

Statistical bulletin

Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales, provisional: week ending 3 April 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.

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Release date:
14 April 2020

Next release:
21 April 2020

Correction

15 April 2020 14:10

Please note a correction has been made to the statisticians comment regarding the highest weekly total.

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1 . Other pages in this release

- [Comparison of weekly death occurrences in England and Wales: up to week ending 3 April 2020](#)

2 . Main points

- The provisional number of deaths registered in England and Wales in the week ending 3 April 2020 (Week 14) was 16,387; this represents an increase of 5,246 deaths registered compared with the previous week (Week 13) and 6,082 more than the five-year average.
- Of the deaths registered in Week 14, 3,475 mentioned “novel coronavirus (COVID-19)”, which was 21.2% of all deaths; this compares with 539 (4.8% of all deaths) in Week 13.
- In London, nearly half (46.6%) of deaths registered in Week 14 involved COVID-19; the West Midlands also had a high proportion of COVID-19 deaths, accounting for 22.1% of deaths registered in this region.
- Of deaths involving COVID-19 registered up to Week 14, 90.2% (3,716 deaths) occurred in hospital, with the remainder occurring in hospices, care homes and private homes.
- Please note, where Easter falls in previous years will have an impact on the five-year average used for comparison.

Statistician’s comment

Nick Stripe, head of health analysis and life events at the ONS said:

“The latest comparable data for deaths involving COVID-19 with a date of death up to 3 April, show there were 6,235 deaths in England and Wales. When looking at data for England, this is 15% higher than the NHS numbers as they include all mentions of COVID-19 on the death certificate, including suspected COVID-19, as well as deaths in the community.

“The 16,387 deaths that were registered in England and Wales during the week ending 3 April is the highest weekly total since Week 2 (early January) 2000.”

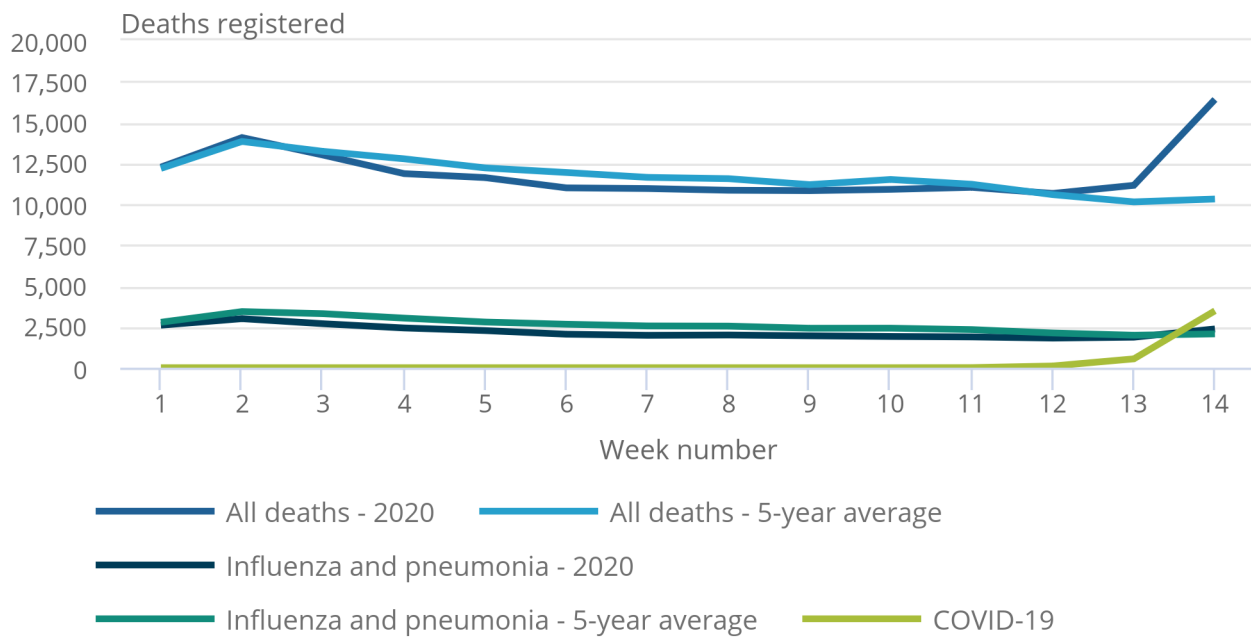
3 . Deaths registered by week

Figure 1: The number of deaths involving COVID-19 and "Influenza and Pneumonia" increased compared with the previous week

