

Weekly Deaths in Northern Ireland

Death Registration Statistics including Covid-19 by Date of Death

Week ending 1 October 2021 (Week 39)

Summary

- This bulletin provides details on the provisional number of deaths registered in Northern Ireland during the week 25 September to 1 October 2021 (referred to as week 39).
- Provisional estimates show that 380 deaths were registered in Northern Ireland in week 39 of 2021 (section 1), more deaths (+86) than typically registered in the same week in recent years.
- Overall, 3,473 Covid-19 related deaths had occurred (section 2) in Northern Ireland by 1 October, 29 of which occurred in the week ending 1 October.
- The 7-day moving average has shown a decrease in recent weeks, after a general upwards trend since the start of July 2021.

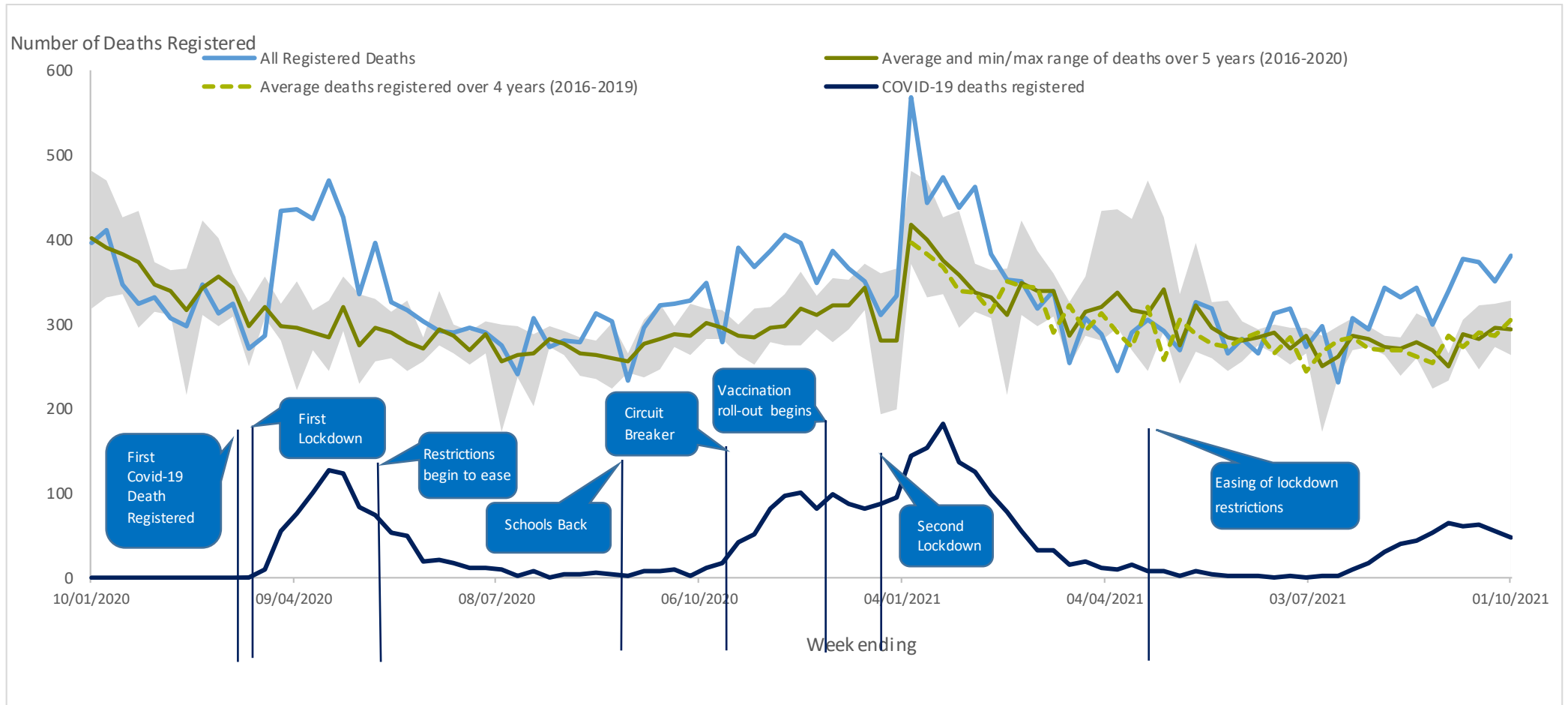
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Section 1: Deaths by Date of Registration

In week 39 of 2021, there were more 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 1 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 2 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 1 October 2021 (week 39) was 380, 29 more than the previous week (351) and 86 more than the 2016-2020 5 year average (294) (Table 1).
- Forty-eight deaths mentioning Covid-19 on the death certificate were registered in week 39 of 2021, accounting for 12.6% of all deaths registered in that week. This is a decrease of seven from the previous week. The total number of Covid-19 related deaths registered from the start of the pandemic was 3,473 by 1 October 2021.
- From the start of the pandemic (from the first Covid-19 related death being registered on 19 March 2020) to 1 October 2021, males and females accounted for relatively equal proportions of all deaths registered (males: 50.2%, females: 49.8%), however, a slightly higher proportion of males accounted for Covid-19 related deaths registered (males: 52.3%; female 47.7%). (Figure 3).
- Since the beginning of the pandemic to 1 October 2021, the 75 years and over age-group accounted for almost two-thirds (65.0%) of all deaths and three-quarters (74.5%) 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 (12.4% and 8.3% respectively) compared with their share of all deaths in Northern Ireland (10.4% and 6.6% 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 2 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 was 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, 18, 19, 22, 28 and 35 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 1 October 2021 (week 39) was 380; 29 more (-8.3%) than in week 38 (351), and 86 more than the 5-year average for corresponding weeks in 2016-2020 (294).

