



Weekly report on COVID-19 deaths reported in Ireland

Report produced by Health Protection Surveillance Centre on 22/12/2021

This report includes data for COVID-19 cases notified on CIDR up to and including midnight on 21/12/2021 who have been notified as COVID-19 deaths

Note: Data were extracted from Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system on 22/12/2021 and are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validation and update. As a result, figures in this report may differ from previously reported figures.

Table 1: Summary characteristics of COVID-19 deaths notified in Ireland with date of death from 15/12/2021 to 21/12/2021

Characteristics	Number of deaths	
Total number of deaths	30	
Age	Mean age (Years)	74
	Median age (Years)	75

The number of deaths described in the above table relate only to COVID-19 cases who died within this time period and whose death has been reported to CIDR up to 22/12/2021. It does not include deaths of COVID-19 cases reported to CIDR in the last week but with an earlier date of death. It also does not reflect the final number of deaths occurring for this period as the outcome may not yet have occurred, or is yet to be reported to CIDR.

Table 2: Summary characteristics of COVID-19 deaths in Ireland, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 21/12/2021

Characteristics		Number of Deaths	Percentage
Total number of deaths		5,890	
Sex	Female	2,741	46.5
	Male	3,149	53.5
	Unknown	0	0.0
	M:F ratio	1.15	
Case classification*	Possible	176	3.0
	Probable	97	1.6
	Confirmed	5,617	95.4
Healthcare Worker	Yes	19	0.3
	No	4,926	83.6
	Unknown	945	16.0
Underlying Conditions	Yes	4,989	84.7
	No	494	8.4
	Unknown	407	6.9
ICU Admission	Yes	726	12.3
	No	5,164	87.7

* [Case definition](#)

Table 3: Number and percentage of COVID-19 deaths and mortality rate per 100,000 in Ireland by age group, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 21/12/2021

Characteristics		Number of Deaths	Percentage	Mortality rate per 100,000
Age	Median Age (Years)	82		
	Mean Age (Years)	80		
Age group	<25 yrs	8	0.1	0.4
	25-34 yrs	17	0.3	2.6
	35-44 yrs	46	0.8	6.2
	45-54 yrs	140	2.4	22.4
	55-64 yrs	368	6.2	72.3
	65-74 yrs	978	16.6	261.8
	75-84 yrs	1,964	33.3	999.5
	85+ yrs	2,366	40.2	3502.3
	Unknown	3	0.1	
	Total	5,890	100	123.7

Please note that due to the small number of persons who died due to COVID-19 in the age groups 0-25 years this information has been aggregated in order to protect patient confidentiality

Table 4: Number and percentage of COVID-19 deaths and mortality rate per 100,000 in Ireland by county of notification, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 21/12/2021

County	Number of deaths	Percentage	Mortality rate per 100,000
Carlow	79	1.3	138.8
Cavan	125	2.1	164.1
Clare	148	2.5	124.6
Cork	510	8.7	93.9
Donegal	224	3.8	140.7
Dublin	2,036	34.6	151.1
Galway	166	2.8	64.3
Kerry	94	1.6	63.6
Kildare	356	6.0	160.0
Kilkenny	92	1.6	92.7
Laois	97	1.6	114.5
Leitrim	30	0.5	93.6
Limerick	280	4.8	143.7
Longford	39	0.7	95.4
Louth	225	3.8	174.6
Mayo	228	3.9	174.7
Meath	185	3.1	94.9
Monaghan	106	1.8	172.7
Offaly	81	1.4	103.9
Roscommon	74	1.3	114.7
Sligo	43	0.7	65.6
Tipperary	123	2.1	77.1
Waterford	126	2.1	108.5
Westmeath	90	1.5	101.4
Wexford	165	2.8	110.2
Wicklow	168	2.9	118.0

Table 5: Place of death for COVID-19 deaths in Ireland, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 21/12/2021

Place of death	Number of deaths	Percentage
Hospital	3,059	51.9
Residential Institution*	2,030	34.5
Hospice	60	1.0
Home	257	4.4
Other	91	1.5
Unknown	393	6.7

*Residential institution includes: community hospital/long stay unit, homeless facility, mental health facility and nursing homes.

