Office for National Statistics

Statistical bulletin

Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales, provisional: week ending 16 July 2021

Provisional counts of the number of deaths registered in England and Wales, including deaths involving coronavirus (COVID-19), in the latest weeks for which data are available.

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3 August 2021

Table of contents

1 . Main points

- There were 9,697 deaths in England and Wales registered in the week ending 16 July 2021 (Week 28); this was 55 fewer deaths than the previous week (Week 27) and 4.8% above the five-year average (447 more deaths).
- The number of deaths registered in England in the week ending 16 July 2021 (Week 28) was 9,120; this was 28 more deaths than the previous week (Week 27) and 5.5% above the five-year average (472 more deaths).
- The number of deaths registered in Wales in the week ending 16 July 2021 (Week 28) was 563; this was 76 fewer deaths than the previous week (Week 27) and 2.6% below the five-year average (15 fewer deaths).
- Of the deaths registered in Week 28 in England and Wales, 218 mentioned “novel coronavirus (COVID-19)”, accounting for 2.2% of all deaths; this was an increase compared with Week 27 (183 deaths).
- The number of deaths involving COVID-19 in England increased to 213 in Week 28 compared with 176 in Week 27; for Wales, deaths involving COVID-19 increased slightly to 4 in Week 28 compared with 3 in Week 27.
- The number of deaths registered in the UK in the week ending 16 July 2021 was 11,053, which was 514 more than the five-year average; of deaths registered in the UK in Week 28, 268 involved COVID-19, that is, 51 more than in Week 27.

2 . Deaths registered by week

Figure 1: The number of deaths registered in Week 28 was above the five-year average for Week 28 in England but below in Wales

Number of deaths registered by week, England and Wales, 28 December 2019 to 16 July 2021

Notes:

1. Figures exclude deaths of non-residents.
2. Based on date a death was registered rather than occurred.
3. All figures for 2020 and 2021 are provisional.
4. The number of deaths registered in a week are affected when bank holidays occur.
5. The average for 2015 to 2019 provides a comparison of the number of deaths expected per week in a usual (non-pandemic) year.

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The provisional number of deaths registered in England and Wales decreased from 9,752 in Week 27 (week ending 9 July 2021) to 9,697 in Week 28 (week ending 16 July 2021). The number of deaths was 4.8% above the five-year average (447 more deaths).

In England, the number of deaths increased from 9,092 in Week 27 to 9,120 in Week 28, which was 472 more deaths (5.5% higher) than the Week 28 five-year average (Figure 1). Of these, 213 deaths involved coronavirus (COVID-19) in Week 28, a 21.0% increase compared with Week 27 (176 deaths). Of all deaths registered in Week 28 in England, 2.3% mentioned COVID-19 on the death certificate.

In Wales, the number of deaths decreased from 639 in Week 27 to 563 in Week 28, which was 15 fewer deaths than the Week 28 five-year average (Figure 1). Of these, 4 deaths involved COVID-19 in Week 28, compared with 3 in Week 27. Of all deaths registered in Week 28 in Wales, 0.7% mentioned COVID-19 on the death certificate.

In Week 28 (week ending 16 July 2021), the total number of deaths registered decreased compared with Week 27 (week ending 9 July 2021) in five of the nine English regions. The largest decrease was reported in the East of England (65 fewer deaths).

The numbers of deaths involving coronavirus (COVID-19) increased in six of the nine English regions in Week 28. The largest increase was reported in the North East (16 more deaths). More information can be found in the accompanying dataset and a more detailed geographical analysis can be found in our Monthly mortality analysis release.

Figure 2: Total deaths from all causes were above the five-year average in Week 28

Number of deaths registered by week, England and Wales, 28 December 2019 to 16 July 2021

Notes:

1. Figures include deaths of non-residents.
2. Based on date a death was registered rather than occurred.
3. All figures for 2020 and 2021 are provisional.
4. The International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition (ICD-10) definitions are available in the Measuring the data section.
5. The number of deaths registered in a week are affected when bank holidays occur.
6. The average for 2015 to 2019 provides a comparison of the number of deaths expected per week in a usual (non-pandemic) year.

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Analysis in this section includes deaths from Week 11 of 2020 (week ending 13 March 2020, the week of the first registration of a death involving COVID-19) through to Week 28 of 2021 (week ending 16 July 2021), to ensure full coverage of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Using the most up-to-date data we have available, the number of deaths from the week ending 13 March 2020 up to 16 July 2021 was 821,226 in England and Wales. Of these, 141,156 (17.2%) mentioned COVID-19 on the death certificate. During this period, the number of excess deaths above the five-year average was 104,115 deaths.

In England, the number of deaths between the weeks ending 13 March 2020 and 16 July 2021 was 770,171; of these, 133,054 deaths (17.3%) mentioned COVID-19. This was 100,210 deaths above the five-year average.

In Wales, the number of deaths for the same period was 50,049; of these, 7,912 deaths (15.8%) mentioned COVID-19. This was 4,964 deaths above the five-year average.

