

# STATISTICS PRESS NOTICE – Covid-19 Deaths in Wave One Analysis of Equality Group, Health and Socio-demographic Characteristics



9:30am Tuesday 21 December 2021

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) has today published a research report on Covid-19 deaths in Northern Ireland. The research examines Covid-19 and non Covid-19 deaths in Northern Ireland that occurred in the 7-month period between 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The analyses are based on the deaths of persons aged 30 years and over, who could be linked to the 2011 Census, the most recent Census data available.

The report uses age-standardised mortality rates (ASMRs) to directly compare mortality rates in Wave One by disability and by religion. The report also uses statistical models to examine the extent to which risk of Covid-19 and non Covid-19 death in Wave One was explained by age, sex, area of residence, socio-demographic and self-reported health characteristics.

After adjusting for differences in age, sex, area of residence, socio-demographic characteristics and health, there was a 48% and 40% higher risk for persons self-reporting having a disability at the time of the 2011 Census (compared to 'non-disabled' people) for Covid-19 and non Covid-19 mortality respectively.

After accounting for differences in age, sex and area of residence, there was no significant difference in risk of Covid-19 death, for the time period March to September 2020, for those who identified as Protestant at the time of the 2011 Census, compared to Catholics.

The numbers of Covid-19 deaths broken down by ethnicity were too small to analyse. For non Covid-19 deaths during the reporting period, the majority (99.6%) of the population had identified as having white ethnicity.

The research has been funded by the [Economic & Social Research Council](#) via [ADR UK](#) (Administrative Data Research UK) and taken forward by NISRA in collaboration with Queen's University researchers. NISRA, work with the Administrative Data Research Centre Northern Ireland (comprising the Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University), forming the ADR Northern Ireland (ADR NI).

**NISRA**

**December 2021**

## NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The research report can be found at [Covid-19 Deaths and Equality – Wave one](#)
2. The analyses are based on the deaths of persons aged 30 years and over, who could be linked to the 2011 Census, the most recent Census data available. These occurrence based statistics (to end September 2020) take into account registrations up to and including 31 October 2020. This time period for analysis reflected the most up-to-date information available in the secure research environment.
3. The definition of Covid-19 deaths used in the report included all deaths where Covid-19 was found to be the underlying cause of death.
4. Mortality rates generally increase with age. A population with a greater proportion of older people is expected to have more deaths per population. To adjust for different age profiles in different populations (e.g. different regions or countries), statistical techniques are used to adjust or 'standardize' mortality rates among populations to be compared. Age-standardised mortality rates (ASMRs) are presented per 100,000 people and are standardised to the 2013 European Standard Population.
5. All media queries to Department of Finance Press Office at [dof.pressoffice@finance-ni.gov.uk](mailto:dof.pressoffice@finance-ni.gov.uk) or on Tel: 028 90816724. The Executive Information Service operates an out of hours service For Media Enquiries Only between 1800hrs and 0800hrs Monday to Friday and at weekends and public holidays. The duty press officer can be contacted on 028 9037 8110.
6. This analysis has been supported by the [ADR Northern Ireland](#). Further information on the statistics provided in this publication can be obtained from NISRA Customer Services at:  
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