

Weekly Deaths in Northern Ireland

Death Registration Statistics including Covid-19 by Date of Death

Week ending 7th May 2021 (Week 18)

Summary

- This bulletin provides details on the provisional number of deaths registered in Northern Ireland during the week 1st May to 7th May 2021 (referred to as week 18).
- Provisional estimates show that in week 18 of 2021, there were fewer deaths (-4) registered in Northern Ireland (section 1) than there has typically been in the same week in recent years.
- Overall, 2,961 Covid-19 related deaths had occurred (section 2) in Northern Ireland by 7th May, two of which occurred in the week ending 7th May.
- The 7-day moving average shows a downwards trend since the peak number of Covid-19 related deaths on 17th January 2021, and is now similar to the 7-day average last seen at the end of August 2020.

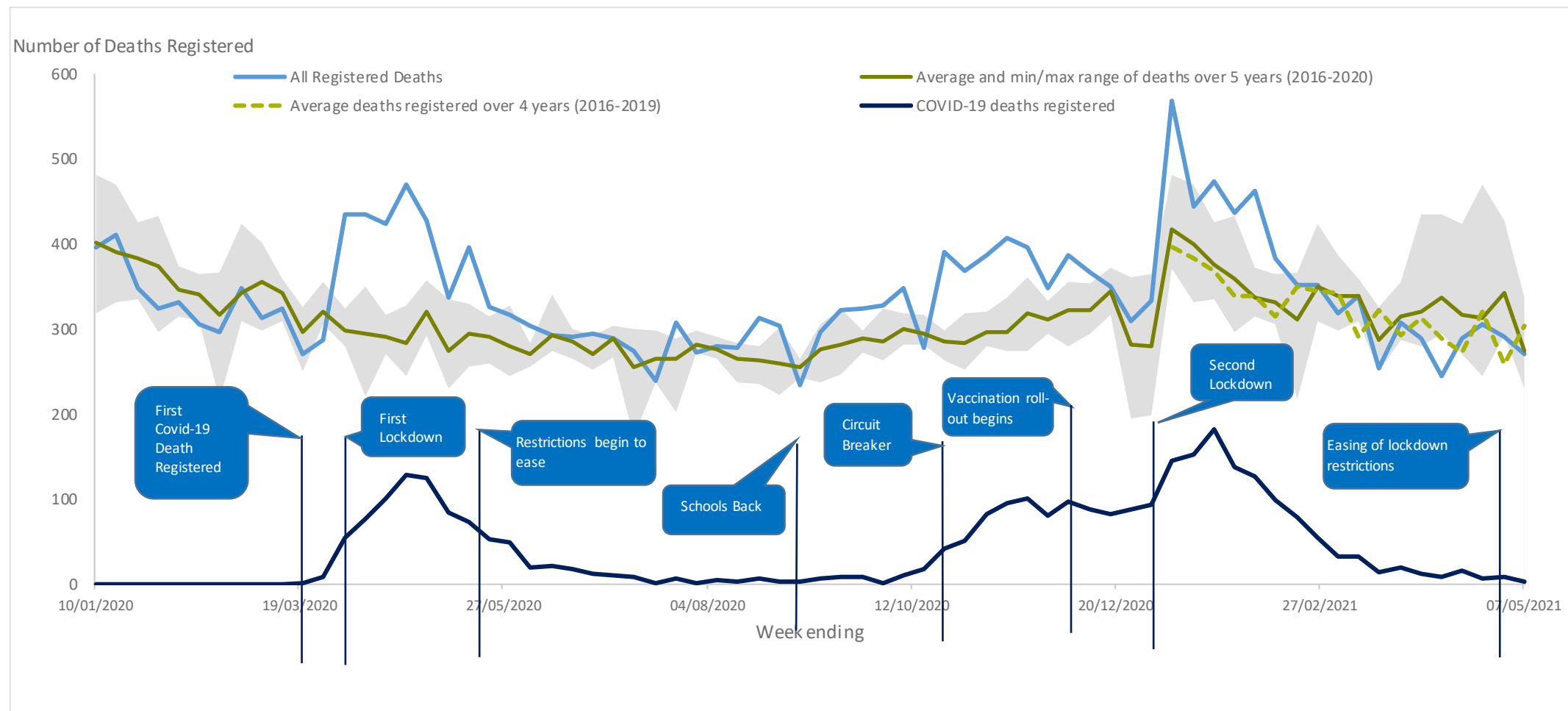
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Section 1: Deaths by Date of Registration

In week 18 of 2021, there were fewer deaths registered in Northern Ireland than there have typically been in the same week in recent years.

Figure 1: Weekly number of deaths registered in Northern Ireland



Note: The average over 5 years shown in the chart relate to 2015-2019 for all data points up to 1st January 2021, and to 2016-2020 thereafter. The dotted line shows the average over 4 years relating to 2016-2019 for all data points from the 2nd January onwards to remove the impact of the pandemic which is included within the standard 5 year average.

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Key Points – Date of Registration

- The provisional number of total deaths registered in Northern Ireland in the week ending 7th May 2021 (week 18) was 270, 21 less than the previous week (291) and four less than the 2016-2020 5 year average (274) (Table 1).
- Three deaths mentioning Covid-19 on the death certificate were registered in week 18 of 2021, accounting for 1.1% of all deaths registered in that week and bringing the total number of Covid-19 related deaths registered from the start of the pandemic to 2,960 by 7th May 2021. This is the lowest number of Covid-19 related deaths registered in a week since the week ending 2nd October 2020.
- From the start of the pandemic (from the first Covid-19 related death being registered on 19th March 2020) to 7th May 2021, males and females accounted for equal proportions of all deaths registered (males: 50.0%, females: 50.0%) and similar proportion of Covid-19 related deaths registered (males: 51.3%; female 48.7%). (Figure 3).
- Over the year to 7th May 2021, the 75 years and over age-group accounted for almost two-thirds (65.2%) of all deaths and over three-quarters (76.1%) of Covid-19 related deaths (Figure 4).
- 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 (12.1% and 8.3% respectively) compared with their share of all deaths in Northern Ireland (10.3% and 6.5% respectively).

Background

Deaths occurring in Northern Ireland are registered on the Northern Ireland General Register Office's Registration System (NIROS). Daily extracts of registration records from NIROS are processed by the NISRA Vital Statistics Unit. Provisional data on deaths registered in each week (ending on a Friday) are compiled at the end of the following week*.

Cause of death coding to the [ICD-10 classification](#) is carried out by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on NISRA's behalf on a quarterly basis. This means that quarterly statistics are the first output to report deaths according to underlying cause. These statistics are currently available up to [Quarter 4 2020](#). The statistics for Quarter 1 2021 will be published on 23rd June 2021.

To meet user needs, NISRA publishes timely but provisional counts of death registrations in Northern Ireland in the weekly deaths provisional dataset. Weekly totals are presented alongside a 5-year weekly average as well as the lowest and highest number of deaths for the same week over the last five years. To allow time for registration and processing, these figures are published seven days after the week ends. The report continues to be supplemented with information on the number of Covid-19 deaths (where Covid-19 or suspected Covid-19 was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, including in combination with other health conditions). Based on user feedback the inclusion of respiratory deaths analysis has been removed from the bulletin in 2021, however the number of deaths registered with a mention of a respiratory condition and/or Covid-19 is available from Table 1 in the accompanying spreadsheet.