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

Registration week	Week ending on Friday	Total number of deaths registered by week 2021	Average number of deaths registered in corresponding week 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
19	14 May 2021	326	323	268	396	3
20	21 May 2021	319	295	259	325	24
21	28 May 2021	265	284	245	328	-19
22	4 June 2021	282	280	256	304	2
23	11 June 2021	265	284	275	293	-19
24	18 June 2021	313	290	265	300	23
25	25 June 2021	319	271	252	295	48
26	2 July 2021	272	285	266	296	-13
27	9 July 2021	298	250	172	286	48
28	16 July 2021	231	262	237	298	-31
29	23 July 2021	306	285	269	307	21
30	30 July 2021	293	282	273	298	11
31	06 August 2021	342	273	264	287	69
32	13 August 2021	331	271	238	284	60
33	20 August 2021	343	279	260	313	64
34	27 August 2021	299	270	223	303	29
35	03 September 2021	340	250	234	265	90
36	10 September 2021	377	288	275	305	89
37	17 September 2021	374	282	247	322	92
38	24 September 2021	351	296	272	323	55
39	01 October 2021	380	294	263	328	86
	2021 TOTAL	13,001	11,953			1,048

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 39 was 48. This is a decrease of seven deaths from the previous week. This equates to 12.6% of all deaths registered in week 39. Since the beginning of the pandemic, 3,473 Covid-19 related deaths have been registered, which equates to 12.9% of all deaths registered since 19 March 2020.

Table 2: Covid-19 deaths registered¹ weekly in Northern Ireland from week 1 of 2021 to 1 October 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-19 (%)
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
19	14 May 2021	326	7	2.1
20	21 May 2021	319	4	1.3
21	28 May 2021	265	3	1.1
22	4 June 2021	282	2	0.7
23	11 June 2021	265	2	0.8
24	18 June 2021	313	1	0.3
25	25 June 2021	319	2	0.6
26	2 July 2021	272	1	0.4
27	9 July 2021	298	3	1.0
28	16 July 2021	231	3	1.3
29	23 July 2021	306	9	2.9
30	30 July 2021	293	18	6.1
31	06 August 2021	342	31	9.1
32	13 August 2021	331	40	12.1
33	20 August 2021	343	43	12.5
34	27 August 2021	299	53	17.7
35	03 September 2021	340	64	18.8
36	10 September 2021	377	61	16.2
37	17 September 2021	374	63	16.8
38	24 September 2021	351	55	15.7
39	01 October 2021	380	48	12.6
	2021 TOTAL	12,641	1,642	12.6
	TOTAL since Pandemic⁴	26,863	3,473	12.9

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.

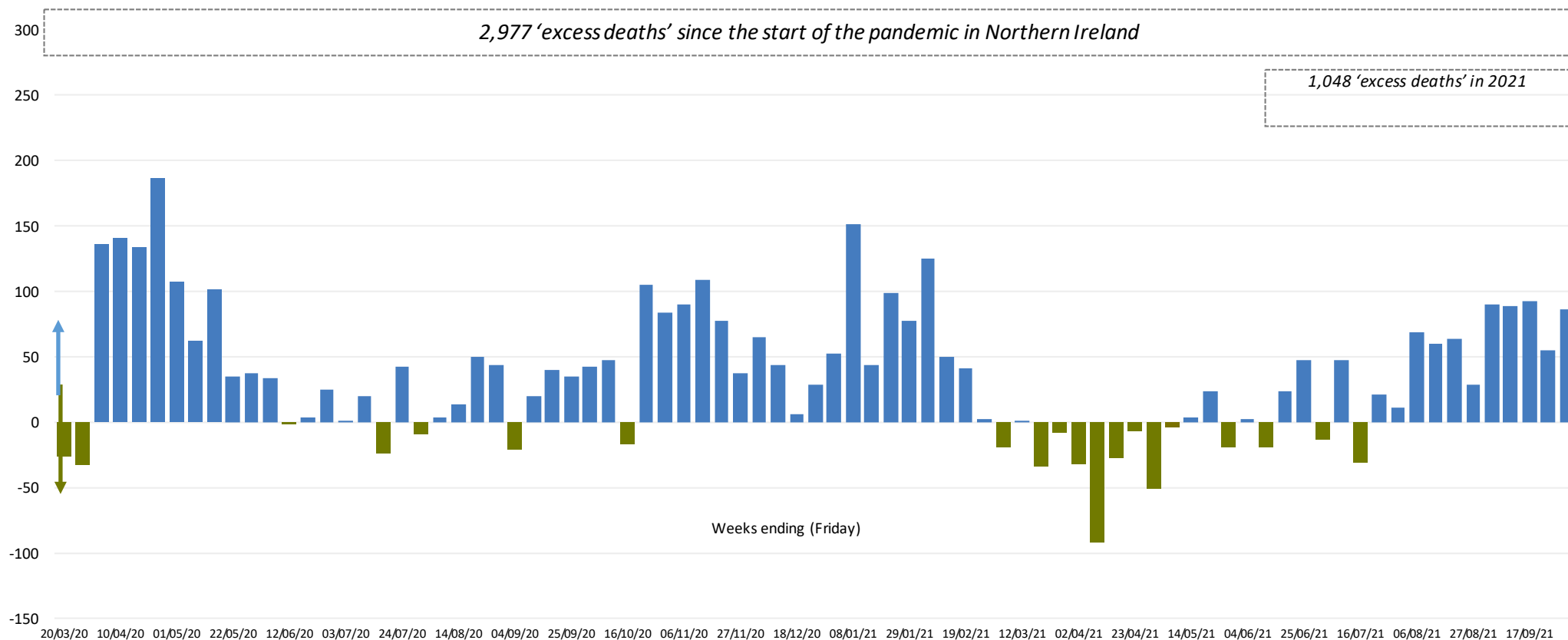
² Covid-19 deaths include any death where Coronavirus or Covid-19 (suspected or confirmed) was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate.