More about coronavirus

- Find the latest on coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK.
- Explore the latest coronavirus data from the ONS and other sources.
- All ONS analysis, summarised in our coronavirus roundup.
- View all coronavirus data.
- Find out how we are working safely in our studies and surveys.

Figure 3: Deaths in Week 28 were above the five-year average in private homes, but below the five-year average in hospitals, care homes and other settings

Number of excess deaths by place of occurrence, England and Wales, registered between 7 March 2020 and 16 July 2021

Notes:

1. Based on area of usual residence. Geographical boundaries and communal establishments are based on the most up-to-date information available.
2. Figures include deaths of non-residents.
3. Based on date a death was registered rather than occurred.
4. All figures for 2020 and 2021 are provisional.
5. "Other" includes deaths in communal establishments other than hospitals and care homes, in hospices, and that occurred "elsewhere". More information on the place of death definitions used is available in the accompanying dataset.
6. The average for 2015 to 2019 provides a comparison of the number of deaths expected per week in a usual (non-pandemic) year.

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In Week 28, the number of deaths in private homes was 33.4% above the five-year average (752 excess deaths). Deaths within care homes were 2.2% below the five-year average (42 deaths fewer), deaths in hospitals were 6.1% below the five-year average (261 deaths fewer) and deaths in other settings were 0.4% below the five-year average (3 deaths fewer).

In addition, more detailed analysis of excess deaths in England is produced by Public Health England (PHE) on a weekly basis.

3 . Deaths registered in the UK

Figure 4: Deaths involving COVID-19 increased in the UK in Week 28

Number of deaths registered by week, UK, week ending 8 January 2021 to week ending 16 July 2021

Notes:

1. Figures include deaths of non-residents that were registered in each country.
2. Based on date a death was registered rather than occurred.
3. All figures for 2021 are provisional.
4. The International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition (ICD-10) definitions are available in the Measuring the data section.
5. National Records of Scotland produces figures for Scotland with an updated back series. We update the back series until the end of the calendar year, therefore the UK total in 2021 may differ from previous weeks in 2021.
6. Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency produces figures for Northern Ireland.

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Data for the number of deaths in Northern Ireland for Week 27 (week ending 9 July 2021) were delayed because of the Northern Ireland bank holiday on 12 July. We have included a summary of the UK figures for Week 27 and Figure 4 has been updated to include data from Weeks 27 and 28.

In Week 27 (week ending 9 July 2021), there were 11,137 deaths (all causes) registered in the UK, which was 681 more deaths than the UK five-year average and 962 more deaths than in Week 26 (week ending 2 July 2021).

Across the UK, there were 11,053 deaths (all causes) registered in Week 28 (week ending 16 July 2021), which was 514 more deaths than the UK five-year average and 84 fewer deaths than in Week 27 (week ending 9 July 2021).

Deaths were above the five-year average in England (472 more deaths) and Scotland (100 more deaths) and below the five-year average in Wales (15 fewer deaths) and in Northern Ireland (33 fewer deaths). Of all deaths in the UK in Week 28, 268 involved coronavirus (COVID-19), 51 more deaths than in Week 27, a 23.5% increase.

In Week 28, England had the highest number of deaths involving COVID-19 with 213 deaths, followed by Scotland (47 deaths), Wales (4 deaths) and Northern Ireland (3 deaths).

4 . Deaths data

Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales, provisional
Dataset | Released 27 July 2021
Provisional counts of the number of deaths registered in England and Wales, by age, sex and region, in the latest weeks for which data are available. Includes data on coronavirus (COVID-19) deaths.

Death registrations and occurrences by local authority and health board
Dataset | Released 27 July 2021
Provisional counts of the number of deaths registered in England and Wales, including deaths involving COVID-19, by local authority, health board and place of death in the latest weeks for which data are available.

Number of deaths in care homes notified to the Care Quality Commission, England
Dataset | Released 27 July 2021
Provisional counts of deaths in care homes caused by COVID-19 by local authority. Published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and Care Quality Commission (CQC).

Care home resident deaths registered in England and Wales, provisional
Dataset | Released 27 July 2021
Provisional counts of the number of deaths registered of care home residents in England and Wales, by region. Includes data on coronavirus (COVID-19) deaths. Data are weekly and provisional.

Try the new way to filter and download these data:

- Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales by age and sex: COVID-19
- Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales by region: COVID-19
- Death registrations and occurrences by local authority and place of death
- Death registrations and occurrences by health board and place of death

5 . Glossary

Coronavirus (COVID-19) deaths

Coronavirus (COVID-19) deaths are those deaths registered in England and Wales in the stated week where COVID-19 was mentioned on the death certificate. A doctor can certify the involvement of COVID-19 based on symptoms and clinical findings – a positive test result is not required. Definitions of COVID-19 for deaths in Scotland and Northern Ireland are similar to England and Wales.