Provisional Data

Data provided in this bulletin are provisional and subject to change. There may, therefore, be discrepancies with data previously published in light of reviews of individual cases which impact on recorded cause of death.

Impact of Covid-19 on 5-year average comparisons

Excess deaths are calculated by comparing the current year to the five-year average from previous years. This is based on the number of death registrations recorded for each corresponding week in the previous five years. Usually, the previous five years are used to compare against the most recent year to assist understanding of excess deaths, thus in 2020, excess deaths were measured by comparing the 2020 figure against the average for 2015-2019. For 2021 the comparative years are 2016-2020, however, an additional four-year average of 2016-2019 has been added to directly compare the excess deaths without the impact of the pandemic. For users wishing to keep the comparator year constant in order to analyse the full effect of the pandemic, 2021 excess deaths compared to 2015-2019 averages are given in associated [spreadsheets](#).

Data over Public Holidays

The number of deaths registered in 2020 Weeks 11, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 28, 29, 35, 36, 51 and 52, and 2021 Weeks 1, 11, 14 and 15 were affected by the public holidays at St Patrick's Day, Easter, early and late May, July, August, Christmas and New Year Bank Holidays. Registrations for weeks following a bank holiday may be higher than normal as registrars deal with backlogs from the previous weeks. Care should therefore be taken in interpreting weekly data around the occurrence of bank holidays as it may not give a reliable indication of the trend.

Background Changes to the death certification and registration process during the Covid-19 pandemic

During the Covid-19 pandemic, a number of changes have been made to the usual process of certifying and registering a death which have been enabled by the Coronavirus Act 2020. More detail is available from the [Department of Health website](#). This includes guidance to medical practitioners on how to complete the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD) in Covid-19 related cases. It also provides information on who can complete the MCCD, upon which these weekly statistics are based.

The process by which an informant registers a death has also been adapted. Usual practice is that the informant attends their local Registration Office to register a death, bringing the MCCD with them. During the pandemic, the MCCD can be sent to the General Register Office (GRO) electronically, directly from the hospital or General Practitioner certifying the death. Information required from the informant can be provided to GRO by telephone and no signature is required from the informant.

* Bank Holidays or system unavailability could affect the number of registrations made within certain weeks.

Latest death registration statistics

Table 1 shows that the provisional number of deaths registered in Northern Ireland in the week ending 7th May 2021 (week 18) was 270; 21 less (-7.2%) than in week 17 (291), and 4 less than the 5-year average for corresponding weeks in 2016-2020 (274). This is the 8th consecutive week where the number of deaths registered was less than the 5-year average for the corresponding weeks in 2016-2020. This is also true when looking at the 2015-2019 average before the pandemic began (see table 1 in the [accompanying spreadsheet](#) for details of the 2015-2019 average).

Table 1: All Deaths registered¹ weekly in Northern Ireland from week 1 of 2021 to 7th May 2021^P

Registration week	Week ending on Friday	Total number of deaths registered in week in 2021	Average number of deaths registered in corresponding week above the 2016 to 2020	Minimum number of deaths ³ registered between 2016 to 2020	Maximum number of deaths ⁴ registered between 2016 to 2020	Number of excess deaths registered in the year to date above the 2016 to 2020 five year average
1	08 Jan 2021	568	417	371	481	151
2	15 Jan 2021	443	399	332	470	44
3	22 Jan 2021	474	375	335	426	99
4	29 Jan 2021	437	359	296	433	78
5	05 Feb 2021	462	337	314	371	125
6	12 Feb 2021	382	332	306	364	50
7	19 Feb 2021	352	311	217	366	41
8	26 Feb 2021	351	349	310	423	2
9	05 Mar 2021	319	338	298	387	-19
10	12 Mar 2021	339	338	309	359	1
11	19 Mar 2021	253	287	251	326	-34
12	26 Mar 2021	307	315	287	356	-8
13	02 Apr 2021	288	320	280	434	-32
14	09 Apr 2021	245	337	295	435	-92
15	16 Apr 2021	289	316	270	424	-27
16	23 Apr 2021	305	312	245	470	-7
17	30 Apr 2021	291	342	292	427	-51
18	07 May 2021	270	274	230	336	-4
	2021 TOTAL	6,375	6,060			315

Note: Data for previous years are available from the [Historical Weekly Deaths tables](#).

P Weekly published data are provisional.

1 These data are based on registration dates of deaths, not occurrences. The majority of deaths are registered within five days in Northern Ireland.

2 The 5-year average is not a whole number so comparisons with 2021 week-on-week can vary by up to one death due to rounding.

3 In green, where total weekly deaths are less than the five year weekly minimum.

4 In blue, where total weekly deaths have exceeded the five year weekly maximum.

Table 2 shows that the total number of death registrations mentioning Covid-19 on the death certificate in week 18 was three, a decrease of five deaths from the previous week (eight). This equates to 1.1% of all deaths registered in week 18, the lowest weekly proportion of all deaths in 2021 to date since week 16 (2.3%). Since the beginning of the pandemic, 2,960 Covid-19 related deaths have been registered, which equates to 14.6% of all deaths registered since 19th March 2020.

Table 2: Covid-19 deaths registered¹ weekly in Northern Ireland from week 1 of 2021 to 7th May 2021^P

Registration Week	Week ending on Friday	Total number of deaths registered in week	Covid 19 ² deaths registered in week	Proportion of deaths related to COVID as percentage
1	08 Jan 2021	568	145	25.5
2	15 Jan 2021	443	153	34.5
3	22 Jan 2021	474	182	38.4
4	29 Jan 2021	437	137	31.4
5	05 Feb 2021	462	126	27.3
6	12 Feb 2021	382	99	25.9
7	19 Feb 2021	352	78	22.2
8	26 Feb 2021	351	55	15.7
9	05 Mar 2021	319	33	10.3
10	12 Mar 2021	339	32	9.4
11	19 Mar 2021	253	15	5.9
12	26 Mar 2021	307	19	6.2
13	02 Apr 2021	288	12	4.2
14	09 Apr 2021	245	9	3.7
15	16 Apr 2021	289	16	5.5
16	23 Apr 2021	305	7	2.3
17	30 Apr 2021	291	8	2.7
18	07 May 2021	270	3	1.1
	2021 TOTAL	6,375	1,129	17.7
	TOTAL since Pandemic⁴	20,237	2,960	14.6

Note: Data for previous years are available from the [Historical Weekly Deaths tables](#)

^P Weekly published data are provisional.

¹ These data are based on registrations of deaths, not occurrences. The majority of deaths are registered within five days in Northern Ireland.