³ Figures may not sum due to rounding.

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

In the first 39 weeks of 2021 there have been 1,048 excess deaths compared with the 5-year average for corresponding weeks in 2016-2020. Since the beginning of the pandemic, there have been 2,977 net excess deaths. This is the eleventh consecutive week of 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



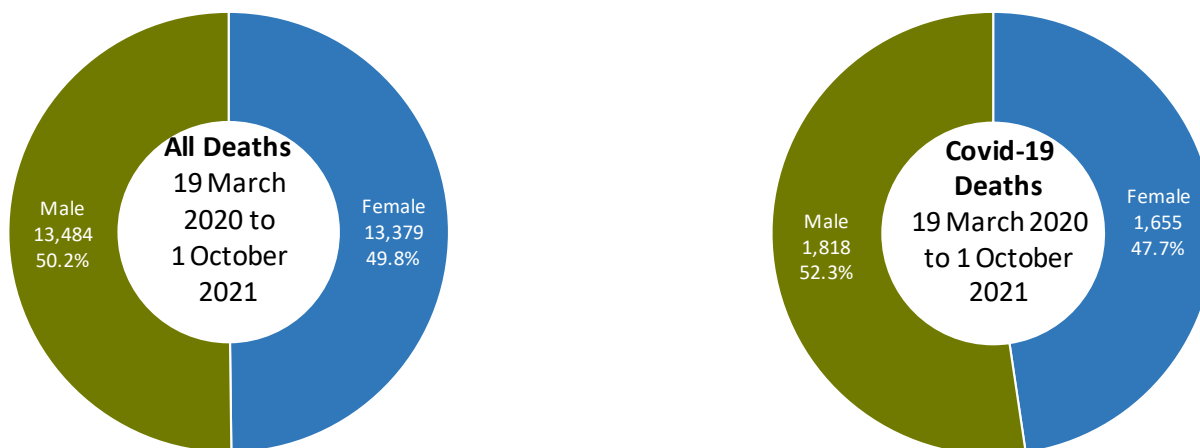
*Note: The 5 year average used in the chart relates to 2015-2019 for all data points up to 1 January 2021, and to 2016-2020 thereafter.

[Download data for week 39 charts](#)

Deaths registered by sex

Since the first Covid-19 related death was registered on 19 March 2020 until 01 October 2021, males and females accounted for equal proportions of all deaths registered (males: 50.2% (13,484), females: 49.8% (13,379)); however, a slightly higher proportion of Covid-19 related deaths registered are accounted for by males (males: 52.3% (1,818); female 47.7% (1,655)). A weekly breakdown by sex is provided in the [accompanying spreadsheet](#).

Figure 3: All deaths and Covid-19 related deaths registered by sex from 19 March 2020 to 1 October 2021

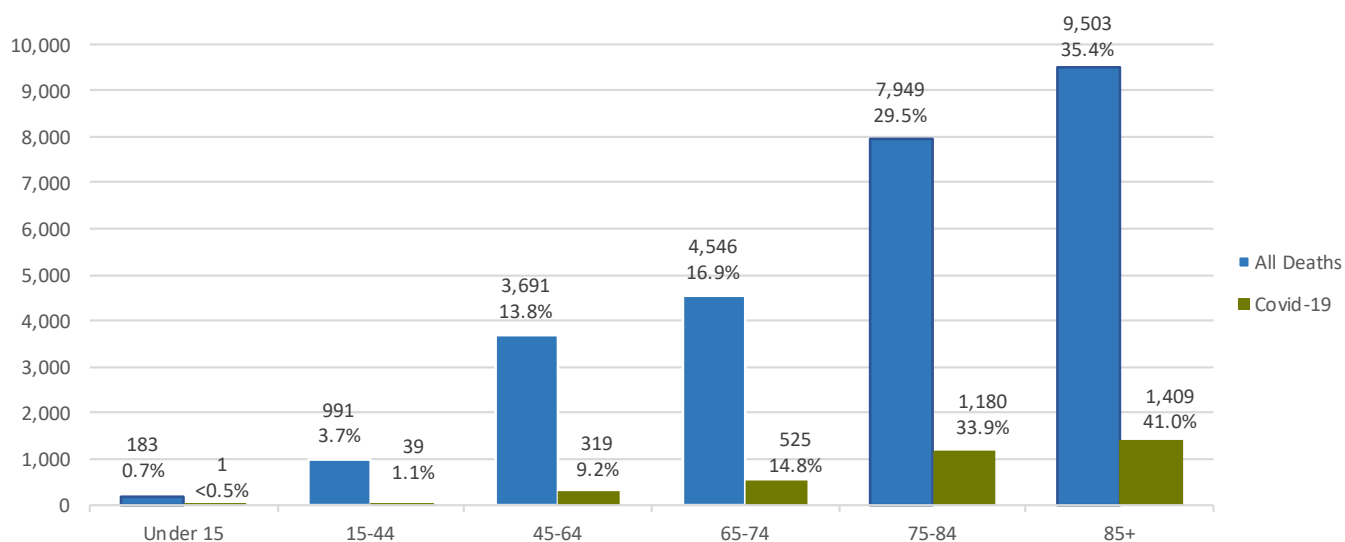


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Deaths registered by age-group