Number of deaths registered by week, England and Wales, 29 December 2019 to 3 April 2020

Figure 1: The number of deaths involving COVID-19 and "Influenza and Pneumonia" increased compared with the previous week

Number of deaths registered by week, England and Wales, 29 December 2019 to 3 April 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. Estimates for 2020 are provisional.
4. The ICD-10 definitions are as follows: COVID-19 (U07.1 and U07.2), Influenza and Pneumonia (J09-J18).
5. A death can be registered with both COVID-19 and Influenza and Pneumonia mentioned on the death certificate. Because pneumonia may be a consequence of COVID-19, deaths where both were mentioned have been counted only in the COVID-19 category.

The provisional number of deaths registered in England and Wales in Week 14 (week ending 3 April 2020) increased from 11,141 in Week 13 (week ending 27 March 2020) to 16,387. This is 6,082 more deaths than the five-year average of 10,305.

The number of death registrations involving the coronavirus (COVID-19) increased from 539 in Week 13 to 3,475 in Week 14. The number of deaths mentioning "Influenza and Pneumonia" on the death certificate increased from 1,863 in Week 13 to 2,367 in Week 14. Out of the deaths mentioning "Influenza and Pneumonia" in Week 14, 1,466 also mentioned COVID-19.

In Week 14, 35.7% of all deaths mentioned “Influenza and Pneumonia”, COVID-19, or both. In comparison, for the five-year average, 20.0% of deaths mentioned “Influenza and Pneumonia”. “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 about coronavirus

- Find the latest on [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in the UK](#).
- All ONS analysis, summarised in our [coronavirus roundup](#).
- View [all coronavirus data](#).

4 . Deaths registered by age group

Figure 2: Deaths involving COVID-19 were registered in all age groups apart from those aged under 15 years

Deaths by age group, England and Wales, week ending 3 April 2020

[Download the data](#)

In Week 14 (week ending 3 April 2020), there were no deaths registered involving the coronavirus (COVID-19) in the two youngest age groups (that is, those aged 1 year or under and those aged 1 to 14 years). The highest number (1,231) and proportion (24.6% of deaths in this age group) of COVID-19 deaths were among those aged 75 to 84 years.

5 . Deaths by region

Figure 3: The highest number of deaths involving COVID-19 was recorded in London, while the lowest numbers were in North East England, and Wales

Deaths by regions in England and Wales, week ending 3 April 2020

[Download the data](#)

In Week 14 (week ending 3 April 2020), there were 134 deaths involving the coronavirus (COVID-19) registered in each of the North East of England, and Wales. The region with the largest number and proportion of deaths involving COVID-19 was London with 1,170 deaths; 46.6% of all London deaths and 33.8% of all COVID-19 deaths.

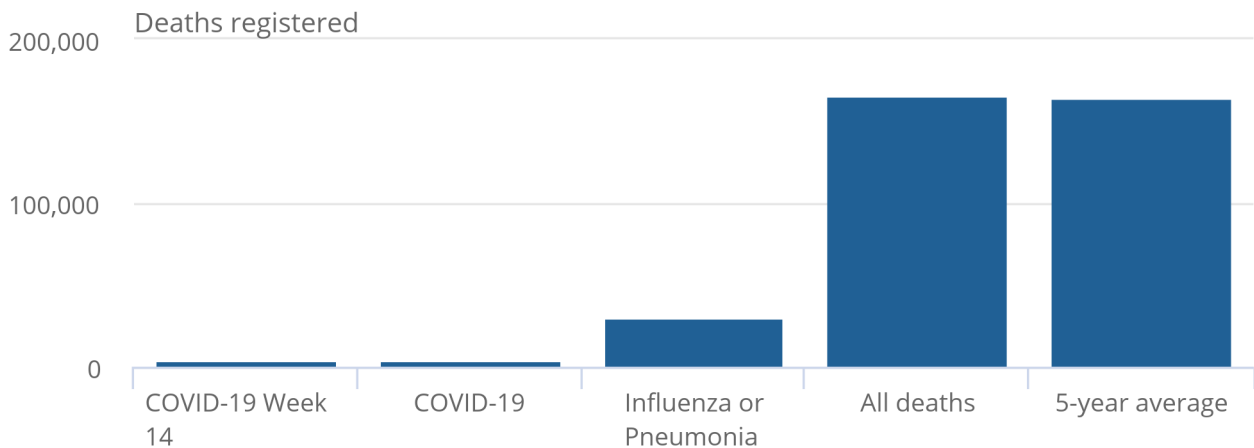
6 . Deaths registered in the year-to-date, week 1 to 14