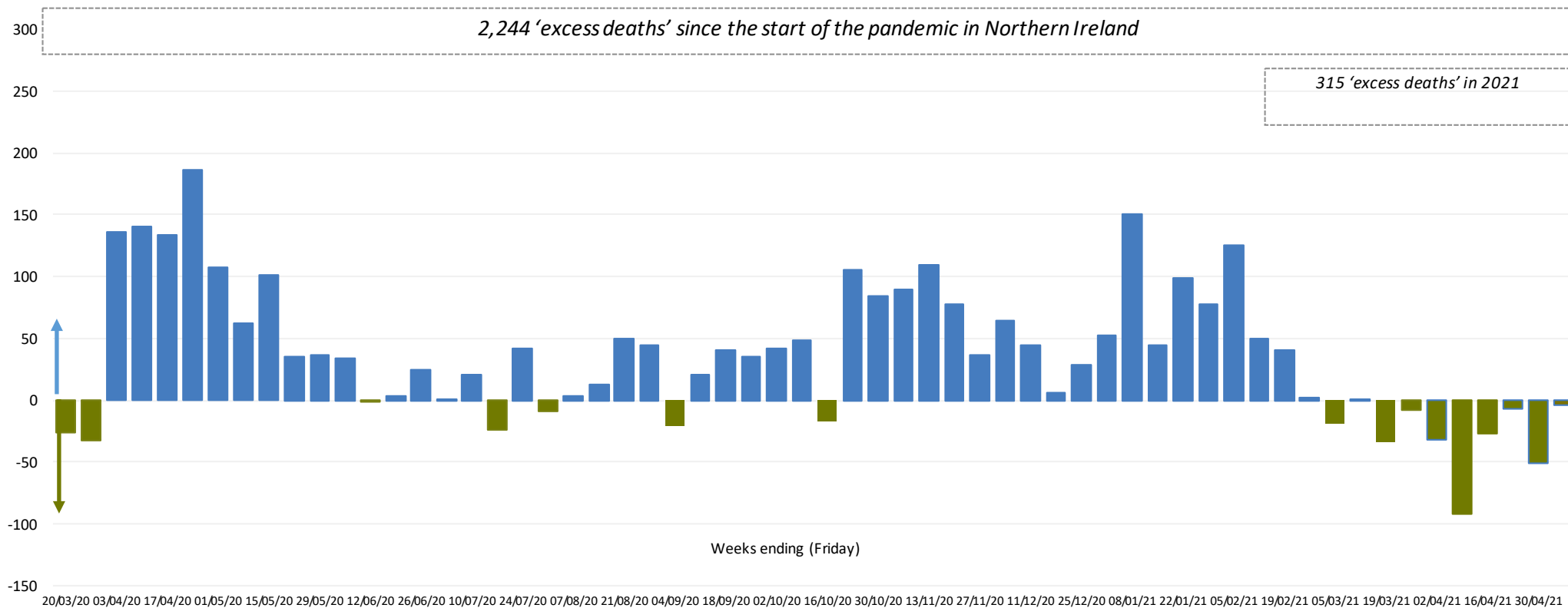
² Covid-19 deaths include any death where Coronavirus or Covid-19 (suspected or confirmed) was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate.

³ Figures may not sum due to rounding.

⁴ First registration of Covid-19 related death was 19th March 2020 (week 11)

In the first 18 weeks of 2021 there have been 315 excess deaths compared with the 5-year average for corresponding weeks in 2016-2020. This week (week 18) is the eighth consecutive week of negative excess deaths compared with the 5-year average for the corresponding weeks in 2016-2020. Since the beginning of the pandemic, there have been 2,244 net excess deaths.

Figure 2: Weekly number of deaths registered above or below previous 5-year average* from the start of the pandemic in Northern Ireland



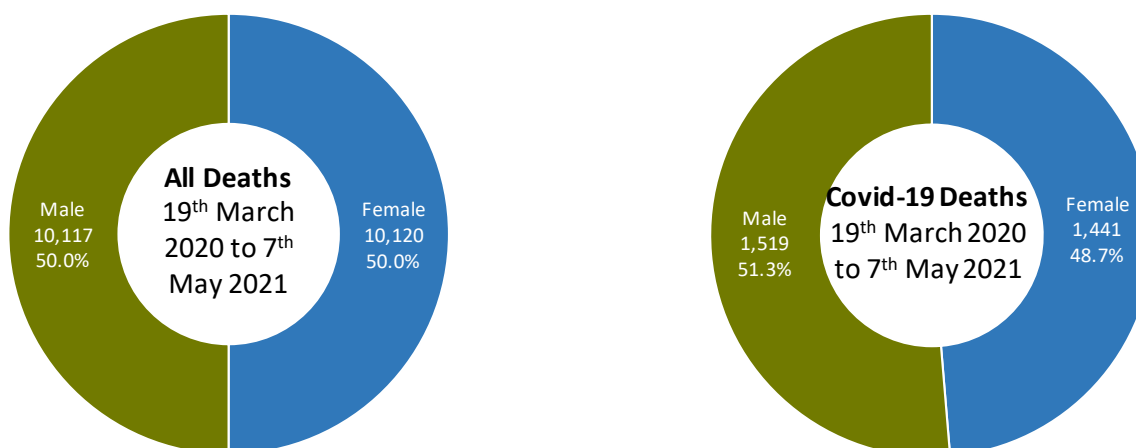
*Note: The 5 year average used in the chart relates to 2015-2019 for all data points up to 1st January 2021, and to 2016-2020 thereafter.

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Deaths registered by sex

Since the first Covid-19 related death was registered on 19th March 2020 until 7th May 2021, males and females accounted for equal proportions of all deaths registered (males: 50.0% (10,117), females: 50.0% (10,120)) and similar proportions of Covid-19 related deaths registered (males: 51.3% (1,519); female 48.7% (1,441)). A weekly breakdown by sex is provided in the [accompanying spreadsheet](#).

Figure 3: All deaths and Covid-19 related deaths registered by sex from 19th March 2020 to 7th May 2021

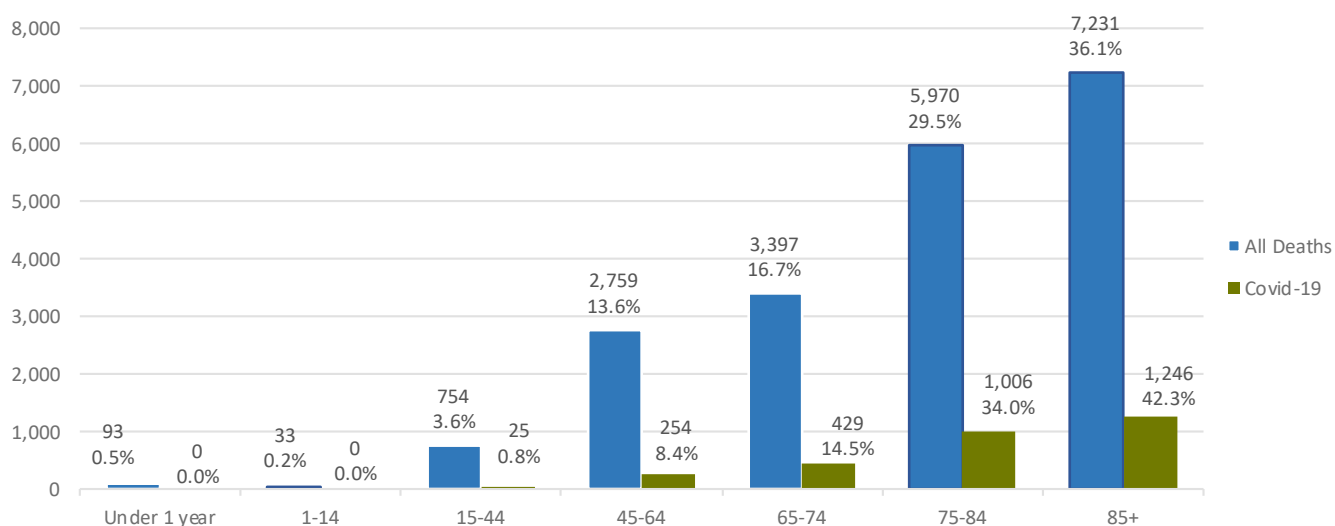


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Deaths registered by age-group