From the start of the pandemic to 1 October 2021, the 75 years and over age-group accounted for almost two-thirds (65.0%, or 17,452) of all deaths and three-quarters (74.5%, or 2,589) 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 19 March 2020 to 1 October 2021

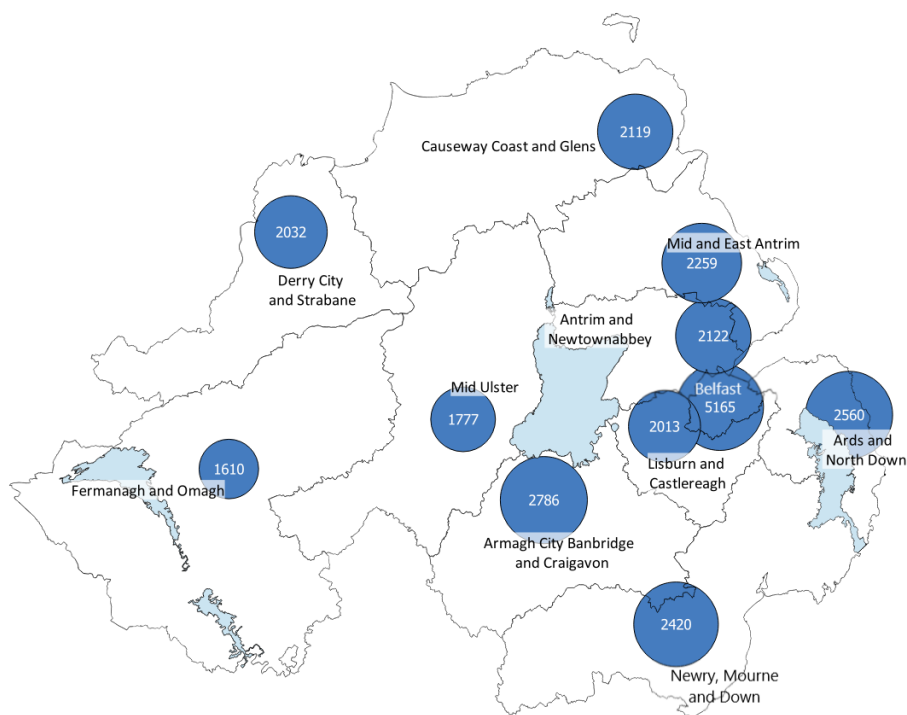


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Deaths registered by Local Government District

Those with an address* in Belfast Local Government District (LGD) accounted for one in five of all 26,863 deaths registered from the start of the pandemic to 1 October 2021 (5,165; 19.2%).

Figure 5: All deaths registered by LGD*: 19 March 2020 to 1 October 2021



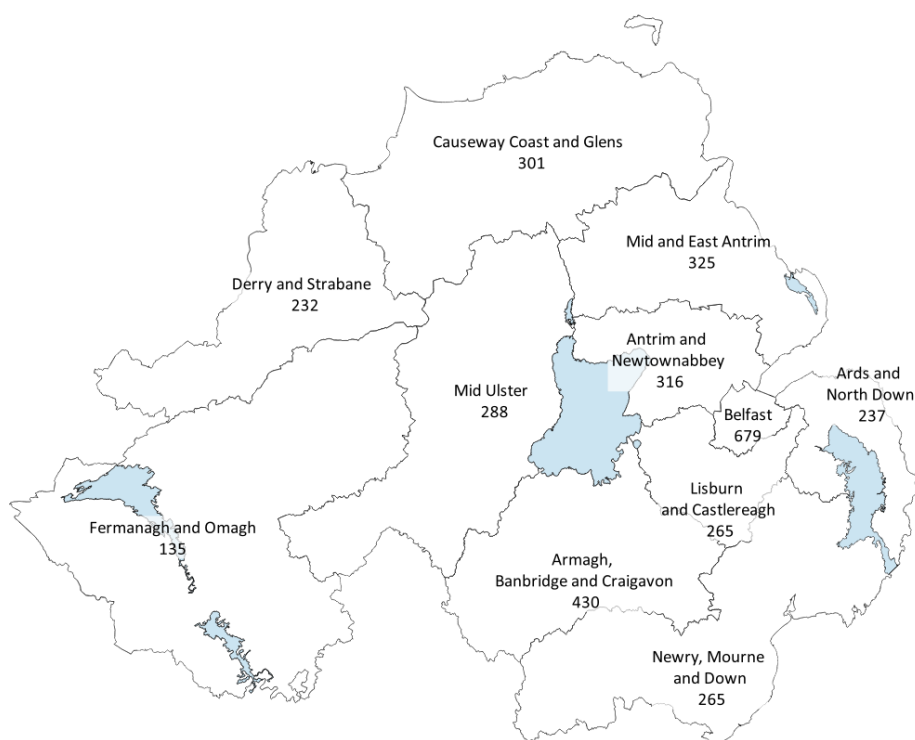
* The LGD data provided are based on the usual address of the deceased, recorded on the death certificate. Where the deceased was usually resident in NI and a home address was provided, the deceased's usual postcode has been mapped to a LGD area. If the usual address was not provided or the deceased 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 & Omagh LGD had the fewest registered over the period 19 March '20 – 1 Oct. '21 (135), and Belfast had the most registered in the same period (679).

