Report on COVID-19 deaths reported in Ireland

Report produced by Health Protection Surveillance Centre on 17/10/2023

This report includes data for COVID-19 cases notified on CIDR up to and including midnight on 14/10/2023 00:00:00 who have been notified as COVID-19 deaths

The HPSC Epidemiology of COVID-19 Data Hub provides a breakdown of notified deaths by county, age group and place of death. The Data Hub is updated each Wednesday.

Note: Data were extracted from Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system on 17/10/2023 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 17/09/2023 00:00:00 to 14/10/2023 00:00:00

Characteristics		Number of deaths
Total number of deaths		25
Age	Mean age (Years)	83
	Median age (Years)	84

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 17/10/2023. It does not include deaths of COVID-19 cases reported to CIDR in the last four weeks 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 14/10/2023 00:00:00

Characteristics		Number of Deaths	Percentage
Total number of deaths		9,278	
Sex	Female	4,318	46.5
	Male	4,960	53.5
	Unknown	0	0.0
	M:F ratio	1.15	
Case classification*	Possible	343	3.7
	Probable	187	2.0
	Confirmed	8,748	94.3
Healthcare Worker	Yes	23	0.2
	No	6,248	67.3
	Unknown	3,007	32.4
Underlying Conditions	Yes	6,705	72.3
	No	946	10.2
	Unknown	1,627	17.5
ICU Admission	Yes	980	10.6
	No	8,298	89.4

* 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 14/10/2023 00:00:00

Characteristics		Number of Deaths	Percentage	Mortality rate per 100,000
Age	Median Age (Years)	82		
	Mean Age (Years)	80		
Age group	<25 yrs	18	0.2	1.0
	25-34 yrs	31	0.3	4.7
	35-44 yrs	97	1.0	13.0
	45-54 yrs	231	2.5	36.9
	55-64 yrs	574	6.2	112.8
	65-74 yrs	1,501	16.2	401.9
	75-84 yrs	3,033	32.7	1543.5
	85+ yrs	3,787	40.8	5605.8
	Unknown	6	0.1	
	Total	9,278	100	194.8

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 14/10/2023 00:00:00

County	Number of deaths	Percentage	Mortality rate per 100,000
Carlow	124	1.3	217.8
Cavan	186	2.0	244.2
Clare	229	2.5	192.7
Cork	860	9.3	158.4
Donegal	334	3.6	209.8
Dublin	2,887	31.1	214.3
Galway	349	3.8	135.2
Kerry	220	2.4	148.9
Kildare	490	5.3	220.2
Kilkenny	172	1.9	173.3
Laois	155	1.7	183.0
Leitrim	55	0.6	171.6
Limerick	424	4.6	217.5
Longford	66	0.7	161.5
Louth	343	3.7	266.1
Mayo	401	4.3	307.3
Meath	305	3.3	156.4
Monaghan	142	1.5	231.3
Offaly	149	1.6	191.1
Roscommon	142	1.5	220.0
Sligo	77	0.8	117.5
Tipperary	231	2.5	144.8
Waterford	230	2.5	198.0
Westmeath	166	1.8	187.0
Wexford	291	3.1	194.4
Wicklow	250	2.7	175.5

Table 5: Place of death for COVID-19 deaths in Ireland, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 14/10/2023 00:00:00

Place of death	Number of deaths	Percentage
Hospital	5,179	55.8
Residential Institution*	2,642	28.5
Hospice	145	1.6
Home	576	6.2
Other	168	1.8
Unknown	568	6.1

*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 14/10/2023 00:00:00

		Number of Deaths	Percentage of total deaths	Percentage of deaths linked to outbreaks
Total number of deaths		9,278	100.0	
Deaths linked to outbreaks		4,534	48.9	100.0
Outbreaks by location	Nursing homes	2,721	29.3	60.0
	Hospital	1,188	12.8	26.2
	Community Hospitals/Long-stay units	216	2.3	4.8
	Residential institutions	133	1.4	2.9
	Other locations*	276	3.0	6.1