From the start of the pandemic to 7th May 2021, the 75 years and over age-group accounted for almost two-thirds (65.2%, or 13,201) of all deaths and over three-quarters (76.1%, or 2,252) of Covid-19 related deaths. A weekly breakdown for 2021 is provided in the [accompanying spreadsheet](#)

Figure 4: All deaths and Covid-19 related deaths registered by age-group from 19th March 2020 to 7th May 2021

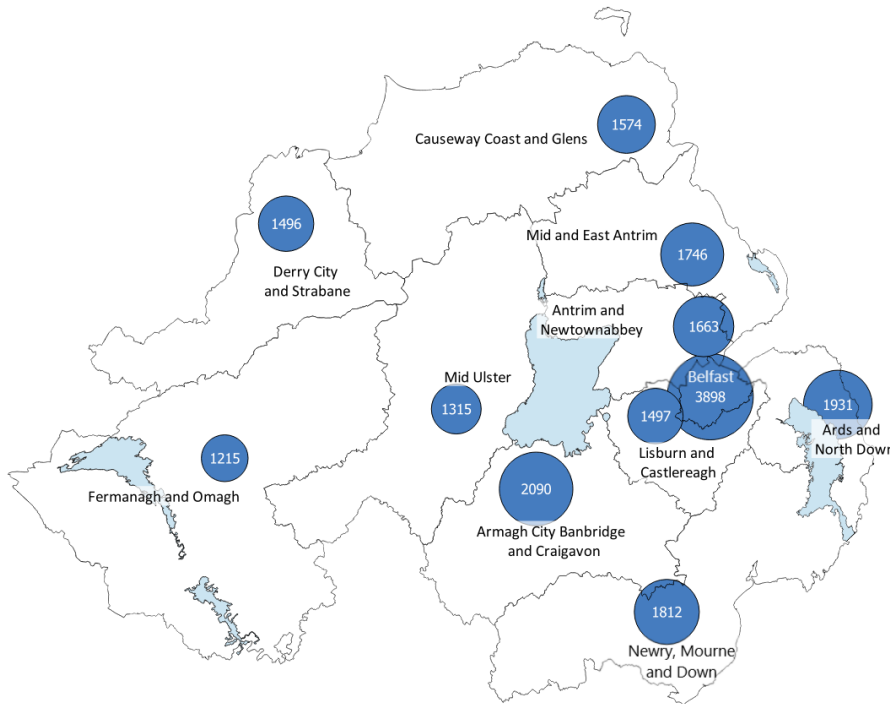


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Deaths registered by Local Government District

Those with an address* in Belfast Local Government District (LGD) accounted for one in five of all 20,237 deaths registered from the start of the pandemic to 7th May 2021 (3,898; 19.3%).

Figure 5: All deaths registered by LGD*: 19th March 2020 to 7th May 2021



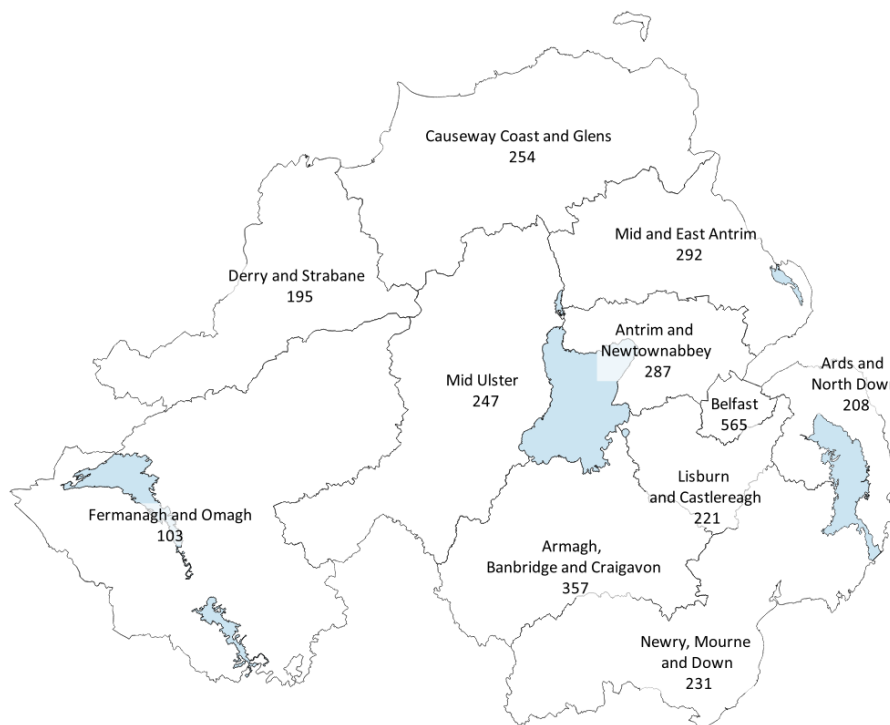
* The LGD data provided are based on the usual address of the deceased, recorded on the death certificate. Where the deceased was usually resident in NI and a home address was provided, the deceased's usual postcode has been mapped to a LGD area. If the usual address was not provided or the deceased was usually resident outside of Northern Ireland, the place of death address is used (this is approximately 0.4% of deaths per year).

Age standardised mortality rates for the period March 2020 – January 2021 are available at [Covid-19 Related Deaths in Northern Ireland | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency \(nisra.gov.uk\)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/covid-19-related-deaths-in-northern-ireland)

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For all Covid-19 related deaths since the start of the pandemic, Fermanagh and Omagh LGD had the fewest registered over the period 19th March – 7th May 2021 (103), and Belfast had the most registered in the same period (565).

Figure 6: Covid-19 related deaths registered by LGD: 19th March 2020 to 7th May 2021



* Table 7 in the [accompanying spreadsheet](#) shows the numbers of weekly registered Covid-19 deaths which took place in care homes, disaggregated by Local Government District.

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Table 3 shows the share of Northern Ireland deaths across LGDs and the share of all Covid-19 registered deaths since the start of the pandemic. Ards & North Down and Fermanagh & Omagh both have relatively low shares of registered Covid-19 related deaths (7.0% and 3.5% of all Covid-19 related deaths respectively) when compared to the proportion of total Northern Ireland deaths registered in those areas (2.5 percentage points lower each than their share of all deaths).

Conversely, Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon and Mid-Ulster have higher proportions of Covid-19 related deaths compared with their share of all deaths in Northern Ireland (1.7 and 1.8 percentage points higher for each).