Figure 6: Covid-19 related deaths registered by LGD: 19th March 2020 to 1 October 2021



* Table 8 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 (note that the percentages may not sum to 100 in the % of deaths and % of Covid deaths columns due to rounding). Ards & North Down and Fermanagh & Omagh both have relatively low shares of registered Covid-19 related deaths (6.8% and 3.9% of all Covid-19 related deaths respectively) when compared to the proportion of total Northern Ireland deaths registered in those areas (2.7 and 2.1 percentage points lower respectively 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 (2.0 and 1.7 percentage points higher respectively).

Table 3: All deaths and Covid-19 related deaths registered by LGD from 19 March 2020 to 1 October 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	2,122	7.9%	316	9.1%	1.2%
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	2,786	10.4%	430	12.4%	2.0%
Belfast	5,165	19.2%	679	19.6%	0.3%
Causeway Coast & Glens	2,119	7.9%	301	8.7%	0.8%
Derry City & Strabane	2,032	7.6%	232	6.7%	-0.9%
Fermanagh & Omagh	1,610	6.0%	135	3.9%	-2.1%
Lisburn & Castlereagh	2,013	7.5%	265	7.6%	0.1%
Mid & East Antrim	2,259	8.4%	325	9.4%	0.9%
Mid Ulster	1,777	6.6%	288	8.3%	1.7%
Newry, Mourne & Down	2,420	9.0%	265	7.6%	-1.4%
Ards & North Down	2,560	9.5%	237	6.8%	-2.7%
Total	26,863	100.0%	3,473	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 18 March 2020 to 1 October 2021, including those registered up to and including 5 October. Overall, 3,476 Covid-19 related deaths had occurred in Northern Ireland by 1 October, 29 of which occurred in the week ending 1 October. Figure 7 contains a 7-day moving average showing the trend in Covid-19 deaths by smoothing daily fluctuations.

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

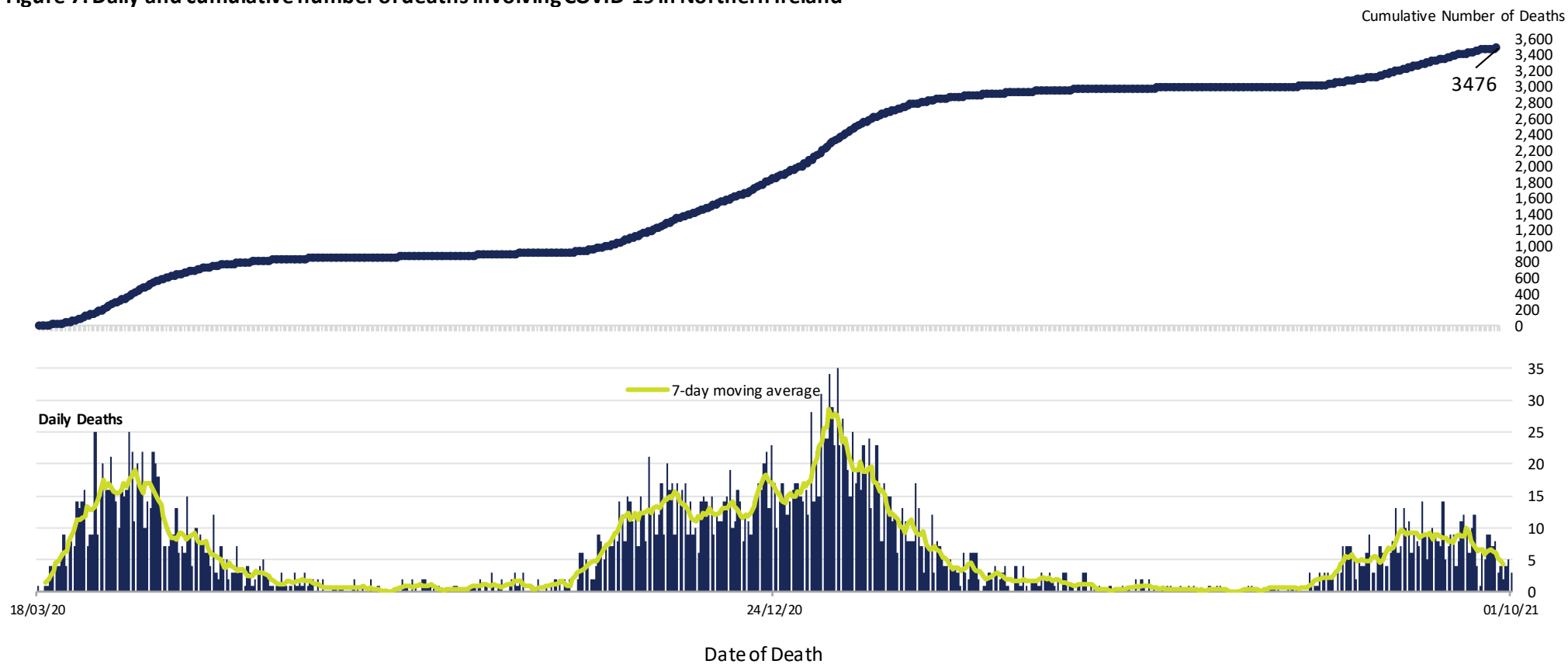
- 3,476 deaths mentioning Covid-19 on the death certificate have occurred in total from 18 March 2020 to 1 October 2021 (including those registered up to and including 5 October). The comparative number of deaths reported by the Department of Health (DoH) to 1 October was 2,565 (see page 16 for definitions).
- Twenty-nine Covid-19 related deaths occurred in week ending 1 October, a decrease of 12 from the previous week.
- Of these 3,476 deaths involving Covid-19, 2,367 (68.1%) occurred in hospital³, 836 (24.1%) occurred in care homes, 14 (0.4%) occurred in hospices and 259 (7.5%) occurred at residential addresses or another location (Figure 8). (see Table 11 of [accompanying spreadsheet](#))

