

STATISTICS PRESS NOTICE – Covid-19 related deaths and pre-existing conditions in Northern Ireland: March 2020 to November 2021



9:30am Thursday 9 December 2021

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) has today published a report on pre-existing conditions associated with Covid-19 related deaths in Northern Ireland.

Between 1 March 2020 and 30 September 2021, there were 3,462 Covid-19 related deaths registered in Northern Ireland. Covid-19 was the underlying cause of death (that is, the disease or injury which initiated the train of morbid events leading directly to death) for 3,007 deaths (86.9% of Covid-19 related deaths).

Pre-existing conditions are defined as any mention on the death certificate of a condition that pre-dated or was independent of Covid-19. There were no pre-existing conditions for 311 of the 3,007 Covid-19 deaths (10.3%). On average, there were 2.50 pre-existing conditions per Covid-19 death.

Dementia and Alzheimer's disease was the most common pre-existing condition, appearing in 767 of the 3,007 Covid-19 deaths (25.5%). The next most common pre-existing conditions were hypertensive diseases (635) and diabetes (632 deaths).

During October and November 2021, a further 423 Covid-19 related deaths were registered. At present, there is insufficient information to identify the number and type of pre-existing conditions over this two-month period.

NISRA

December 2021

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. A detailed report can be found at [Covid-19 related deaths and pre-existing conditions](#)
2. Statistics on [weekly deaths registered in Northern Ireland](#) are available.
3. Differences between NISRA's death registration statistics and the daily totals reported via the Department of Health are as follows:
 - The **daily updates** provided by the Department of Health (DoH) count the number of deaths reported by Trusts, where the deceased had a positive test for Covid-19 and died within 28 days, whether or not Covid-19 was the cause of death. DoH figures will not capture all deaths that do not meet this definition. These data are important because they are available earlier, and therefore give a quicker indication of what is happening day by day and are broadly comparable with the figures released daily in other parts of the United Kingdom (UK).
 - These statistics, like the NISRA weekly, provisional death statistics, are based on death registration information collected by the General Register Office, and count all deaths where Covid-19 was mentioned on the death certificate by the doctor who certified the death, whether or not Covid-19 was the primary underlying cause of death. The figures include cases where the doctor noted that there was suspected or probable coronavirus infection involved in the death. As a result totals from this source will usually be higher than the relevant daily figures - because the DoH daily updates only include those who have tested positive for the virus.
4. Death statistics based on underlying cause are published quarterly. Latest figures are for deaths registered up to the end of September 2021 and are available at [Registrar General quarterly tables quarter 3 2021](#).
5. This report was created within the Administrative Data Research Northern Ireland (ADR NI), a partnership between the Administrative Data Research Centre Northern Ireland (ADRC NI, comprising Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University), and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). Together they support the acquisition, linking and analysis of administrative data sets, developing cutting-edge research to improve knowledge, policymaking and public service delivery.
6. All media queries to Department of Finance Press Office at dof.pressoffice@finance-ni.gov.uk or on Tel: 028 90816724. Out of office hours please contact the Duty Press Officer on 028 9037 8110 and your call will be returned.
7. Further information on the statistics provided in this publication can be obtained from NISRA Customer Services at:

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