Table 3: All deaths and Covid-19 related deaths registered by LGD from 19th March 2020 to 7th May 2021

Local Government District	Number of all deaths	% of all deaths	Number of Covid deaths	% of Covid deaths	% Difference in share of Covid-19 related deaths and all deaths (pps)
Antrim and Newtownabbey	1,663	8.2%	287	9.7%	1.5
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	2,090	10.3%	357	12.1%	1.7
Belfast	3,898	19.3%	565	19.1%	-0.2
Causeway Coast & Glens	1,574	7.8%	254	8.6%	0.8
Derry City & Strabane	1,496	7.4%	195	6.6%	-0.8
Fermanagh & Omagh	1,215	6.0%	103	3.5%	-2.5
Lisburn & Castlereagh	1,497	7.4%	221	7.5%	0.1
Mid & East Antrim	1,746	8.6%	292	9.9%	1.2
Mid Ulster	1,315	6.5%	247	8.3%	1.8
Newry, Mourne & Down	1,812	9.0%	231	7.8%	-1.1
Ards & North Down	1,931	9.5%	208	7.0%	-2.5
Total	20,237	100.0%	2,960	100.0%	

NOTE: may not sum due to rounding

Section 2: Covid-19 Related Deaths by Date of Death

This section of the bulletin provides provisional, updated totals of Covid-19 related **deaths occurring (based on the date of death)** from 18th March 2020 to 7th May 2021, including those registered up to and including 12th May. Overall, 2,961 Covid-19 related deaths had occurred in Northern Ireland by 7th May, two of which occurred in the week ending 7th May. This is the lowest number of Covid-19 related deaths that has occurred in one week since the end of August 2020. Figure 7 contains a simple 7 day moving average showing the trend in Covid-19 deaths by smoothing daily fluctuations and shows a downwards trend since the peak in January 2021.

Key Points –Covid-19 related deaths based on [date of death](#)¹

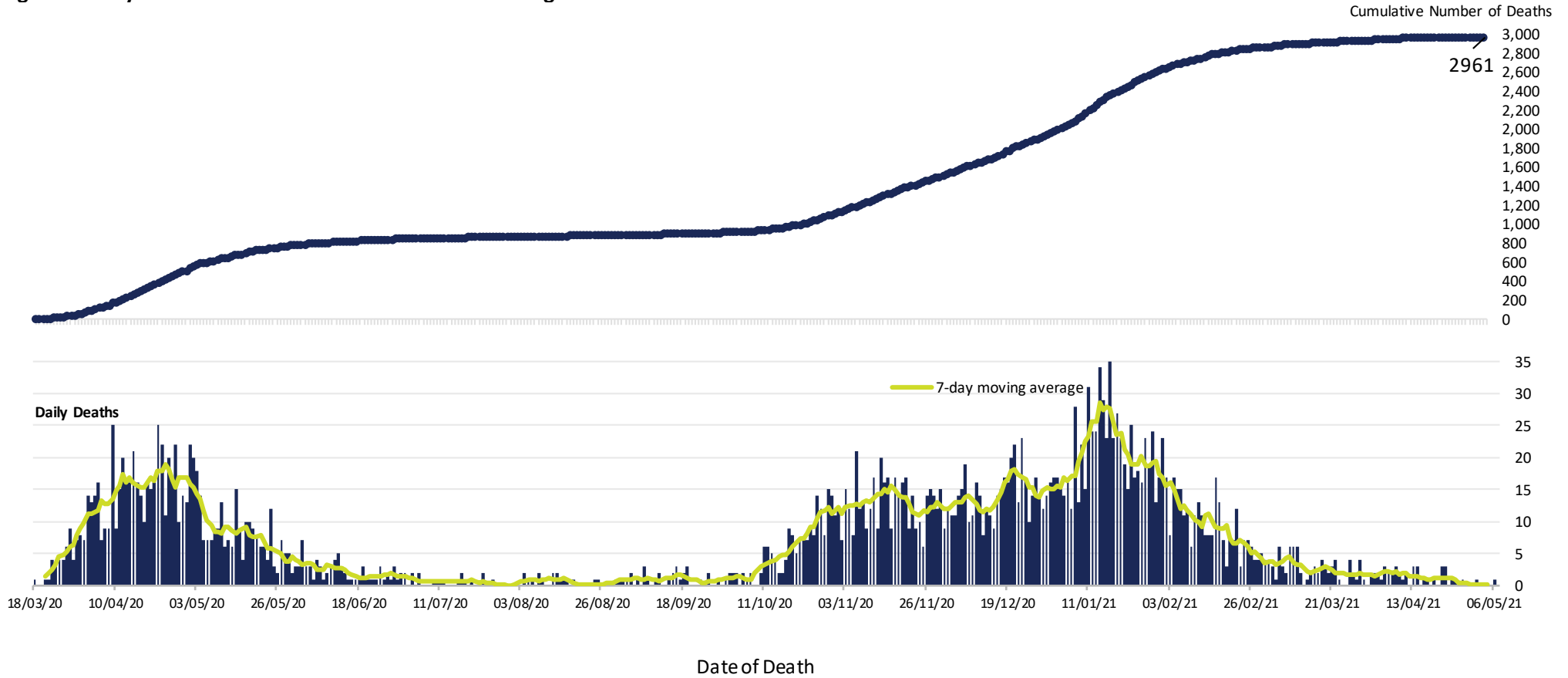
- 2,961 deaths mentioning Covid-19 on the death certificate have occurred in total from 18th March 2020 to 7th May 2021 (including those registered up to and including 12th May). The comparative number of deaths reported by the Department of Health (DoH) to 7th May² was 2,147 (see page 16 for definitions).
- Two Covid-19 related deaths occurred in week ending 7th May, a decrease of one death from the previous week and continuing the general downward trend since the peak of 179 Covid-19 related deaths in the week ending 15th January.
- Of these 2,961 deaths involving Covid-19, 1,959 (66.2%) occurred in hospital³, 772 (26.1%) occurred in care homes, 14 (0.5%) occurred in hospices and 216 (7.3%) occurred at residential addresses or another location (Figure 8). (see Table 11 of [accompanying spreadsheet](#))
- The 786 deaths in care homes and hospices involved 177 separate establishments.

¹The majority of deaths are registered within five days in NI; data based on date of death are subject to ongoing change.

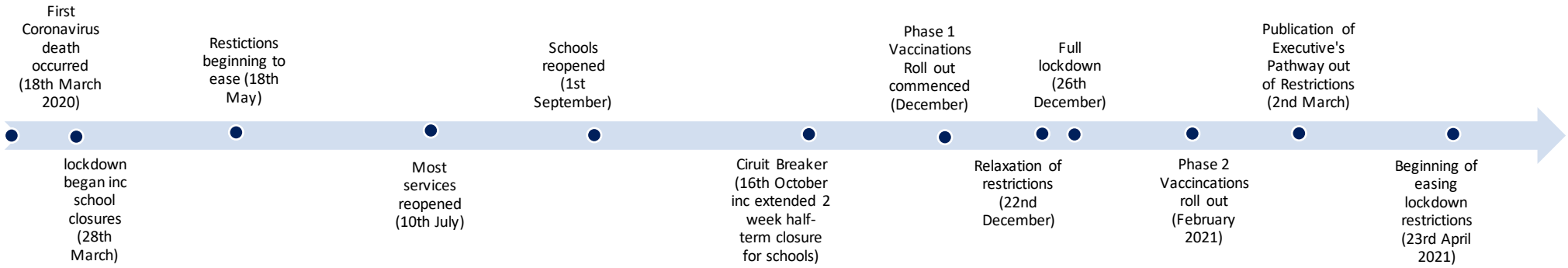
²Responsibility for reporting daily death figures moved from the Public Health Agency to the Department of Health on 19th April 2020. Figures based on deaths that occurred up to 7th May 2021 but including revisions up to 12th May 2021, to account for delayed notifications.

