Death Registrations among Care Home Residents in Wales since the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Author: 2149508

Background

The COVID-19 Pandemic started in the year 2020, and since then 274,063 deaths (and counting) have been recorded across Care Homes in both England and Wales. 45,632 (16.7%) of these deaths involved the COVID-19 virus. In Wales, 9,650 total deaths were registered across Care Homes from 14th March 2020 to 11th June 2021 (first and second wave of COVID-19) while 3,980 deaths were registered from 12th June 2021 to 21st January 2022 (third wave)[1].

Methods

The data used to plot the graphs and map was retrieved from the **Office for National Statistics** website. Four different datasets were combined to get information on Death Registrations and COVID-19-related deaths of Care Home residents in Wales for the years 2020, 2021, and 2022. The needed datasets were sorted in MS Excel and further in R Studio which was also used to create the charts. The map was created using the QGIS software.
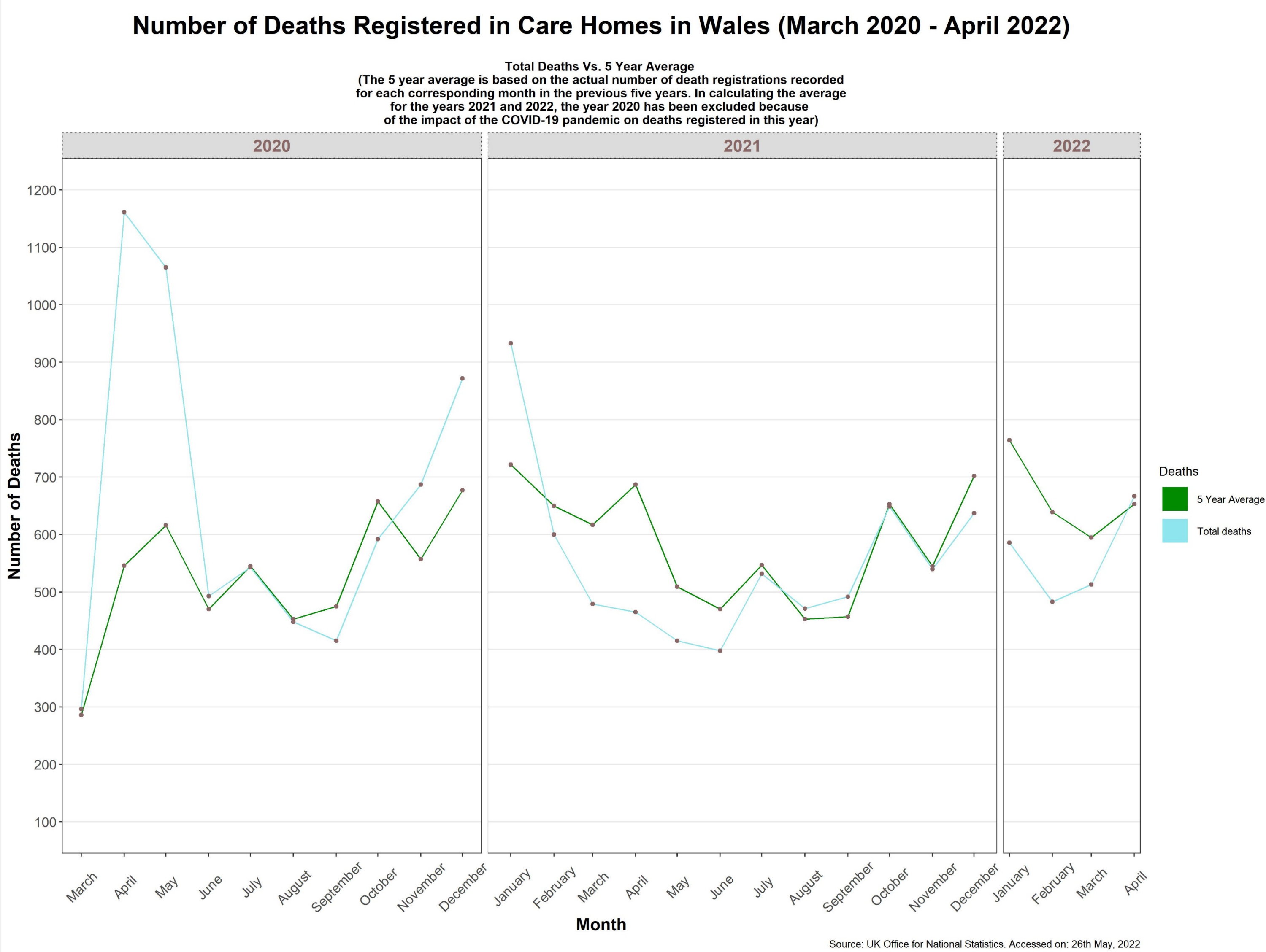
Results

