2020

Figure 3: The number of deaths involving COVID-19 was highest in males across the majority of age groups

Number of deaths involving COVID-19 by sex and age group, England and Wales, registered between 28 December 2019 and 31 July 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 a death was registered rather than occurred.
3. All figures for 2020 are provisional.
4. The International Classification of Diseases, tenth 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.

Looking at the year-to date, for most age groups, there have been more deaths involving COVID-19 in males than in females (Figure 3). Across Weeks 1 to 31 of 2020, 55.0% of all deaths involving COVID-19 were males. However, there were more deaths in females aged 85 years and over (11,829) than males aged 85 years and over (10,020). This could be because the over-85-years female population (939,000) is larger than the over-85-years male population (564,000) in [England and Wales](#).

## 4 . Deaths by region in England and Wales

### **Figure 4: The number of deaths involving COVID-19 decreased across five English regions while increasing across four regions and Wales**

Number of deaths in Wales and regions in England, registered between 28 December 2019 and 31 July 2020

In Week 31 (week ending 31 July 2020), there were 10 deaths involving the coronavirus (COVID-19) registered in Wales. Out of the English regions, the South East had the largest number of deaths involving COVID-19 (45 deaths) while the East Midlands had the highest proportion of deaths involving COVID-19 (3.2%). More detailed geographic analysis between 1 March and 30 June 2020 can be found in our [Deaths involving COVID-19 by local area and socioeconomic deprivation release](#).

Table 1: The number of deaths registered were below the five-year average for five English regions and Wales  
 Number of deaths in Wales and regions in England, registered week ending 31 July 2020

Region name	Number of deaths	Five-year average	Difference	Percentage above average
South East	1,447	1,339	108	8.1
North East	507	487	20	4.1
North West	1,272	1,233	39	3.2
South West	988	976	12	1.2
East	949	980	-31	-3.2
West Midlands	902	940	-38	-4.0
Yorkshire and The Humber	837	874	-37	-4.2
East Midlands	729	770	-41	-5.3
Wales	531	572	-41	-7.2
London	773	838	-65	-7.8

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

#### Notes

1. Based on area of usual residence. Boundaries correct as of May 2020. [Back to table](#)
2. Figures exclude deaths of non-residents. [Back to table](#)
3. Based on date a death was registered rather than occurred. [Back to table](#)
4. All figures for 2020 are provisional. [Back to table](#)
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. [Back to table](#)

The number of deaths registered in Week 31 was lower than the five-year average for five out of the nine English regions, with deaths higher in the North East, North West, South East and South West. London had the highest percentage of deaths below the five-year average (7.8%). In Wales, the number of deaths registered in Week 31 was 7.2% (41 deaths) lower than the five-year average (Table 1).

## 5 . Deaths registered by place of occurrence

The year-to-date analysis shows that, of deaths involving the coronavirus (COVID-19) up to Week 31 (week ending 31 July 2020), 63.4% (32,783 deaths) occurred in hospital, with the remainder occurring in care homes (15,334 deaths), private homes (2,429 deaths), hospices (733 deaths), other communal establishments (233 deaths) and elsewhere (198 deaths).

Between Weeks 30 and 31, the number of deaths involving COVID-19 decreased across all settings, except for hospitals, which saw an increase of 15 deaths. Deaths involving COVID-19 in hospitals as a proportion of all deaths in hospitals increased from 3.4% in Week 30 to 3.7% in Week 31. Deaths involving COVID-19 in care homes as a proportion of all deaths in care homes decreased from 3.7% to 2.6% in Week 31. 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 7 August 2020, there were 14,120 deaths of residents in care homes involving COVID-19. Of these deaths, 29 were notified in the week up to 7 August. 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 17 March and 31 July 2020, there were 502 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 5: Deaths in private homes remained above the five-year average in Week 31**

Number of excess deaths by place of occurrence, England and Wales, registered between 28 December 2019 and 31 July 2020

In Week 31, deaths in hospitals, care homes and other communal establishments remained below the five-year average while deaths in private homes remained above the five-year average for the seventh consecutive week, with 676 excess deaths (Figure 5).