³To aid comparison, the most recent Registrar General Annual Report notes that in 2019, 47% of all deaths occurred in hospital and 19% in care/ nursing homes: [2019 Registrar General Annual Report](#)

Figure 7: Daily and cumulative number of deaths involving COVID-19 in Northern Ireland

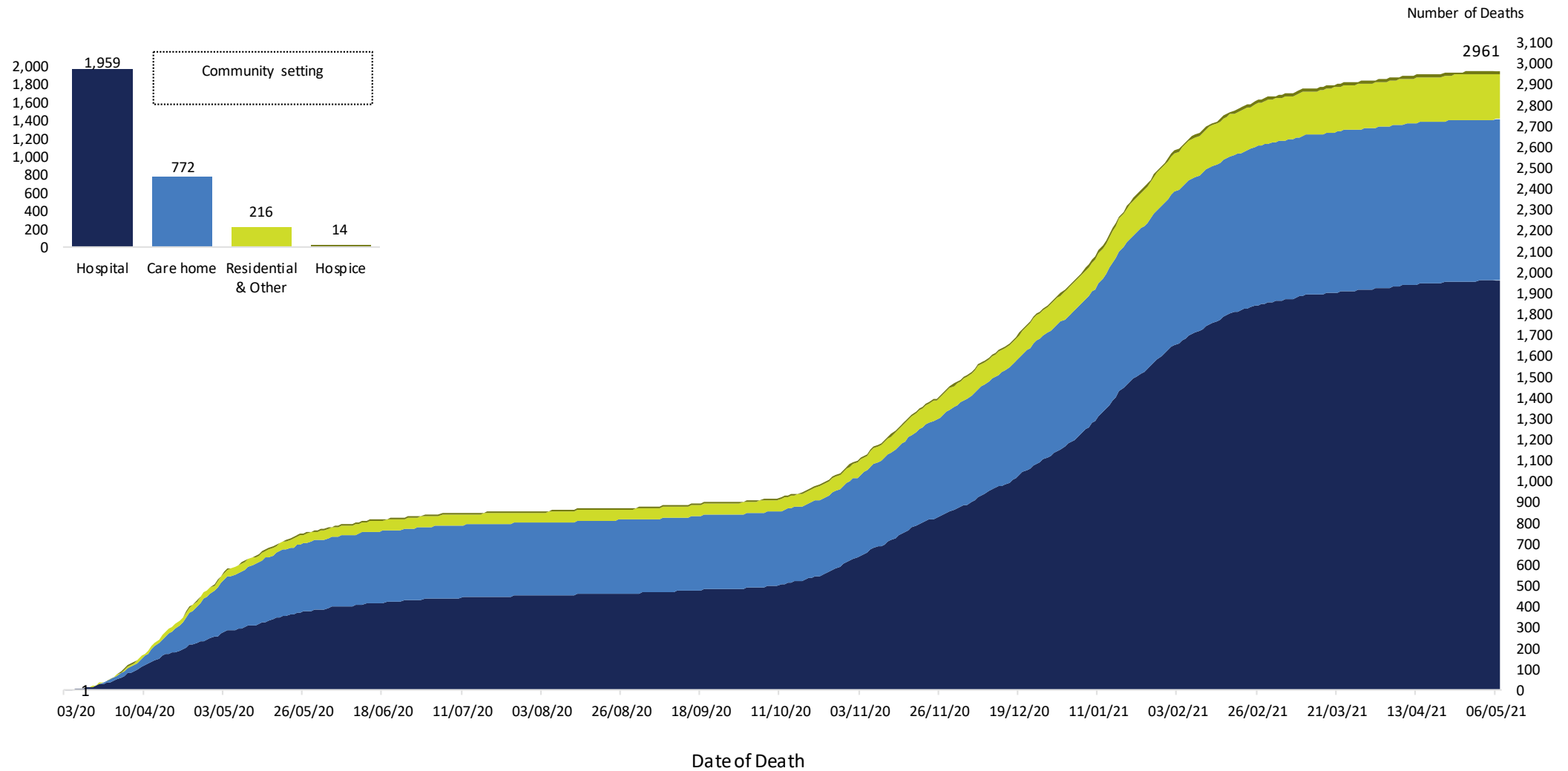


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Covid-19 deaths occurring by place of death

Figure 8: Cumulative number of Covid-19 related deaths occurring by Place of Death in Northern Ireland, 18th March 2020 up to 7th May 2021



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Table 4: Number of Covid-19 related deaths occurring each week, by Place of Death to 7th May 2021

Week ending	Hospital Total	Hospital %	Care Home Total	Care Home %	Hospice Total	Hospice %	Residential & Other Total	Residential & Other %	TOTAL	TOTAL %
01 May 2020	41	34.7%	72	61.0%	0	0.0%	5	4.2%	118	100%
08 May 2020	37	45.1%	39	47.6%	1	1.2%	5	6.1%	82	100%
15 May 2020	30	46.2%	33	50.8%	1	1.5%	1	1.5%	65	100%
22 May 2020	32	60.4%	15	28.3%	2	3.8%	4	7.5%	53	100%
29 May 2020	25	65.8%	11	28.9%	0	0.0%	2	5.3%	38	100%
05 Jun 2020	15	68.2%	5	22.7%	0	0.0%	2	9.1%	22	100%
12 Jun 2020	12	54.5%	5	22.7%	0	0.0%	5	22.7%	22	100%
19 Jun 2020	11	91.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	8.3%	12	100%
26 Jun 2020	8	80.0%	2	20.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	10	100%
03 Jul 2020	9	81.8%	2	18.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	11	100%
10 Jul 2020	3	75.0%	1	25.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	100%
17 Jul 2020	5	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	100%
24 Jul 2020	2	50.0%	2	50.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	100%
31 Jul 2020	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	100%
07 Aug 2020	3	75.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	25.0%	4	100%
14 Aug 2020	5	62.5%	2	25.0%	0	0.0%	1	12.5%	8	100%
21 Aug 2020	3	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	100%
28 Aug 2020	2	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	100%
04 Sep 2020	5	83.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	16.7%	6	100%
11 Sep 2020	6	75.0%	1	12.5%	0	0.0%	1	12.5%	8	100%
18 Sep 2020	6	66.7%	3	33.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	9	100%
25 Sep 2020	5	83.3%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	6	100%
02 Oct 2020	6	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	6	100%
09 Oct 2020	5	71.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	28.6%	7	100%
16 Oct 2020	24	88.9%	1	3.7%	0	0.0%	2	7.4%	27	100%
23 Oct 2020	34	72.3%	8	17.0%	0	0.0%	5	10.6%	47	100%
30 Oct 2020	60	75.0%	13	16.3%	1	1.3%	6	7.5%	80	100%
06 Nov 2020	58	67.4%	21	24.4%	0	0.0%	7	8.1%	86	100%
13 Nov 2020	56	60.9%	30	32.6%	0	0.0%	6	6.5%	92	100%
20 Nov 2020	72	67.9%	24	22.6%	0	0.0%	10	9.4%	106	100%
27 Nov 2020	43	55.8%	27	35.1%	0	0.0%	7	9.1%	77	100%
04 Dec 2020	48	57.1%	29	34.5%	0	0.0%	7	8.3%	84	100%
11 Dec 2020	71	71.7%	25	25.3%	0	0.0%	3	3.0%	99	100%
18 Dec 2020	55	64.0%	26	30.2%	1	1.2%	4	4.7%	86	100%
25 Dec 2020	77	63.6%	35	28.9%	0	0.0%	9	7.4%	121	100%
01 Jan 2021	76	73.1%	18	17.3%	0	0.0%	10	9.6%	104	100%
08 Jan 2021	89	77.4%	15	13.0%	2	1.7%	9	7.8%	115	100%
15 Jan 2021	131	73.2%	34	19.0%	1	0.6%	13	7.3%	179	100%
22 Jan 2021	117	70.9%	30	18.2%	0	0.0%	18	10.9%	165	100%
29 Jan 2021	102	71.8%	30	21.1%	0	0.0%	10	7.0%	142	100%
05 Feb 2021	81	73.6%	21	19.1%	1	0.9%	7	6.4%	110	100%
12 Feb 2021	65	82.3%	7	8.9%	0	0.0%	7	8.9%	79	100%
19 Feb 2021	54	84.4%	5	7.8%	0	0.0%	5	7.8%	64	100%
26 Feb 2021	35	71.4%	8	16.3%	1	2.0%	5	10.2%	49	100%
05 Mar 2021	22	88.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	12.0%	25	100%
12 Mar 2021	28	90.3%	3	9.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	31	100%
19 Mar 2021	10	66.7%	2	13.3%	0	0.0%	3	20.0%	15	100%
26 Mar 2021	9	64.3%	3	21.4%	0	0.0%	2	14.3%	14	100%
02 Apr 2021	11	91.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	8.3%	12	100%
09 Apr 2021	13	86.7%	1	6.7%	0	0.0%	1	6.7%	15	100%
16 Apr 2021	10	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	10	100%
23 Apr 2021	8	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	8	100%
30 Apr 2021	3	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	100%
07 May 2021	2	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	100%
Total from 18th March 2020 to 7th May 2021	1,959	66.2%	772	26.1%	14	0.5%	216	7.3%	2,961	100%

