COVID-19 related deaths: week ending 17th April

Latest figures published today by NISRA show that, of the 276 total deaths involving COVID-19 occurring up to 17th April 2020, 166 (60.1%) occurred in hospital, 93 (33.7%) occurred in care homes, 3 (1.1%) in hospices and 14 (5.1%) occurred at private addresses or other locations. The 96 deaths in care homes and hospices involved 44 separate establishments.

The comparative number of deaths reported daily by the Public Health Agency1 to 17th April was 212. These figures are based on patients having previously tested positive for the virus, whereas NISRA figures are based on the information entered on death certificates, filled out by medical professionals.

The provisional number of total deaths registered in Northern Ireland in the week ending 17th April 2020 (week 15) was 424, 11 fewer than in week 14 but 134 more than the 5-year average of 290. One hundred and one (23.8%) of these deaths mentioned COVID-19 on the death certificate, bringing the total number of COVID-19 related deaths registered in the calendar year 2020 to 242.

Over the last 3 weeks in total, 410 ‘excess deaths’ (deaths above the average for the corresponding week in previous years) have been registered in Northern Ireland.

Males accounted for around half (49.0%) of all registered deaths in the calendar year 2020 to 17 April and slightly more than half (54.1%) of the 242 COVID-19 related deaths registered over the same period.

The majority of all deaths registered in week 15 and the year-to-date were of persons aged 75 and above. This age group accounted for two-thirds of all deaths and almost 75% of COVID-19 related deaths in the year-to-date up to 17th April.

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1 Responsibility for reporting these figures moved to the Department of Health on 19th April. Figures include revisions made up to 22nd April.
There have been 5,245 deaths registered in the year-to-date, 30.3% of which (1,589) were classified as ‘respiratory’. The number and proportion of respiratory deaths is lower in the year-to-date than the 5-year average of 1,613 (31.7%)

NISRA

April 2020

NOTES TO EDITORS

Notes to editors:

1. Statistics on weekly deaths registered in Northern Ireland can be found at: https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/weekly-deaths

2. All media queries to Department of Finance Press Office on 028 90816724. Out of office hours please contact the Duty Press Officer on 028 9037 8110 and your call will be returned.

3. Differences between NISRA’s death registration statistics and the daily totals reported via the Public Health Agency’s (PHA) Daily Surveillance bulletins¹ are as follows:

   • The daily PHA total covers the number of deaths reported to it 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. The PHA figures may not capture all deaths that occur outside hospital. 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 UK. PHA reported 212 deaths associated with COVID-19 by 17th April 2020. [This figure includes revisions up until 22nd April]

   • 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. As a result the weekly totals will usually be higher than the relevant daily figures - because the DoH daily updates only include those who have tested positive for the virus.

3. Further information on the statistics provided in this publication can be obtained from NISRA Customer Services at: Telephone: +44 (0)300 200 7836 E-mail: demography@nisra.gov.uk  Responsible Statistician: Deborah Lyness