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 19 April 2020. Figures based on deaths that occurred up to 1 October 2021 but including revisions up to 5 October 2021, to account for delayed notifications. Usually the estimate would have included registrations up to and including 6 October, however, a technical issue meant it was not possible to include these this week. The impact on the total number of Covid-19 related deaths is estimated to be minimal.

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](#)

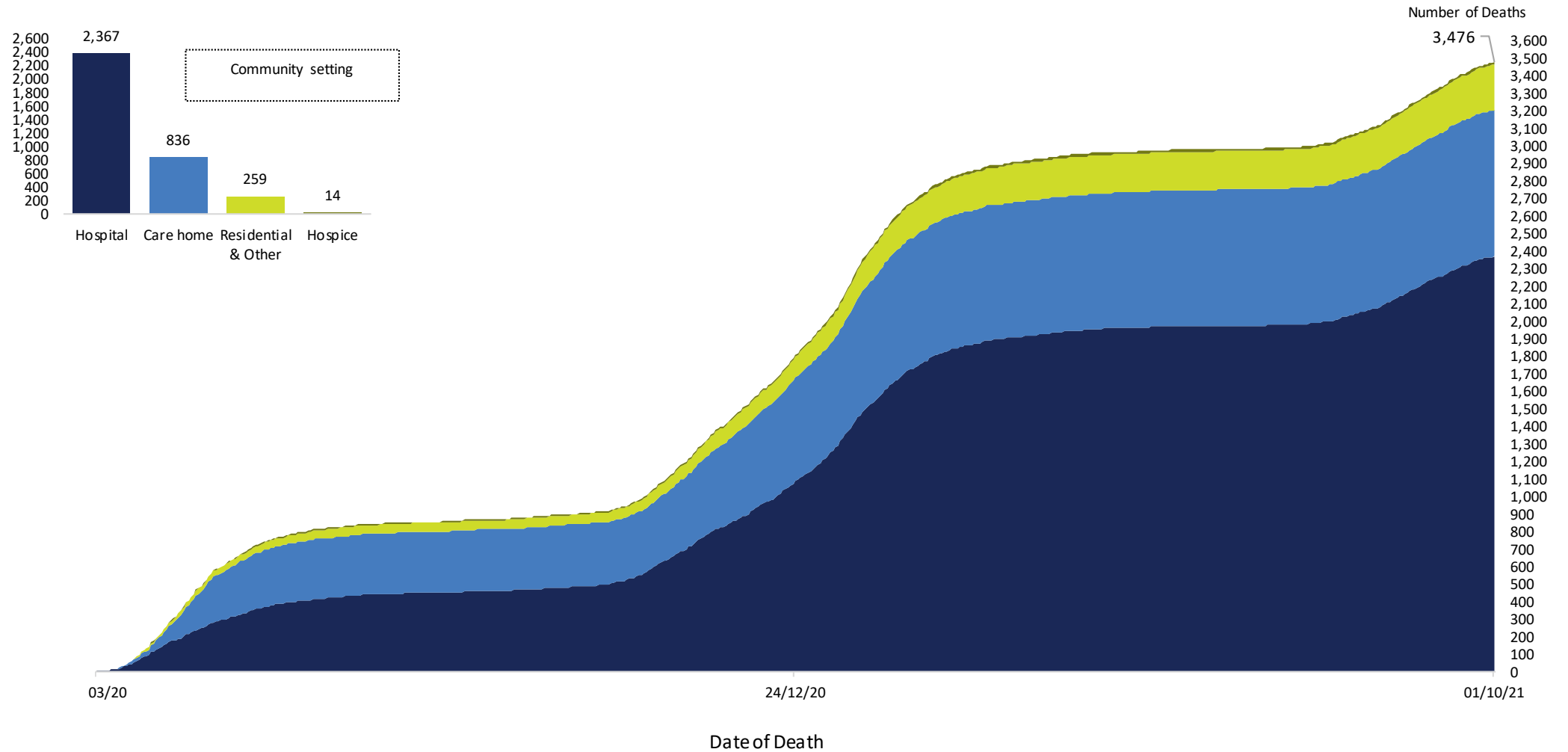
Figure 7: Daily and cumulative number of deaths involving COVID-19 in Northern Ireland



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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, 18 March 2020 up to 1 October 2021



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Table 4: Number of Covid-19 related deaths occurring each week, by Place of Death to 1 October 2021

