

STATISTICS PRESS NOTICE – WEEKLY DEATH STATISTICS (Week ending 31 December 2021)



9.30am Friday 7 January 2022

Covid-19 related deaths: week ending 31 December 2021

Latest figures published today by NISRA show that 18 deaths involving Covid-19 occurred in the week 25 December to 31 December 2021. The total number of Covid-19 related deaths that occurred up to 31 December 2021 has now reached 4,024. Of these, 2,806 (69.7%) took place in hospital, 868 (21.6%) in care homes, 16 (0.4%) in hospices and 334 (8.3%) at residential addresses or other locations. The comparative number of deaths reported daily by the Department of Health (DoH) to 31 December 2021 was 2,928. The DoH count is 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 and therefore include both confirmed and suspected cases, and where Covid-19 was either a contributor to or the main cause of death.

Further analysis, which includes deaths of care home residents by place of death, shows that there was a total of 1,141 deaths of care home residents involving Covid-19 (including deaths that took place somewhere other than the care home) occurring between 18 March 2020 and 31 December 2021. This accounts for 28.4% of all Covid-19 related deaths. However, no assumptions can be made in relation to where the deceased contracted the disease.

Separate analysis, 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 31 December 2021 (week 52, 2021) was 243, 104 less than in week 51 and 57 less than the 5-year average (2016-2020) of 300.

Covid-19 was mentioned on the death certificate of 14 (5.8%) of the 243 deaths registered in week 52, a decrease of 16 from the previous week. The total number of Covid-19 related deaths registered since the start of the pandemic has now passed 4,000, with 4,013 registered deaths with Covid-19 mentioned on the death certificate, up to 31 December 2021.

Persons aged 75 and over accounted for 73.5% of the 4,013 Covid-19 related deaths registered between 19 March 2020 and 31 December 2021.

Over the period of the pandemic, Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon and Mid-Ulster Local Government Districts have had higher proportions of Covid-19 related deaths (12.4% and 8.1% respectively) compared with their share of all deaths in Northern Ireland (10.4% and 6.6% respectively). Conversely, Ards & North Down and Fermanagh & Omagh both have relatively low shares of registered Covid-19 related deaths (2.2 and 2.0 percentage points lower than their respective share of all deaths).

NISRA

January 2022

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The total number of deaths registered in the week ending 24 December was 347, 30 of which were Covid-19 related deaths. Looking at deaths that occurred in the same week ending 24 December, there were 12 Covid-19 related deaths.
2. Statistics on weekly deaths registered in Northern Ireland can be found at: [weekly death registration in Northern Ireland](#).
3. 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.
4. 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 2,982 deaths associated with Covid-19 by 31 December 2021 (including revisions up to 5 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.
5. To allow for delays in death registrations, quoted figures based on occurrence take into account registrations up to 5 January 2021. Please note that the number of occurrences can be subject to change depending on when the deaths are registered.
 6. 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).
 7. NISRA will continue producing weekly tables with information on deaths and Covid-19 related deaths, however, a weekly deaths statistical bulletin will only be produced when the number of Covid-19 related deaths registered in a week is five or more.
 8. Users should note that registration totals may have been impacted by office closures during the holiday period between Christmas and the New Year so caution should be applied when using data, especially if comparing with weeks that do not contain public holidays.
 9. 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
Responsible Statistician: Deborah Lyness