Figure 4: The number of deaths in the year-to-date was higher than the five-year average

Year-to-date analysis for deaths registered in England and Wales, 2020

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Year-to-date analysis for deaths registered in England and Wales, 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. Estimates for 2020 are provisional.
4. The ICD-10 definitions for COVID-19 are U07.1 and U07.2.
5. Individual weeks may not sum to the year-to-date analysis as previous weeks have been recalculated in order to have the most up-to-date estimates.

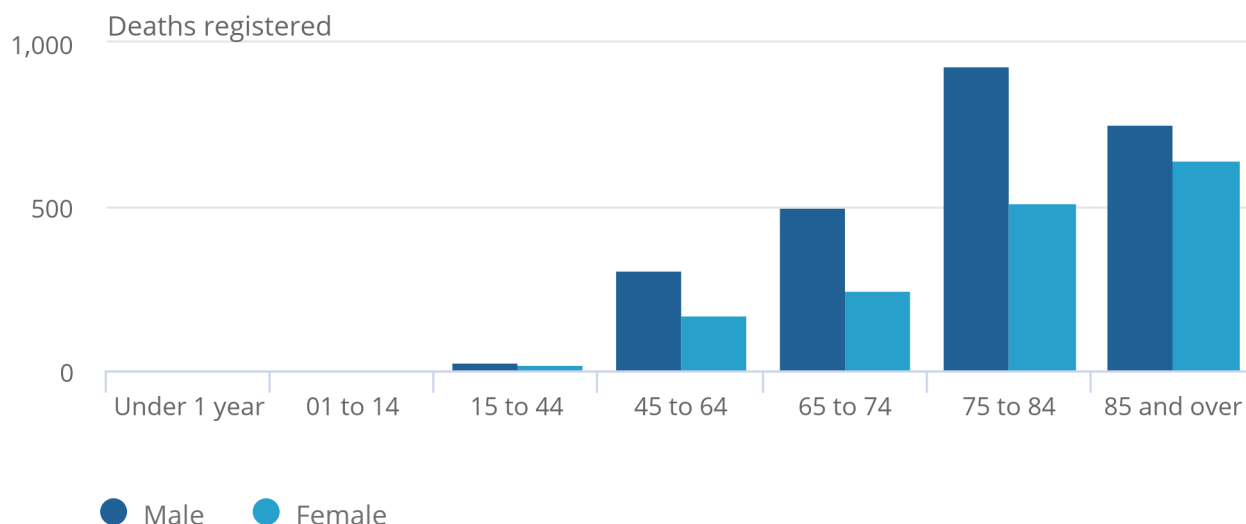
Looking at the year-to-date (using the most up-to-date data we have available to get the most accurate estimates), the number of deaths is currently higher than the five-year average. The current number of deaths is 166,436, which is 2,240 more than the five-year average. Of the deaths registered by 3 April 2020, 4,122 mentioned the coronavirus (COVID-19) on the death certificate; this is 2.5% of all deaths.

