

**STATISTICS PRESS NOTICE –
REGISTRAR GENERAL
QUARTERLY REPORT
(Provisional Statistics for Quarter
ending 30th June 2020)**



9:30am Thursday 17th September 2020

**Register General Quarterly Report: Provisional Statistics for Quarter
Ending 30th June, 2020**

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) has today published the Registrar General Quarterly Report: Provisional Statistics for Quarter 2 2020 which details a range of provisional vital statistics.

The statistics, which cover 1st April to 30th June, show there were a total of 4,684 deaths registered over the period. Covid-19 was the underlying cause of 732 of these deaths. This equates to 15.6 percent of the total deaths in the quarter and brings the total number of deaths, with an underlying cause of death of Covid-19 in the calendar year 2020, to 755.

In comparison, NISRA's weekly death statistics, which count the number of deaths where Covid-19 was *mentioned* on the death certificate, reported that in the calendar year to 30th June 2020, 830 deaths involved Covid-19. This means that Covid-19 was the underlying, primary cause of death in 91.0 percent of all deaths which mentioned Covid-19 on the death certificate.

The provisional number of deaths in the quarter which were due to cancer totalled 1,177, and accounted for 25.1 percent of the total deaths in the period, compared to an average of 28.3 percent over the previous 5 years. The provisional total number of deaths due to cancer in 2020 year to date is 2,302, 2.0% higher than for the same period last year.

The provisional number of deaths from ischaemic heart disease and respiratory conditions in Quarter 2 2020 totalled 410 (8.8% of all deaths) and 367 (7.8%) respectively. On average over the last five years 10.5% of annual deaths have been due to ischaemic heart disease and 13.4% due to respiratory conditions.

The number of deaths due to Intentional self-harm totalled 43 (0.9% of all deaths in the quarter) bringing the total for the calendar year 2020 to 77. Based on the average over the previous five years 1.1% of all deaths have been due to self-inflicted injury.

Persons aged 75 and over accounted for two-thirds (66.2%) of all deaths and 80.5% of deaths registered due to Covid-19 this calendar year up to 30th June 2020.

The number of births registered in the quarter was 2,625 (1,344 males and 1,281 females). The number of marriages registered during the same period was 169. These are unusually low figures due to the suspension of birth and marriage registration services during the COVID-19 pandemic. For comparative purposes there were 5,515 births and 2,108 marriages registered in the same period last year.

NISRA

September 2020

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The "Registrar General Quarterly Report - Quarter 2, 2020" contains standard, provisional statistics based on information sourced from the General Register Office relating to vital events in Northern Ireland which were registered from 1st April to 30th June 2020.
2. Quarterly statistics on births, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships registered in Northern Ireland can be found at: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/registrar-general-quarterly-tables-2020>
3. Differences between NISRA's weekly provisional COVID-19 death statistics and the quarterly totals reported here are as follows:
 - NISRA weekly, provisional death statistics, which are based on death registration information collected by the General Register Office, 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.
 - Statistics quoted in the Quarterly Report are presented based on the **primary underlying cause** of death, which have been classified using the tenth revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death (ICD10). The code used for 'COVID-19' is U07. As a result the weekly totals will usually be higher than the quarterly figures quoted - because the weekly mentions include cases which go on to be coded as not having COVID-19 as the underlying cause of death.
4. Death Statistics in Northern Ireland are based on deaths which have been registered with the General Register Office (GRO). There are some situations where the registration of the death can be delayed, specifically where the death has been accidental, unexpected or suspicious, and must be referred to the Coroner.

A death which is suspected to be suicide must therefore be referred to the Coroner and can only be registered after the Coroner has completed his/her investigation. The time taken to carry out this investigation can result in a delay in registration. Given the delay in registration of suicide deaths, these deaths may not appear in published statistics until subsequent years.
5. Since 2001, in line with the rest of the UK, the tenth revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death (ICD10) is used to classify cause of death. The codes used for 'Suicide and self-inflicted injury' are X60-X84 and Y87.0 and the codes used for 'Undetermined intent' are Y10-Y34 and Y87.2.

At present, NISRA recommends that users of suicide statistics refer to the subset of **self-inflicted harm only (ICD-10 codes X60-X84, Y87.0)**. This is due to an ongoing review in relation to the quality of reported suicide figures. Details of the review are outlined in the 'Guidance Note to Users on Suicide Statistics in Northern Ireland' published on 30th July 2020 and available at:
<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/Guidance%20Note%20to%20Users%20Northern%20Ireland%20Suicide%20Statistics.pdf>.

6. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, birth and marriage registration services were suspended in almost all of the District Registration Offices. As a result, the number of births and marriages registered during the 2nd Quarter of 2020 is unusually low.

7. All media queries to Department of Finance Press Office at dof.pressoffice@finance-ni.gov.uk or on Tel: 028 90816724. The Executive Information Service operates an out of hours service for media enquiries between 1800hrs and 0800hrs Monday to Friday and at weekends and public holidays. The duty press officer can be contacted on 028 9037 8110.
8. Further information on the statistics provided in this publication can be obtained from NISRA Customer Services at:
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