Table 6: Summary of COVID-19 deaths linked to outbreaks in Ireland, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 21/12/2021

		Number of Deaths	Percentage of total deaths	Percentage of deaths linked to outbreaks
Total number of deaths		5,890	100.0	
Deaths linked to outbreaks		3,631	61.6	100.0
Outbreaks by location	Nursing homes	2,242	38.1	61.7
	Hospital	866	14.7	23.9
	Community Hospitals/Long-stay units	146	2.5	4.0
	Residential institutions	109	1.9	3.0
	Other locations*	268	4.6	7.4

* Other locations include community outbreak, extended family, hotel, other, other healthcare service, private house, public house, religious/other ceremony, workplace

A death linked to an outbreak in a particular setting does not of itself indicate that transmission occurred within that setting. A case may be detected as part of an outbreak investigation, and associated with an outbreak, despite exposure and transmission having occurred elsewhere.

Table 7: Number of COVID-19 deaths in Ireland by month of death, cases with a date of notification from March 2020 to December 2021

Year	Month	Number of deaths *
2020	March	129
2020	April	1,160
2020	May	363
2020	June	67
2020	July	17
2020	August	7
2020	September	39
2020	October	132
2020	November	190
2020	December	195
2021	January	1,417
2021	February	892
2021	March	258
2021	April	101
2021	May	43
2021	June	20
2021	July	22
2021	August	87
2021	September	178
2021	October	211
2021	November	223
2021	December	110

* Date of death reported for 5,861 of the deaths.

Number of deaths for December 2021 is incomplete.