¹Includes deaths in care homes only. Care home residents who have died in a different location will be counted elsewhere in this table.

Note: Statistics for the full year are available in the [accompanying spread sheet](#)

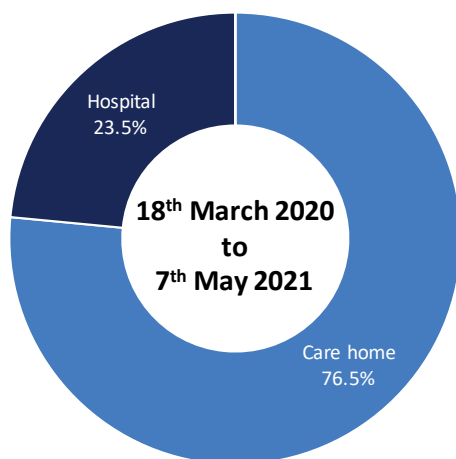
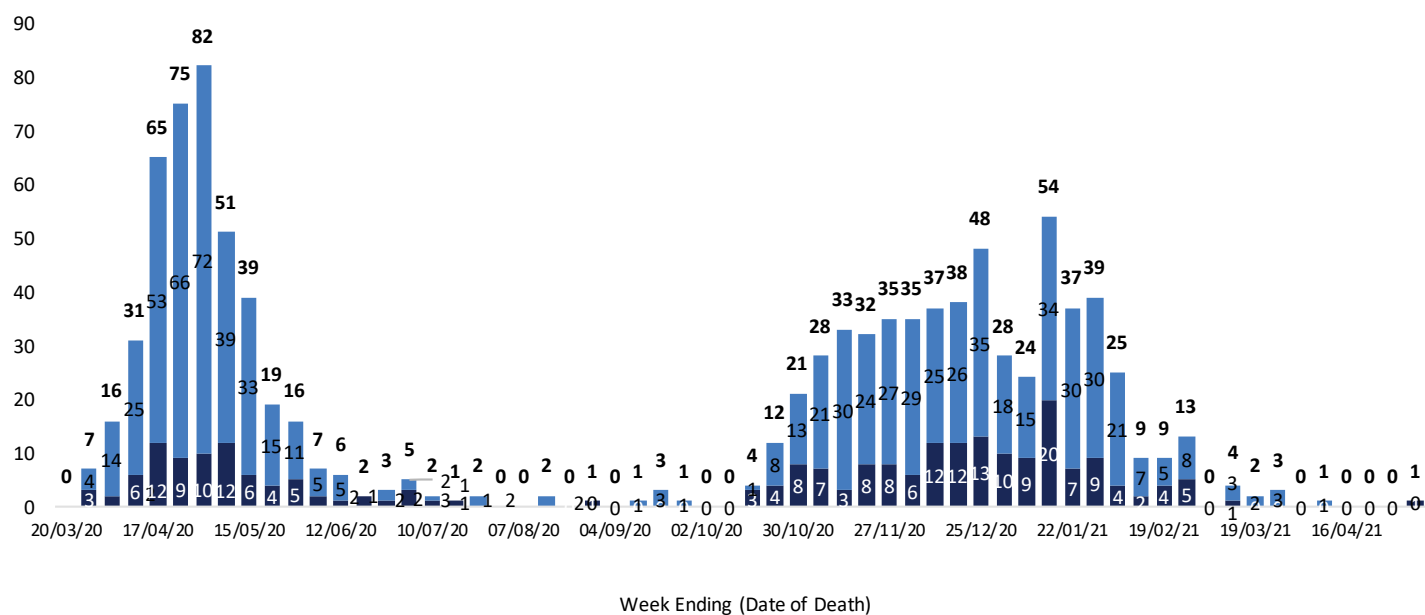
Covid-19 related deaths of care home residents by place of death

This section refers to deaths of care home residents, 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. 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. In relation to part (b) of this definition, no assumptions can be made about where or when the deceased contracted Covid-19 (and all figures include probable or suspect cases).

Based on the definition above, there have been 1,009 deaths of care home residents involving Covid-19 from 18th March 2020 up to 7th May 2021, which is 34.1% of all COVID-19 related deaths. Of the 1,009 deaths, 76.5% (772) occurred in a care home, with the remaining 237 occurring in hospital (Figure 9).