6 . Measuring the data

To meet user needs, we publish very timely but provisional counts of death registrations in England and Wales in our Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales, provisional dataset. These are presented:

- by sex
- by age group
- for regions (within England)
- for Wales as a whole

To allow time for registration and processing, figures are published 11 days after the week ends. Because of the rapidly changing situation, we also provide provisional updated totals for death occurrences based on the latest available death registrations, up to 24 July 2021.

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

This weekly release now provides a separate breakdown of the number of deaths involving COVID-19; that is, where COVID-19 or suspected COVID-19 was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, including in combination with other health conditions.

If a death certificate mentions COVID-19, it will not always be the main cause of death but may be a contributory factor. This bulletin summarises the latest weekly information and will be updated each week during the pandemic.

Data coverage

The data for 2020 are based on a 53-week year. Because the number of days in a week is seven, when there are 52 weeks, we only cover 364 days of the 365 days in the year, which results in one remaining day each calendar year not included in the 52 weeks. With the occurrence of leap years, it is sometimes necessary to add a 53rd week to the end of the calendar, which was the case in 2020. This happens every five years – the last time there was a Week 53 was in 2015. Given the low frequency of Week 53, it is more appropriate to compare the 2020 figures with the average for Week 52 than to compare it with a single year from five years previous. View more detail on the data coverage for the weekly deaths bulletin.

Influenza and pneumonia has been included for comparison in the accompanying dataset as a well-understood cause of death involving respiratory infection that is likely to have somewhat similar risk factors to COVID-19.

Registration delays

This bulletin is based mainly on the date deaths are registered, not the date of death, because of the time taken for a death to be registered. Deaths in England and Wales are normally registered within five days, but there can be a considerably longer delay in some circumstances, particularly when the death is referred to a coroner. More information on this issue can be found in our impact of registration delays release.

We have developed a statistical model to estimate the number of deaths likely to have occurred in each week, based on previous experience of the pattern of registration delays, including the effects of bank holidays. Results are shown in the “Estimated total deaths 2021” tab, of the accompanying dataset.

Classification codes

From the week ending 26 February 2021 (Week 8), new International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) codes for COVID-19 issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) were implemented for deaths involving COVID-19. View more detail about the additional classification codes for COVID-19.

We will publish accompanying articles periodically, giving enhanced information such as age-standardised and age-specific mortality rates for recent time periods and breakdowns of deaths involving COVID-19 by associated pre-existing health conditions.

Our User guide to mortality statistics provides further information on data quality, legislation and procedures relating to mortality and includes a glossary of terms.

7 . Strengths and limitations

Comparability

These weekly figures are for England and Wales only (as this is the Office for National Statistics' (ONS's) legal remit). They are from the formal death registration process and may include cases where the doctor completing the death certificate diagnosed possible cases of coronavirus (COVID-19), for example, where this was based on relevant symptoms but no test was conducted. The ONS' figures are different from the daily surveillance figures on COVID-19 deaths published by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) on GOV.UK, which are for the UK as a whole and its constituent countries.

From 29 April 2020, the DHSC published improved data for England from Public Health England (PHE) to include a count of all deaths, regardless of location, where a positive COVID-19 test was confirmed. Previously, only confirmed COVID-19 deaths in hospitals were reported. This improved the comparability with figures for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, where deaths outside of hospitals were already being included, and ensured that the UK-wide series had a shared and common definitional coverage. View the ONS statement for more detail on these data changes.

On 12 August 2020, the PHE data series was revised to include deaths of positively tested individuals where the death occurred within 28 days, and deaths within 60 days of a positive test. The technical summary (PDF, 854KB) provides more detail on these changes.

View more detail on the differences in definitions of COVID-19 deaths between sources and differences in definitions of COVID-19 deaths in care homes.

Quality

More quality and methodology information on strengths, limitations, appropriate uses, and how the data were created is available in the Mortality statistics in England and Wales QMI.

8 . Related links

Deaths registered in England and Wales: 2020
Bulletin | Released 6 July 2021
Registered deaths by age, sex, selected underlying causes of death and the leading causes of death. Contains death rates and death registrations by area of residence and single year of age.

Monthly mortality analysis, England and Wales: June 2021
Bulletin | Released 23 July 2021
Provisional death registration data for England and Wales, broken down by sex, age and country. Includes analysis of deaths due to COVID-19 compared with the leading causes of death. Datasets include deaths due to COVID-19 by local area and socioeconomic deprivation.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) latest insights
Interactive tool | Updated as and when data become available
Explore the latest data and trends about the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic from the ONS and other official sources.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) roundup
Blog | Updated as and when new data become available
Catch up on the latest data and analysis related to the coronavirus pandemic and its impact on our economy and society.

Economic activity and social change in the UK, real-time indicators
Bulletin | Released 22 July 2021
Early experimental data on the impact of coronavirus on the UK economy and society. These faster indicators are created using rapid response surveys, novel data sources and experimental methods.