Week ending	Hospital Total	Hospital %	Care Home Total	Care Home %	Hospice Total	Hospice %	Residential & Other Total	Residential & Other %	TOTAL	TOTAL %
08 Jan 2021	89	76.7%	16	13.8%	2	1.7%	9	7.8%	116	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	71.3%	30	21.0%	0	0.0%	11	7.7%	143	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	70.0%	8	16.0%	1	2.0%	6	12.0%	50	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%
14 May 2021	5	83.3%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	6	100%
21 May 2021	4	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	100%
28 May 2021	3	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	100%
4 June 2021	1	50.0%	1	50.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	100%
11 June 2021	0	0.0%	1	50.0%	0	0.0%	1	50.0%	2	100%
18 June 2021	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	100%
25 June 2021	1	50.0%	1	50.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	100%
2 July 2021	2	100%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	100%
9 July 2021	3	75.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	25.0%	4	100%
16 July 2021	4	80.0%	1	20.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	100%
23 July 2021	10	71.4%	2	14.3%	0	0.0%	2	14.3%	14	100%
30 July 2021	18	75.0%	3	12.5%	0	0.0%	3	12.5%	24	100%
06 August 2021	28	82.4%	1	2.9%	0	0.0%	5	14.7%	34	100%
13 August 2021	28	71.8%	8	20.5%	0	0.0%	3	7.7%	39	100%
20 August 2021	41	85.4%	5	10.4%	0	0.0%	2	4.2%	48	100%
27 August 2021	50	78.1%	7	10.9%	0	0.0%	7	10.9%	64	100%
03 September 2021	57	89.1%	5	7.8%	0	0.0%	2	3.1%	64	100%
10 September 2021	41	74.5%	10	18.2%	0	0.0%	4	7.3%	55	100%
17 September 2021	54	78.3%	9	13.0%	0	0.0%	6	8.7%	69	100%
24 September 2021	37	90.2%	2	4.9%	0	0.0%	2	4.9%	41	100%
01 October 2021	20	69.0%	6	20.7%	0	0.0%	3	10.3%	29	100%
Total from 18 March 2020 to 17 September 2021	2,367	68.1%	836	24.1%	14	0.4%	259	7.5%	3,476	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](#)

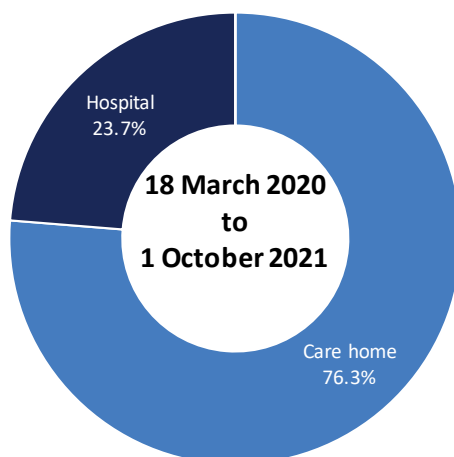
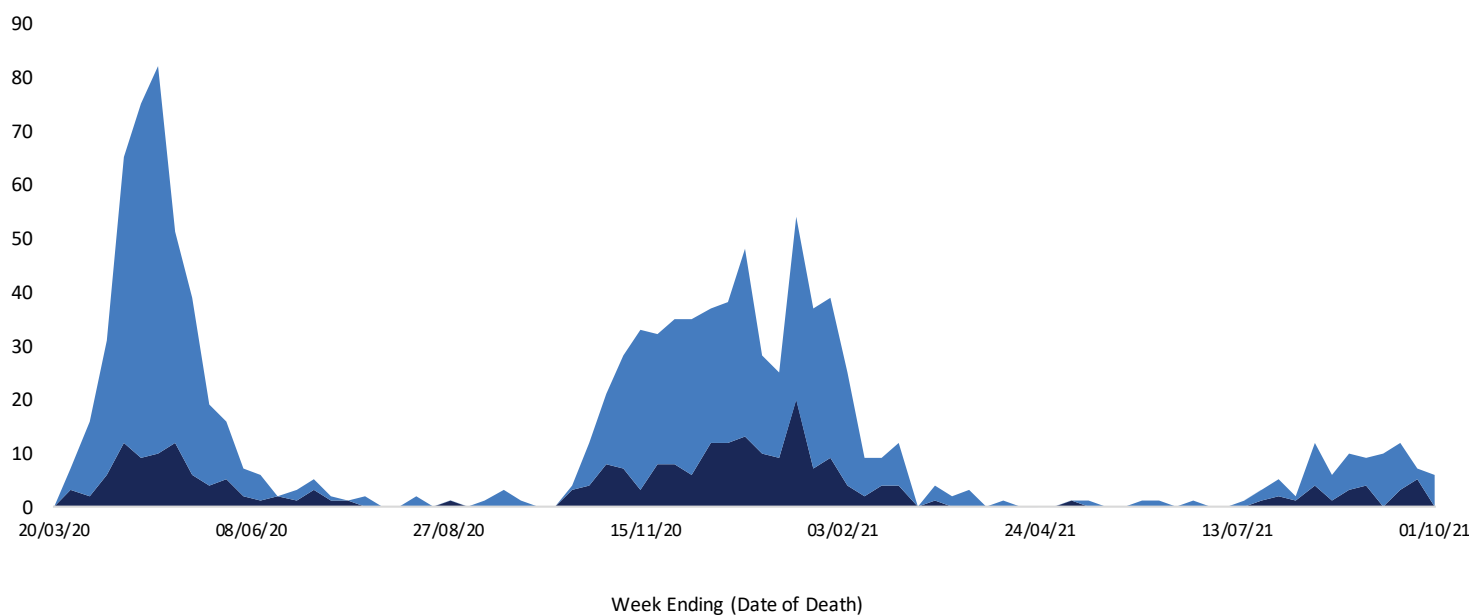
Covid-19 related deaths of care home residents by place of death

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 1,096 deaths of care home residents involving Covid-19 from 18 March 2020 up to 1 October 2021, which is 31.5% of all COVID-19 related deaths. Of the 1,096 deaths, 76.3% (836) occurred in a care home, with the remaining 260 occurring in hospital (Figure 9).

