

STATISTICS PRESS NOTICE – ALCOHOL-SPECIFIC DEATHS REGISTERED IN NORTHERN IRELAND (2020)



9:30am Thursday 27 January 2022

Annual 2020 Alcohol-Specific Deaths statistics

Latest figures published today by NISRA show that the number of alcohol-specific deaths in 2020 was the highest on record.

351 of the 17,614 registered deaths in 2020 were due to alcohol-specific causes. This is over a third (35.0%) more than was recorded 10 years ago (260). There has been a general upward trend in the number of alcohol specific deaths since 2001, with the most notable rises in the number of deaths happening between 2014 and 2015 (28.8%) and between 2018 and 2019 (18.3%). The total for 2020 is 4.5% higher than the 2019 total of 336. Alcohol-specific deaths (that is, deaths resulting from health conditions that are a direct consequence of alcohol misuse), have accounted for approximately two per cent of all deaths registered each year since 2018.

In 2020, 233 (66.4%) alcohol-specific deaths were males and 118 (33.6%) were females. 2020 has seen the highest annual number of male alcohol-specific deaths recorded in Northern Ireland. The alcohol-specific death rate (standardised for age) increased for males but decreased for females between 2019 and 2020. The rate for males increased from 24.2 per 100,000 males to 26.9, and for females, the equivalent rate fell from 13.6 per 100,000 females to 12.9.

The majority of those who died with alcohol-specific underlying causes each year since 2010 have been in the 45-54 and 55-64 age groups, together accounting for between 59.2% and 68.5% of all alcohol-specific deaths each year. In recent years, the proportion of those who died from alcohol-specific causes that are aged 55-64 has increased; in 2020, this age group accounted for over a third of such deaths (36.5%), while those aged 45-54 accounted for 28.2% of the total.

Looking at the most recent five years (2016 to 2020), there are notably higher numbers of alcohol-specific deaths in areas of higher deprivation across Northern Ireland, with the age-standardised death rate in the most deprived areas (36.9 deaths per 100,000 population) being four times higher than that in the least deprived areas (9.2 deaths per 100,000 population).

NISRA

January 2022

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The alcohol-specific deaths registered in Northern Ireland statistics can be found at:
<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/cause-death/alcohol-deaths>
2. The methodology for selecting alcohol-specific deaths was revised following a consultation led by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in 2017. The consultation document can be viewed at the following link:
<https://consultations.ons.gov.uk/health-and-life-events/alcohol-mortality-definition-review/>
3. Information on the areas of deprivation is taken from the Northern Ireland Multiple deprivation measures (NIMDM 2017) and can be found at:
<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/deprivation/northern-ireland-multiple-deprivation-measure-2017-nimdm2017>
4. 'On record' refers to the record of alcohol-specific deaths going back to 2001.
5. 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 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. Further information on the statistics provided in this publication can be obtained from NISRA Customer Services at:
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