Figure 5: The number of deaths involving COVID-19 for females was lower than males in all age groups

Year-to-date analysis for deaths registered involving COVID-19, by sex and age group, England and Wales, 2020

Figure 5: The number of deaths involving COVID-19 for females was lower than males in all age groups

Year-to-date analysis for deaths registered involving COVID-19, by sex and age group, England and Wales, 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. Estimates for 2020 are provisional.
4. The ICD-10 definitions for COVID-19 are U07.1 and U07.2.
5. Individual weeks may not sum to the year-to-date analysis as previous weeks have been recalculated in order to have the most up-to-date estimates.

In each age group there have been more deaths involving COVID-19 in males than in females. The largest difference was in age group 75 to 84 years where there were 931 deaths involving COVID-19 in males and 515 in females.

7 . Deaths registered by place of occurrence

The year-to-date analysis shows that, of deaths involving the coronavirus (COVID-19) up to Week 14, 90.2% (3,716 deaths) occurred in hospital, with the remainder occurring in hospices (33 deaths), care homes (217 deaths) and private homes (136 deaths).

Figure 6a: The majority of COVID-19 deaths occurred in hospitals

Year-to-date analysis for COVID-19 deaths registered in England and Wales, 2020

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Year-to-date analysis for COVID-19 deaths registered in England and Wales, 2020

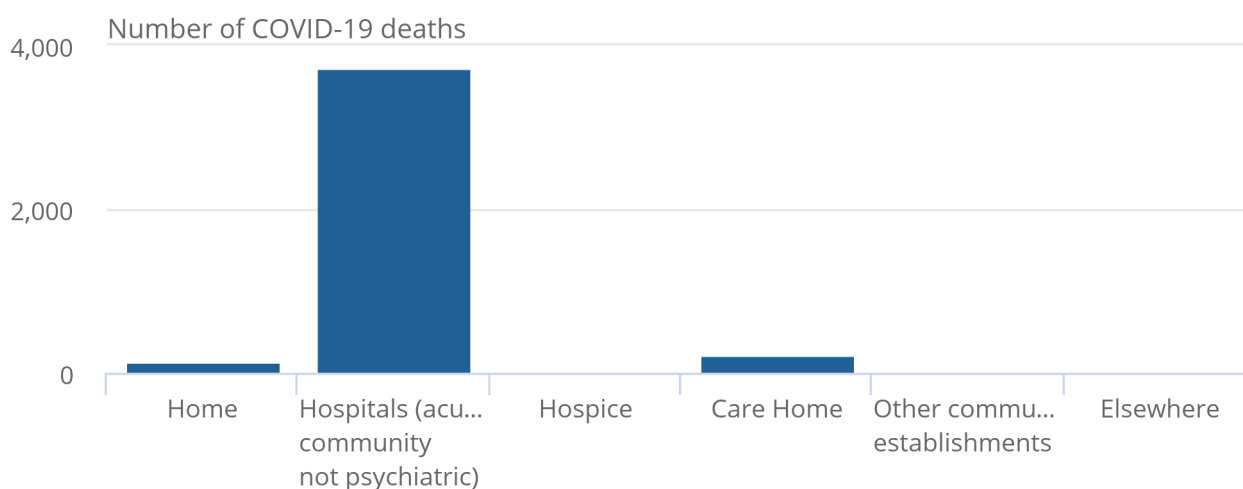
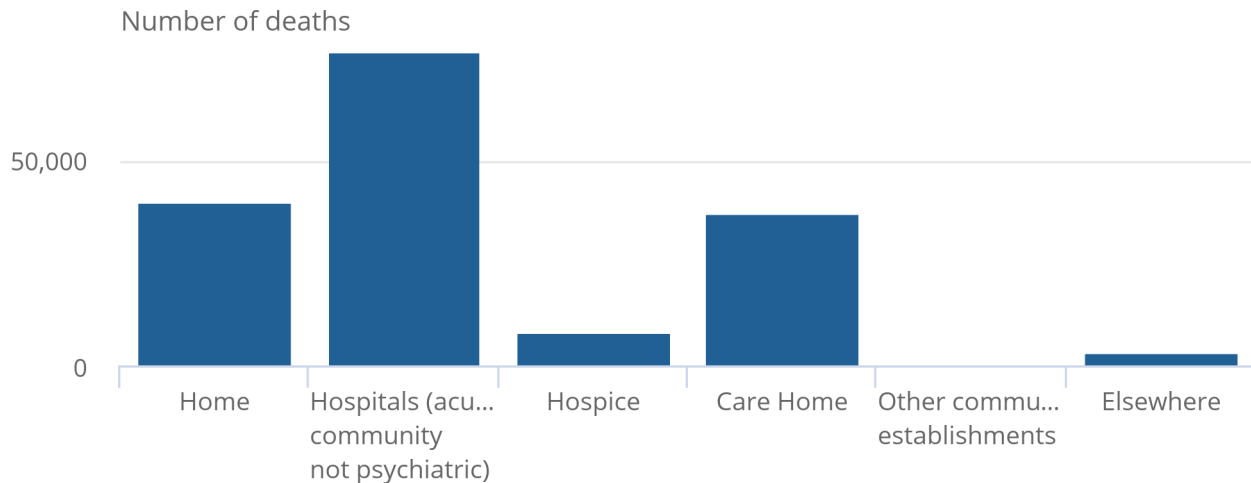