Of the total deaths involving Covid-19 which occurred in hospital (2,367– see Table 11), 11.0% (260) 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 18 March 2020 to 1 October 2021



[Download data for week 39 charts](#)

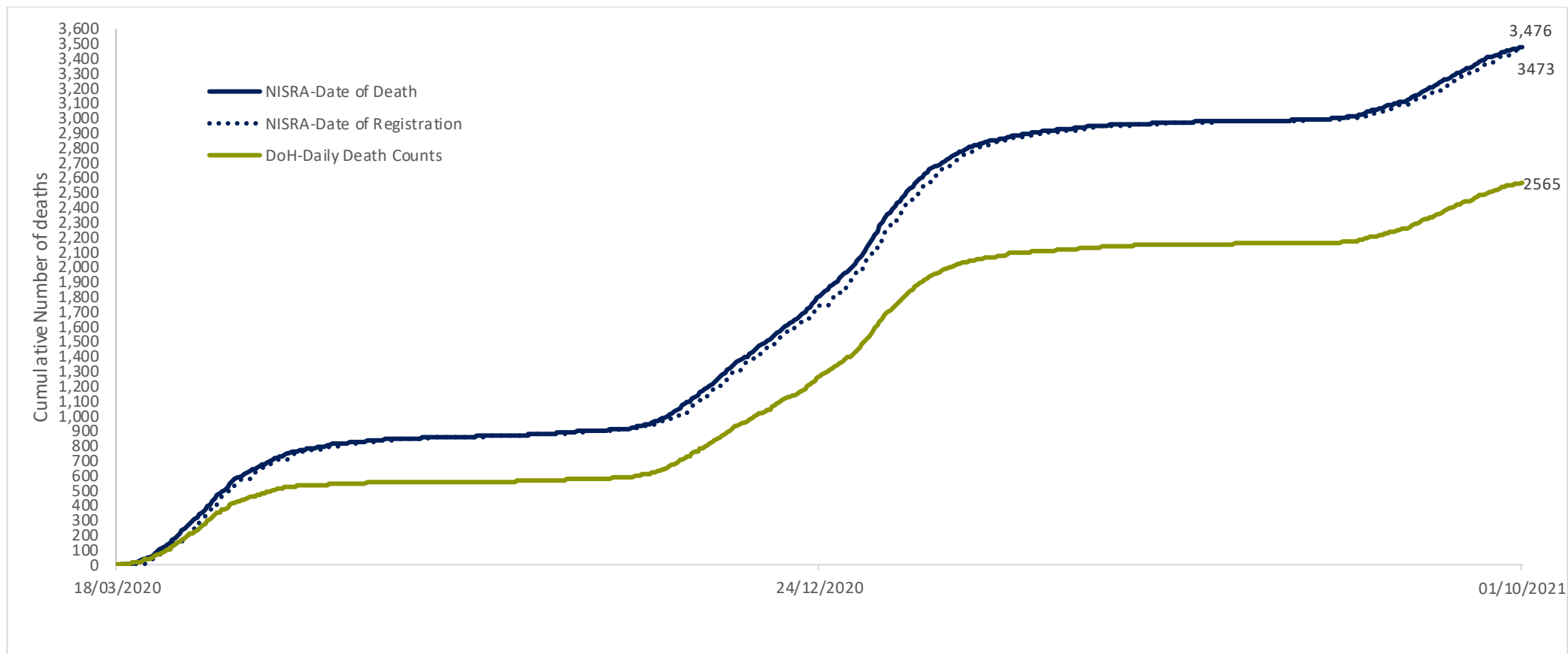
Differences between NISRA's death registration statistics and the Department of Health's daily statistics

- 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 2,565 deaths associated with Covid-19 by 1 October 2021**. This figure includes revisions up to 6 October 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 1 October 2021 was 3,473**. 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 **3,476 deaths associated with Covid-19 had occurred by 1 October 2021**, but including revisions to 5 October 2021 (data for 6 October not available at time of production due to system unavailability), 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 1 October 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 June 2021 (published on 26 August 2021) and which include cause of death information. These show that the total number of deaths registered in calendar year to 30 June 2021, with an underlying cause of death of Covid-19 was 2,590. 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 2,981 deaths registered involving Covid-19. This means that Covid-19 was the underlying, primary cause of death in 86.9 percent of all deaths which mentioned Covid-19 on the death certificate. .

Figure 10 below graphically demonstrates the cumulative number of deaths involving Covid-19 in Northern Ireland using different data sources up to 1 October 2021.

The latest NISRA figures show that, by 1 October 2021, 3,476 deaths had occurred involving Covid-19, based on registrations up to 5 October 2021. DoH figures available for the same period show a total of 2,565 deaths.

Figure 10: Cumulative number of deaths involving COVID-19 in Northern Ireland using different data sources up to 1 October 2021¹



[Download data for week 39 charts](#)

¹ Responsibility for reporting daily figures moved from the PHA to the Department of Health on 19 April. These figures are based on deaths that occurred up to 1 October 2021 and include revisions up to 5 October 2021 (and 6th October for DoH), 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
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest

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