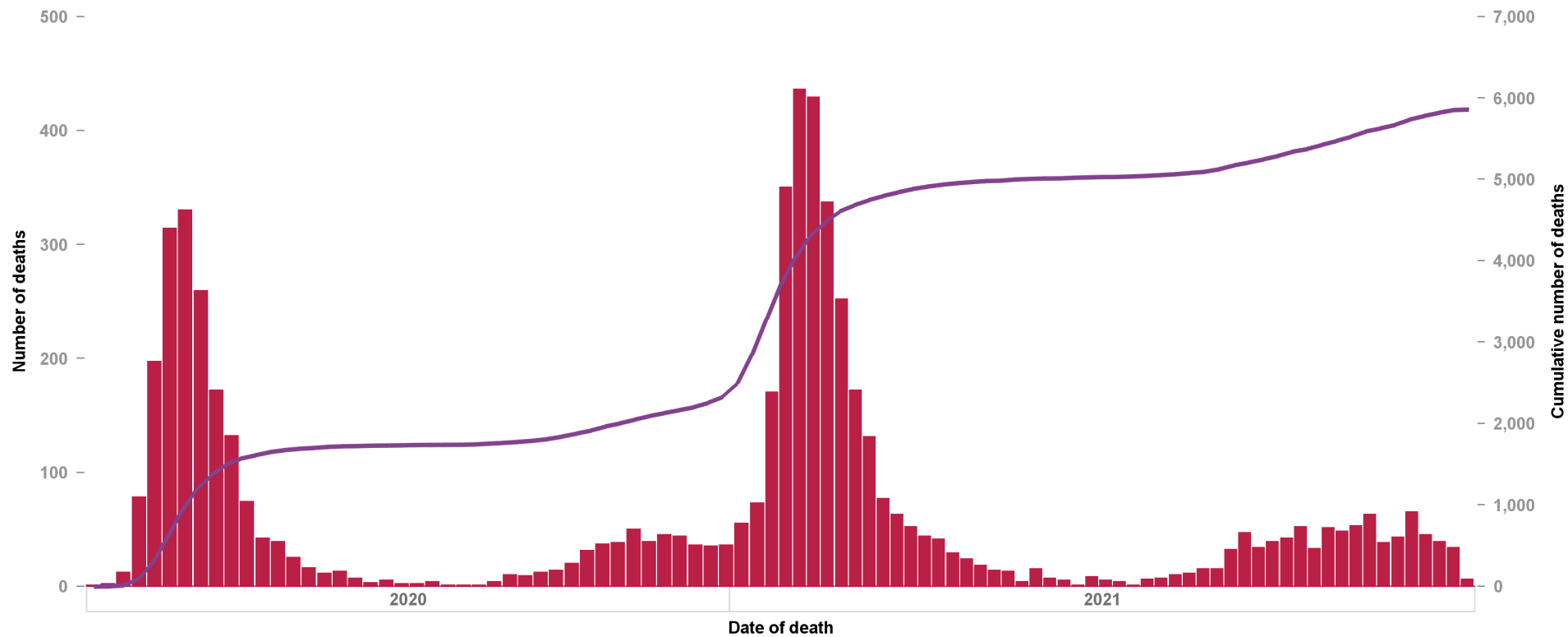


Figure 1: Total number of COVID-19 deaths in Ireland and cumulative number by week of death, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 21/12/2021. Date of death reported for 5,861 of deaths.

Acknowledgments

Sincere thanks are extended to all those who are participating in the collection of data and reporting of data used in these reports. This includes the HSE COVID-19 Contact Management Programme (CMP), staff in ICU units, notifying clinicians, laboratory staff, public health doctors, nurses, surveillance scientists, microbiologists and administrative staff.

Report prepared by COVID-19 Epidemiology Team, HPSC

Technical Notes

1. Data Source

Data are based on statutory notifications and were extracted from Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system at 08:35 on 22/12/2021. Data are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validation and update. As a result, figures in this report may differ from previously published figures.

2. Population Data

Population data were taken from Census 2016. Data were aggregated into the following age groups for the analysis of deaths for the entire pandemic: 0-24 years, 25-34 years, 35-44 years, 45-54 years, 55-64 years, 65-74 years, 75-84 years and ≥ 85 years. Data were aggregated into the following age groups for the analysis of deaths with date of death in the past 7 days: 0-64 years, 65-74 years, 75-84 years and ≥ 85 years.

3. Definition of a COVID-19 death used by HPSC

For surveillance purposes, COVID-19 deaths include deaths in all possible, probable and confirmed COVID-19 cases (as per the COVID-19 case definition) and all should be notified, unless there is a clear alternative cause of death that cannot be related to COVID-19 infection (e.g. trauma). There should be no period of complete recovery* from COVID-19 between the illness and death. All COVID-19 deaths are notified regardless of the setting, including home, community and hospital settings. HPSC reports all deaths among these COVID-19 cases as outlined above and does not just confine the death reporting to those who die within 28 days of a positive test. This is in line with how COVID-19 cases are reported by the majority of European countries and follows WHO guidance for COVID-19 death surveillance.

*Please note that discharge from ICU or hospital is not in itself evidence of recovery. To determine if the case had recovered, it should be based on clinical assessment or alternatively a period of ≥ 3 months must have elapsed since the case was initially diagnosed with COVID-19 and the case must have no evidence of COVID-19 infection prior to death as assessed by a clinician.

Deaths not reported as COVID-19 deaths:

1. Persons with COVID-19 may die directly due to accidents. Such deaths are not due to COVID-19 and should not be certified as such. This decision not to certify as COVID-19 death will be based on clinical judgement.
2. In some instances, a death due to COVID-19 may not be attributed to another disease (e.g. cancer) and would be counted as a COVID-19 death independently of pre-existing conditions that are suspected of triggering a severe course of COVID-19.

More resources:

[COVID-19 interim case definition](#)

[Epidemiology of COVID-19 in Ireland Frequently Asked Questions](#)