Figure 6b: The majority of deaths from all causes occurred in hospitals

Year-to-date analysis for deaths registered in England and Wales, 2020

Figure 6b: The majority of deaths from all causes occurred in hospitals

Year-to-date analysis for deaths registered in England and Wales, 2020



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

Notes:

1. For all deaths registered from 29 December 2019 to 3 April 2020.
2. Figures include deaths of non-residents.
3. Estimates are provisional.
4. The International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10) definitions for COVID-19 are U07.1 and U07.2.

8 . New analysis

We will be releasing [Analysis of deaths involving COVID-19](#) on Thursday 16 April 2020. This will take a more in-depth look at deaths related to the coronavirus (COVID-19) that have occurred in March. Analysis will look at the number of deaths with COVID-19 as the underlying cause of death, comparisons with other causes and breakdowns by age, sex and place of death.

9 . Deaths data

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

Dataset | Released 14 April 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.

10 . 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 as “deaths involving COVID-19”. A doctor can certify the involvement of COVID-19 based on symptoms and clinical findings – a positive test result is not required.

11 . 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 April 2020.

Because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, our regular weekly deaths release now provides a separate breakdown of the numbers 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 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. Our figures also include any deaths that occur outside hospital.

In contrast to the GOV.UK figures, we include only deaths registered in England and Wales, which is the legal remit of the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Table 1 provides an overview of the differences in definitions between sources.

Table 1: Definitions of COVID-19 deaths between different sources

	DHSC COVID-19 (as published on GOV.UK)	ONS COVID-19 deaths registered	ONS COVID-19 death occurrence (actual date of death)	NHS England
Coverage	UK (however we only include England and Wales breakdowns for comparable coverage with ONS data)	Registrations in England and Wales In discussions with devolved nations to create UK estimates in the near future	Registrations in England and Wales In discussions with devolved nations to create UK estimates in the near future	England
Inclusion	Deaths in hospitals Deaths where patient has been tested for COVID-19	Any place of death, including Nursing homes Deaths where COVID-19 has been mentioned on the death certificate	Any place of death, including Nursing homes Deaths where COVID-19 has been mentioned on the death certificate	Deaths in hospitals Deaths where patient has been tested for COVID-19
Timeliness	Provided daily but not officially registered. Data are provided to NHS-E directly by hospitals. Data only published once confirmed family have been notified of death	Weekly registrations are 11 days behind because of the time taken to register, process and publish. Registered in the week ending the 3 April 2020 (week 14).	Weekly registrations are 11 days behind because of the time taken to register, process and publish. Deaths which occurred in week 14 but were registered up to 11 April 2020.	Updated daily for each date of death

Source: Office for National Statistics

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. On 16 April we will be publishing more in-depth analysis for deaths involving COVID-19.

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](#).

12 . 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](#).

13 . Related links

[Deaths registered in England and Wales: 2018](#)

Bulletin | Released 6 August 2019

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 \(COVID-19\) product page](#)

Product page | Updated when new data are 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.