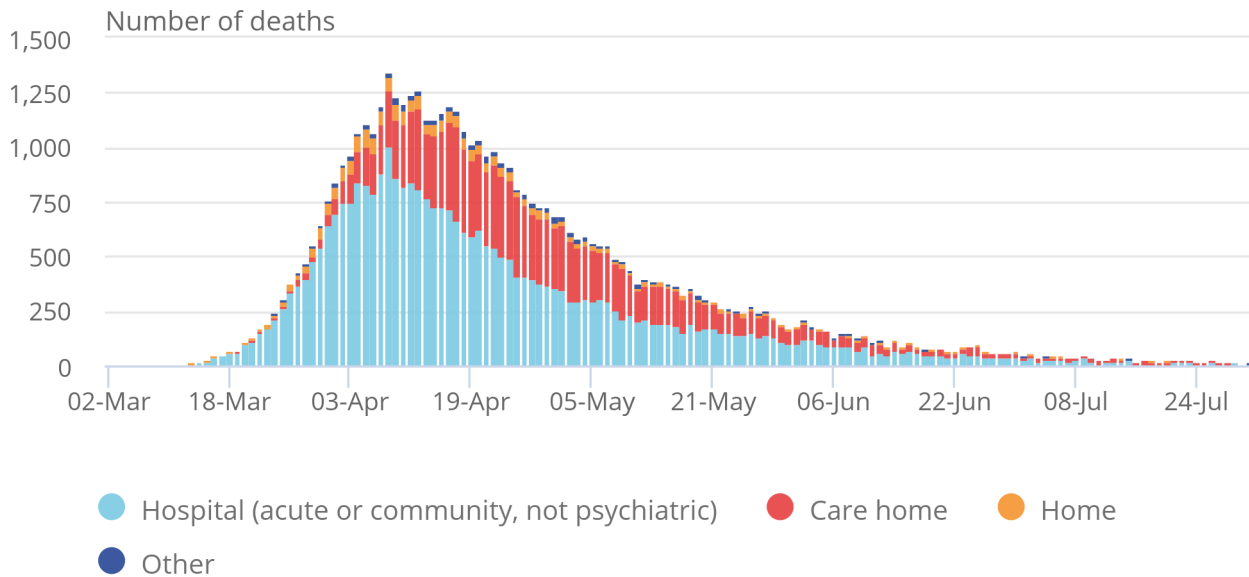
Looking in more detail at deaths in private homes in Week 31, males accounted for more excess deaths (374 deaths) than females (302 deaths), while those aged 70 years and over accounted for the majority of the excess compared with younger age groups (527 deaths). More detailed analysis of excess deaths in England is produced by [Public Health England \(PHE\)](#) on a weekly basis.

## Figure 6: Over half of deaths involving COVID-19 that occurred in Week 31 were in hospital

Number of deaths involving COVID-19 by place of occurrence, England and Wales, occurring up to 31 July 2020 and registered up to 8 August 2020

### Figure 6: Over half of deaths involving COVID-19 that occurred in Week 31 were in hospital

Number of deaths involving COVID-19 by place of occurrence, England and Wales, occurring up to 31 July 2020 and registered up to 8 August 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 8 August 2020.
3. All figures for 2020 are provisional.
4. The International Classification of Diseases, tenth edition (ICD-10) definitions are as follows: coronavirus (COVID-19) (U07.1 and U07.2).

Figure 6 is based on date of death for deaths registered up to 8 August 2020, rather than date of registration. This means as more deaths are registered, deaths per day are likely to increase, especially for later dates. Looking at the average number of deaths in Week 31, deaths occurring in hospitals have accounted for 70.4% of deaths, and care homes have accounted for 20.1% of all deaths involving COVID-19; this may change as more deaths are registered.



