

# STATISTICS PRESS NOTICE – Covid-19 related deaths in Northern Ireland: March 2020 to October 2021



**9:30am Thursday 2 December 2021**

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

The report shows that there were 3,692 deaths involving Covid-19 in Northern Ireland between 1 March 2020 and 31 October 2021, accounting for 13.0% of all deaths in this period.

Age-standardised mortality rates (ASMRs) are used to directly compare mortality rates for different groups, including males with females, or regions, using the age structure of a standard population. The Covid-19 related ASMR for March 2020 to October 2021 was 227.1 deaths per 100,000 persons.

Males had a significantly higher ASMR of Covid-19 related deaths (291.2) compared to females (181.2 deaths per 100,000). This difference was most profound in the period July to October 2021, when ASMRs for males were more than double those for females.

Antrim & Newtownabbey Local Government District (LGD) had the highest Covid-19 related ASMR with 270.9 deaths per 100,000; the lowest ASMR was found in Fermanagh & Omagh LGD (144.2). Geographic patterns changed as the pandemic developed, with different LGDs having the highest ASMRs in March to August 2020 (Belfast LGD), September 2020 to June 2021 (Mid Ulster LGD), and July to October 2021 (Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD).

Adjusting for differing age structures within the population, Covid-19 related ASMRs were highest in the 20% most deprived areas at 287.6 deaths per 100,000 population, and lowest in the 20% least deprived areas at 187.5 deaths per 100,000. This difference was most profound in the most recent period (July to October 2021), when the rate in the 20% most deprived areas (66.1 per 100,000 population) was more than double that in the 20% least deprived areas (31.2).

Covid-19 related deaths in persons of working age (aged 20-64) totalled 391, representing 8.7% of all deaths in this age group. The highest proportion of deaths that were Covid-19 related was found in process, plant and machine operatives (12.9%); the lowest proportion was found in associate professional and technical occupations (4.5%).

**NISRA**

**December 2021**

## NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Statistical report and detailed tables can be found at [Covid-19 related deaths in Northern Ireland](#)
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). The DoH reported 2,711 deaths associated with Covid-19 by 31 October 2021 (including revisions up to 30 November 2021).
  - 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. These occurrence based statistics (to end October 2021) take into account registrations up to and including 17 November 2021, to allow for delays in death registrations.
5. 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.
6. 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](#).
7. 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.
8. 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:

Telephone: +44 (0)300 200 7836

E-mail: [demography@nisra.gov.uk](mailto:demography@nisra.gov.uk)

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