Of the total deaths involving Covid-19 which occurred in hospital (1,959 – see Table 4), 12.1% (237) were accounted for by care home residents. (Further information in Table 9 of [accompanying spreadsheet](#))

Figure 9: Care home residents: Weekly Covid-19 deaths occurring by place of death, from 18th March 2020 to 7th May 2021



[Download data for week 18 charts](#)

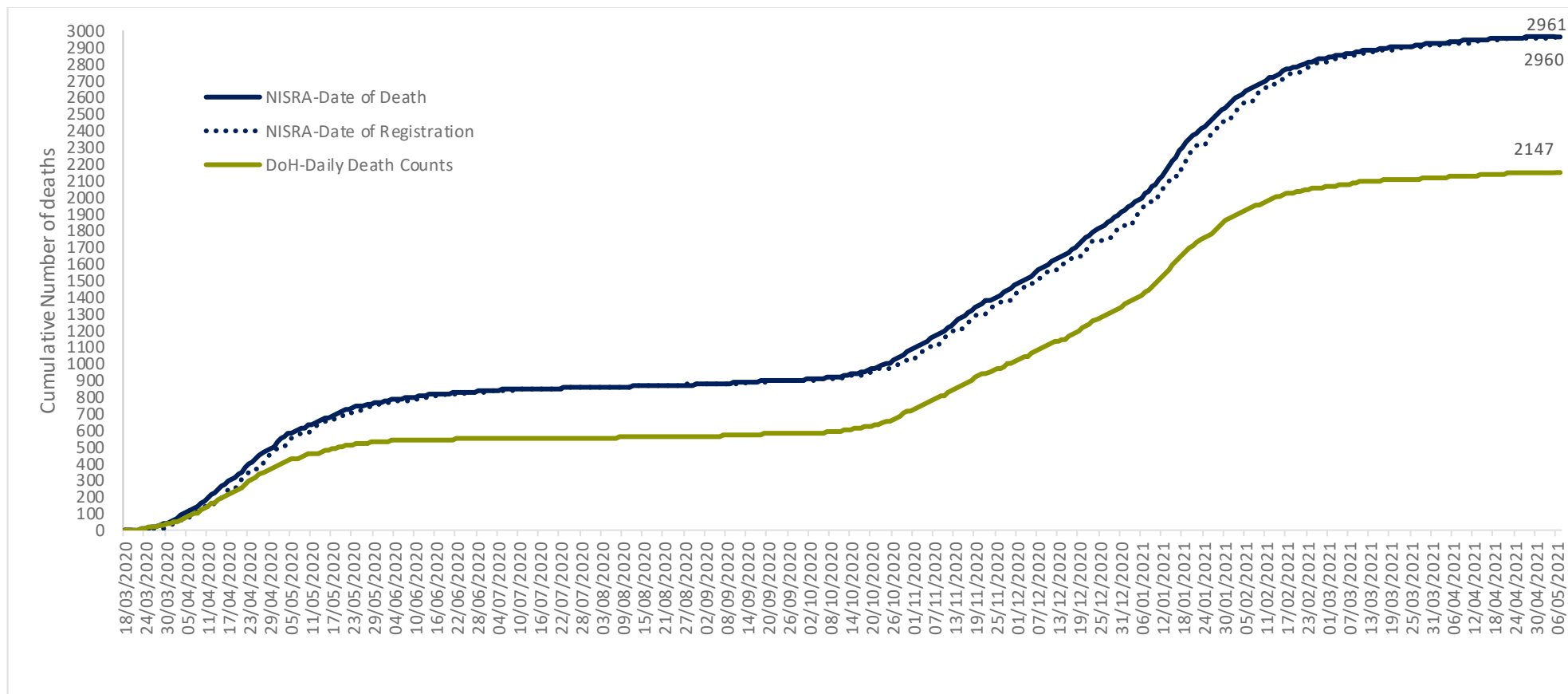
Differences between NISRA's death registration statistics and the Department of Health's daily statistics

- The [daily Northern Ireland Government updates](#) provided by the Department of Health (DoH) count the number of deaths reported by health 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 2,147 deaths associated with Covid-19 by 7th May 2021**. This figure includes revisions up to 12th May 2021 to account for delayed notifications.
- 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. The NISRA figures include all deaths that occur outside hospital and are comparable with weekly statistics produced by the Office for National Statistics and National Records Scotland. **NISRA figures published today show the total number of Covid-19 related deaths registered by 7th May 2021 was 2,960**. Deaths statistics based on date of registration will be subject to only minimal change.
- By analysing the registration based data using the **date the death occurred** (rather than date of registration with the General Register Office), the statistics show that **2,961 deaths associated with Covid-19 had occurred by 7th May 2021**, but including revisions to 12th May 2021, to account for delayed notifications. This is the most appropriate figure to use to understand additional deaths beyond those reported via the DoH daily bulletin. However it is also subject to ongoing change as not all deaths which occurred by 7th May 2021 will have been registered at the time of publishing these statistics.
- NISRA separately publishes the Registrar General Quarterly Report, provisional figures for which are available up to December 2020 and which include cause of death information. These show that the total number of deaths registered in calendar year to 31st December 2020, with an underlying cause of death of Covid-19 was 1,626. In comparison, the weekly death statistics, which count the number of deaths where Covid-19 was mentioned on the death certificate, reported that in the same period there had been 1,831 deaths registered involving Covid-19. This means that Covid-19 was the underlying, primary cause of death in 88.8 percent of all deaths which mentioned Covid-19 on the death certificate. Release of the Q1 report is scheduled for 23rd June 2021.

Figure 10 below graphically demonstrates the cumulative number of deaths involving Covid-19 in Northern Ireland using different data sources up to 7th May 2021.

The latest NISRA figures show that, by 7th May 2021, 2,961 deaths had occurred involving Covid-19, based on registrations up to 12th May 2021. DoH figures available for the same period show a total of 2,147 deaths.

Figure 10: Cumulative number of deaths involving COVID-19 in Northern Ireland using different data sources up to 7th May 2021¹



[Download data for week 18 charts](#)

¹ Responsibility for reporting daily figures moved from the PHA to the Department of Health on 19th April. These figures are based on deaths that occurred up to 7th May 2021 and include revisions up to 12th May 2021, to account for delayed notifications.

Links to relevant publications

[Deaths registered weekly in England & Wales](#)

[Weekly Data on Deaths Registered in Scotland](#)

[Vital statistics \(Central Statistics Office, Ireland\)](#)

[Northern Ireland Department of Health daily Covid-19 figures](#) and [daily dashboard](#)

[Number of coronavirus \(Covid-19\) cases and risk in the UK](#)

[Covid-19 Health Surveillance Monitor \(Ireland\)](#)

List of Tables

Data accompanying this bulletin are available from the [NISRA website](#) in Excel format. The spreadsheet includes the following tables.

Table 1: Deaths registered each week in Northern Ireland, 2021

Table 2: Deaths registered each week in Northern Ireland, age by sex, 2020/21

Table 3: Deaths registered in Northern Ireland, by Local Government District (LGD), 2020/21

Table 4: Deaths registered in Northern Ireland, by place of death, 2021

Table 5: Covid-19 related deaths registered each week in Northern Ireland, age by sex, 2020/21

Table 6: Covid-19 related deaths registered in Northern Ireland, by Local Government District (LGD), 2020/21

Table 7: Covid-19 related deaths registered in Northern Ireland, by place of death, 2021

Table 8: Covid-19 related care home deaths registered in Northern Ireland, by Local Government District (LGD), 2020/21

Table 9: Covid-19 related deaths registered by date and place of death in Northern Ireland, 2020/21

Table 10: Covid-19 related death occurrences by week of death in Northern Ireland, 2020/21

Table 11: Covid-19 related death occurrences in Northern Ireland, by week of death and place of death, 2020/21

Table 12: Covid-19 related deaths of care home residents in Northern Ireland, by place of death 2020/21

Table 13: Covid-19 related deaths: occurrences by date and place of death in Northern Ireland, 2020/21

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- are well explained and readily accessible
- are produced according to sound methods
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