Weekly report on COVID-19 deaths reported in Ireland

Report produced by Health Protection Surveillance Centre on 21/02/2022

This report includes data for COVID-19 cases notified on CIDR up to and including midnight on 19/02/2022 who have been notified as COVID-19 deaths

Note: Data were extracted from Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system on 21/02/2022 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 13/02/2022 to 19/02/2022

Characteristics		Number of deaths
Total number of deaths		17
Age	Mean age (Years)	82
	Median age (Years)	87

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 21/02/2022. 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 19/02/2022

Characteristics		Number of Deaths	Percentage
Total number of deaths		6,443	
Sex	Female	2,990	46.4
	Male	3,452	53.6
	Unknown	1	0.0
	M:F ratio	1.15	
Case classification*	Possible	182	2.8
	Probable	98	1.5
	Confirmed	6,163	95.7
Healthcare Worker	Yes	22	0.3
	No	5,227	81.1
	Unknown	1,194	18.5
Underlying Conditions	Yes	5,298	82.2
	No	633	9.8
	Unknown	512	7.9
ICU Admission	Yes	814	12.6
	No	5,629	87.4

* 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 19/02/2022

Characteristics		Number of Deaths	Percentage	Mortality rate per 100,000
Age	Median Age (Years)	82		
	Mean Age (Years)	80		
Age group	<25 yrs	11	0.2	0.6
	25-34 yrs	22	0.3	3.3
	35-44 yrs	55	0.9	7.4
	45-54 yrs	171	2.7	27.3
	55-64 yrs	421	6.5	82.7
	65-74 yrs	1,096	17.0	293.4
	75-84 yrs	2,135	33.1	1086.5
	85+ yrs	2,527	39.2	3740.7
	Unknown	5	0.1	
	Total	6,443	100	135.3

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 19/02/2022

County	Number of deaths	Percentage	Mortality rate per 100,000
Carlow	86	1.3	151.1
Cavan	137	2.1	179.8
Clare	156	2.4	131.3
Cork	553	8.6	101.9
Donegal	240	3.7	150.8
Dublin	2,225	34.5	165.1
Galway	197	3.1	76.3
Kerry	118	1.8	79.9
Kildare	378	5.9	169.9
Kilkenny	109	1.7	109.8
Laois	103	1.6	121.6
Leitrim	31	0.5	96.7
Limerick	305	4.7	156.5
Longford	45	0.7	110.1
Louth	251	3.9	194.7
Mayo	247	3.8	189.3
Meath	201	3.1	103.1
Monaghan	110	1.7	179.2
Offaly	89	1.4	114.2
Roscommon	81	1.3	125.5
Sligo	47	0.7	71.7
Tipperary	136	2.1	85.2
Waterford	139	2.2	119.6
Westmeath	99	1.5	111.5
Wexford	180	2.8	120.2
Wicklow	180	2.8	126.4

Table 5: Place of death for COVID-19 deaths in Ireland, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 19/02/2022

Place of death	Number of deaths	Percentage
Hospital	3,396	52.7
Residential Institution*	2,113	32.8
Hospice	67	1.0
Home	320	5.0
Other	100	1.6
Unknown	447	6.9

*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 19/02/2022

		Number of Deaths	Percentage of total deaths	Percentage of deaths linked to outbreaks
Total number of deaths		6,443	100.0	
Deaths linked to outbreaks		3,785	58.7	100.0
Outbreaks by location	Nursing homes	2,327	36.1	61.5
	Hospital	915	14.2	24.2
	Community Hospitals/Long-stay units	155	2.4	4.1
	Residential institutions	114	1.8	3.0
	Other locations*	274	4.3	7.2

* 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 from March 2020 to February 2022

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	1,422
2021	February	892
2021	March	258
2021	April	104
2021	May	44
2021	June	21
2021	July	22
2021	August	92
2021	September	185
2021	October	235
2021	November	262
2021	December	243
2022	January	252
2022	February	76

* Date of death reported for 6,407 of the deaths.

Number of deaths for February 2022 is incomplete.

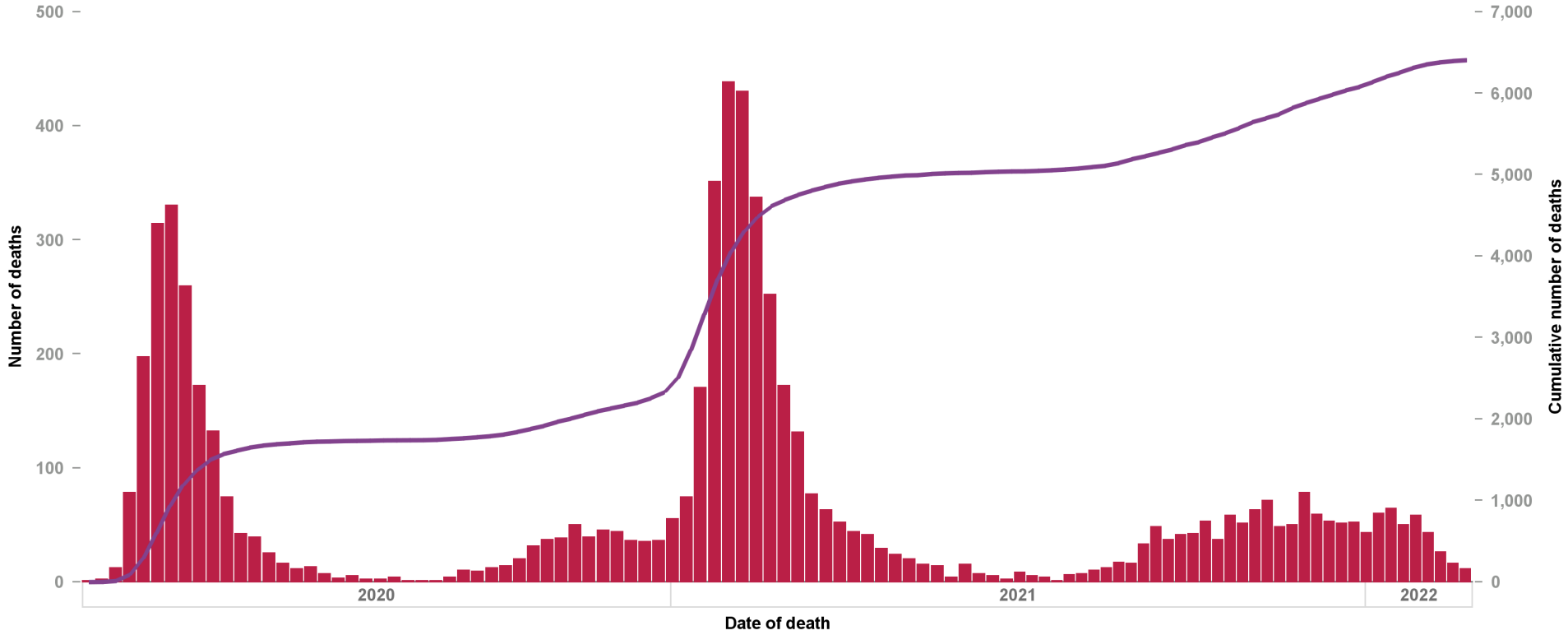

Figure 1: Total number of COVID-19 deaths in Ireland and cumulative number by week of death, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 19/02/2022. Date of death reported for 6,407 of deaths.

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 10:25 on 21/02/2022. 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 or ≥ 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