* 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 October 2023

Year	Month	Number of deaths *
2020	March	129
2020	April	1,158
2020	May	362
2020	June	67
2020	July	17
2020	August	7
2020	September	39
2020	October	132
2020	November	190
2020	December	193
2021	January	1,424
2021	February	894
2021	March	258
2021	April	104
2021	May	45
2021	June	22
2021	July	22
2021	August	95
2021	September	193
2021	October	240
2021	November	268
2021	December	262
2022	January	329
2022	February	225
2022	March	344
2022	April	365
2022	May	132
2022	June	120
2022	July	200
2022	August	127
2022	September	73
2022	October	140
2022	November	140
2022	December	209
2023	January	203
2023	February	72
2023	March	77
2023	April	85
2023	May	85
2023	June	53
2023	July	33
2023	August	74
2023	September	47
2023	October	8

Number of deaths for October 2023 is incomplete.

* Date of death reported for 9,262 of the deaths.

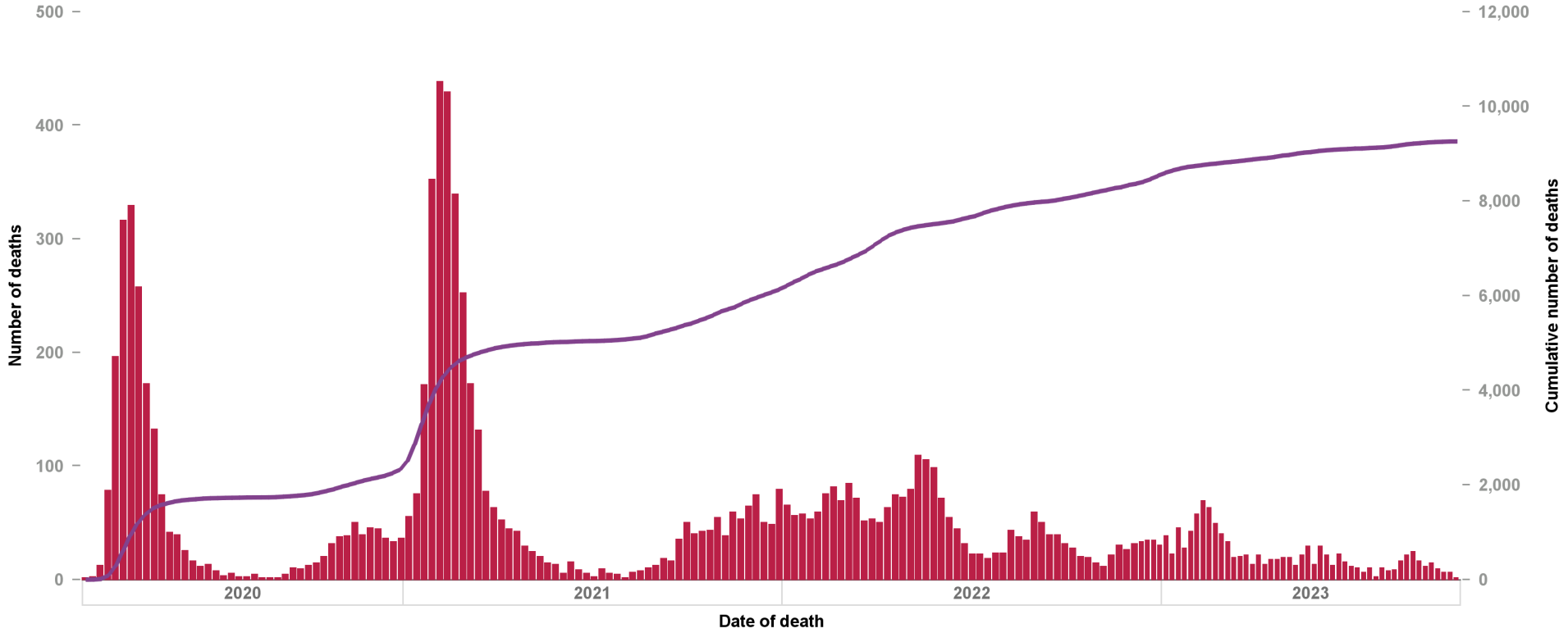

Figure 1: Total number of COVID-19 deaths in Ireland and cumulative number by week of death, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 14/10/2023 00:00:00. Date of death reported for 9,262 of deaths.

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 09:16 on 17/10/2023. 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