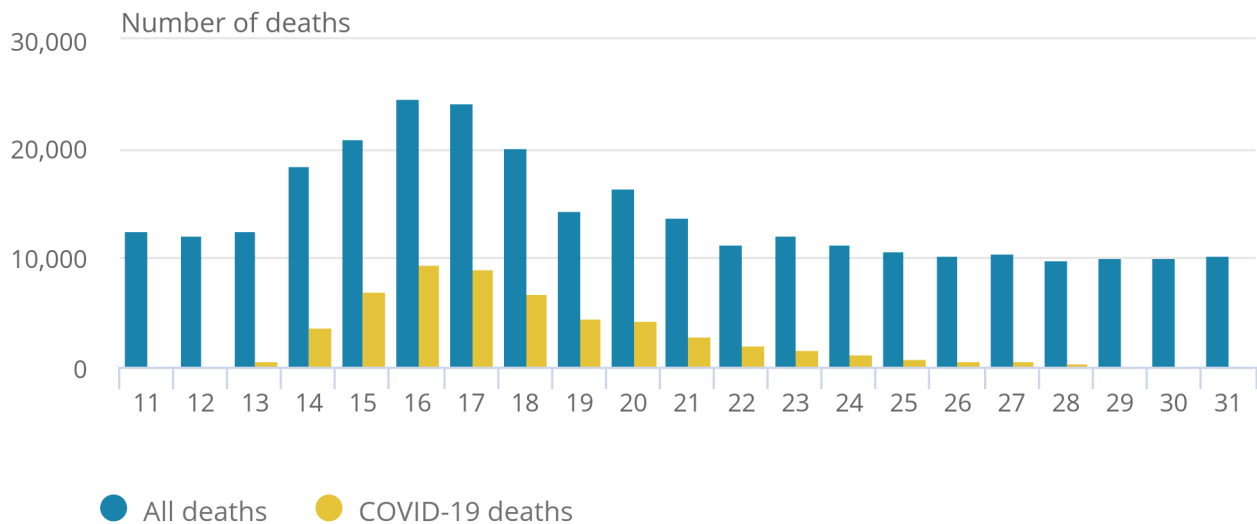
## 6 . Deaths registered in the UK

**Figure 7: The number of deaths in the UK involving COVID-19 continued to decrease**

Number of deaths registered by week, UK, week ending 13 March 2020 to week ending 31 July 2020

### Figure 7: The number of deaths in the UK involving COVID-19 continued to decrease

Number of deaths registered by week, UK, week ending 13 March 2020 to week ending 31 July 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, tenth 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 10,242 deaths (all causes) registered in Week 31 (week ending 31 July 2020), of which 201 deaths involved the coronavirus (COVID-19). This was 42 fewer deaths than the UK five-year average.

In Week 31, England had the highest number of deaths involving COVID-19 with 183 deaths, followed by Wales with 10 deaths, Scotland with seven deaths and Northern Ireland with one death.

## 7 . Comparison of weekly death occurrences 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).

In England, including deaths that occurred up to 31 July 2020 but were registered up to 8 August 2020, of those we have processed so far, the number involving the coronavirus (COVID-19) was 49,183; the comparative number of death notifications reported by the DHSC on [GOV.UK](#) was 41,584.

In Wales, including deaths that occurred up to 31 July 2020 but were registered up to 8 August 2020, of those we have processed so far, the number involving COVID-19 was 2,521; the comparative number of death notifications reported by the DHSC on GOV.UK was 1,562 and [PHW](#) numbers, which come from the same source as the DHSC figures but are continuously updated, showed 1,567 deaths.

## 8 . Deaths data

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

Dataset | Released 11 August 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 the coronavirus (COVID-19) deaths.

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

Dataset | Released 11 August 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 11 August 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).

### Filter these data

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 8 August 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 new bulletin summarises the latest weekly information and will be updated each week during the pandemic.

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 have already begun to include deaths outside hospitals, so this change ensured that the UK-wide series has a shared and common definitional coverage. A [statement](#) was published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), which provides more detail of the changes.

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

	<b>DHSC COVID-19 (as published on GOV.UK) before 29 April</b>	<b>DHSC COVID-19 (as published on GOV.UK) from 29 April</b>	<b>ONS COVID-19 deaths registered</b>	<b>ONS COVID-19 death occurrence (actual date of death)</b>	<b>NHS England</b>	<b>Public Health Wales</b>
<b>Coverage</b>	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		
	Deaths in hospitals	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
<b>Inclusion</b>	Deaths where patient has been tested for COVID-19	Deaths where patient has been tested for COVID-19	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
	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
<b>Timeliness</b>			Registered in the week ending 31 July (week 31)	Deaths which occurred in week 31 but were registered up to 8 August		

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

	<b>ONS COVID-19 deaths registered</b>	<b>ONS COVID-19 death occurrence (actual date of death)</b>	<b>Care Quality Commission deaths in care homes (date of notification received)</b>	<b>Care Inspectorate Wales deaths in care homes (date of notification received)</b>
<b>Coverage</b>	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		
	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
<b>Inclusion</b>	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
<b>Timeliness</b>	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
			Deaths which were notified to CQC from 10 April 2020	

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 6 August 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.

### [Deaths involving COVID-19 by local area and socioeconomic deprivation](#)

Bulletin | Released 12 June 2020

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