

# STATISTICS PRESS NOTICE – WEEKLY DEATH STATISTICS (Week ending 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021)



9.30am Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## **Covid-19 related deaths: week ending 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021**

Latest figures published today by NISRA show that 115 deaths involving Covid-19 occurred in the week 19<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> December 2020 with a further 91 deaths occurring last week from 26<sup>th</sup> December 2020 to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021. The total Covid-19 related deaths figure has now reached 1,895.

Of this total, 1,150 (60.7%) deaths took place in hospital, 607 (32.0%) in care homes, 10 (0.5%) in hospices and 128 (6.8%) at residential addresses or other locations. The 617 deaths which occurred in care homes and hospices involved 146 separate establishments.

The comparative number of deaths reported daily by the Department of Health to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 was 1,349. These figures are based on patients having previously tested positive for the virus, whereas the NISRA figures are based on the information entered on death certificates completed by medical professionals. They may or may not have previously tested positive for the virus.

Further analysis, which includes deaths of care home residents in hospital, shows that of the 775 deaths of care home residents involving Covid-19 in 2020 (including 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021), 78.3% (607) occurred in a care home, with the remaining 168 occurring in hospital. On this basis, deaths of care home residents account for 40.9% of all Covid-19 related deaths; however, no assumptions can be made in relation to where or when the deceased contracted the disease.

Separate analyses, based on the date of death registration, shows that the provisional number of total deaths from all causes registered in Northern Ireland in the week ending 25<sup>th</sup> December 2020 (week 51) was 310, 40 less than in week 50 and 29 more than the 5-year average of 281. For the week ending 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 (week 52), 333 deaths were registered, 23 more than week 52 and 53 more than the 5-year average of 280. The number of deaths registered in these weeks will have been impacted by the Christmas and New Year holidays. Over the last 40 weeks in total (since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic), 1,987 'excess deaths' (deaths above the average for the corresponding period in previous years) have been registered in Northern Ireland, with the number of 'excess deaths' in 2020 totalling 1,728.

Covid-19 was mentioned on the death certificate of 88 (28.4%) of the 310 deaths registered in week 51, and 93 (27.9%) of the 333 deaths registered in week 52. The total number of Covid-19 related deaths registered in 2020 has reached 1,830.

Persons aged 75 and over accounted for two-thirds (65.5%) of all deaths and 77.7% of Covid-19 related deaths registered in 2020

For Covid-19 related deaths, those with an address in Belfast Local Government District (LGD) accounted for 424 (23.2%) of the 1,830 deaths registered in 2020.

## NISRA

January 2021

### NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Statistics on weekly deaths registered in Northern Ireland can be found at: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/weekly-deaths>. For the week ending 18<sup>th</sup> December this will be limited to the usual excel tables and accompanying statistical press notice – A weekly bulletin is not provided.
2. 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. 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 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). **The DoH reported 1,349 deaths associated with Covid-19 by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 (including revisions up to 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021).**
  - 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.

4. Quoted figures based on occurrence take into account registrations up to 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021, to allow for delays in death registrations.
5. Analysis of care home residents refers to deaths where either (a) the death occurred in a care home, or (b) the death occurred elsewhere but the place of usual residence of the deceased was recorded as a care home. It should be noted that the statistics will not capture those cases where a care home resident died in hospital or another location and the usual address recorded on their death certificate is not a care home; however no assumptions can be made about where or when the deceased contracted Covid-19 (and all figures include probable or suspect cases).
6. Further information on the statistics provided in this publication can be obtained from NISRA Customer Services at:  
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E-mail: [demography@nisra.gov.uk](mailto:demography@nisra.gov.uk)  
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