Figure 1. Line Chart showing the comparison between the 5-year average and Total Deaths in Care Homes in Wales
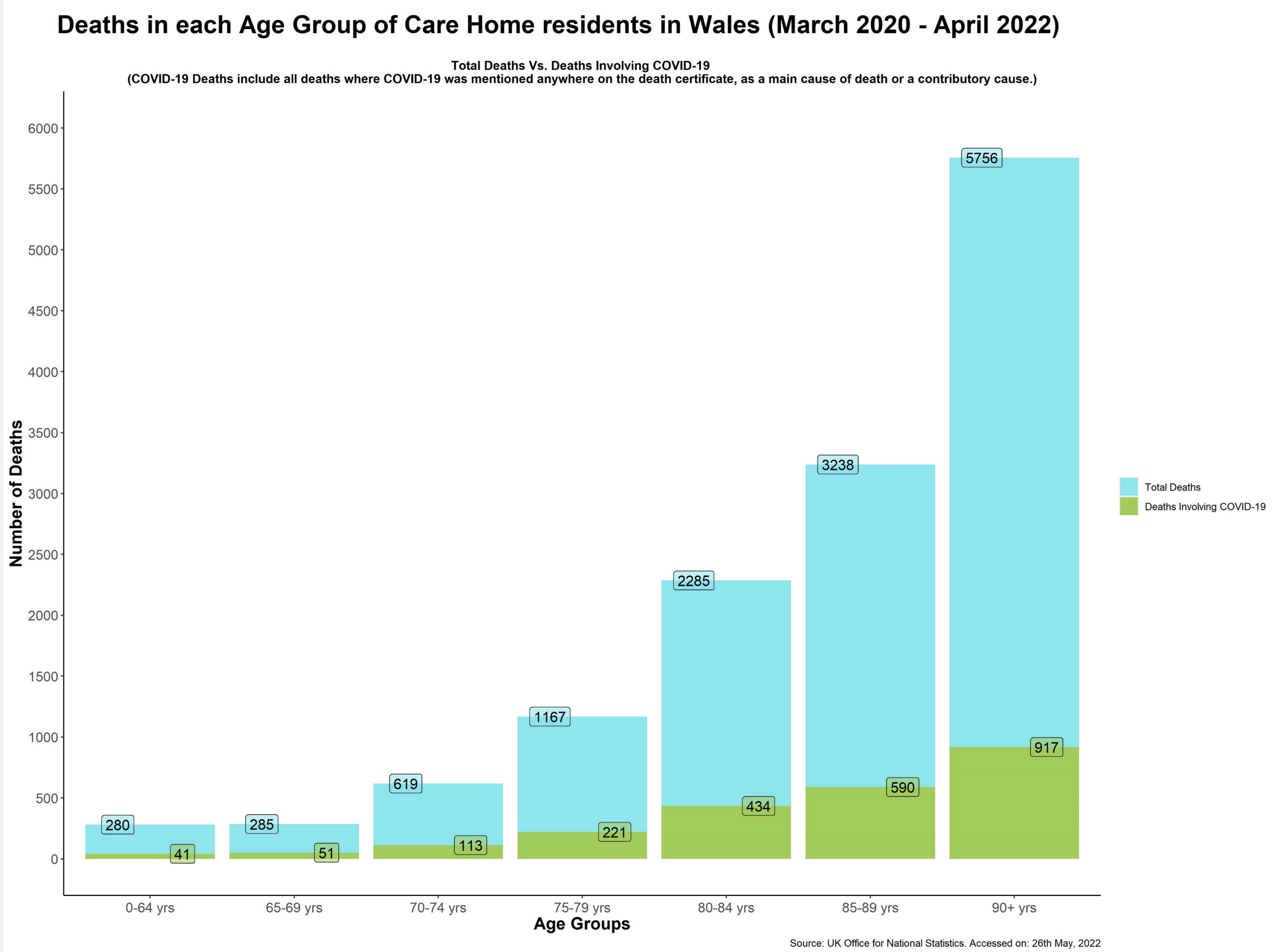

Figure 2. Overlapping Bar Chart showing the Total Deaths compared to Deaths involving COVID-19 in Care Homes in Wales
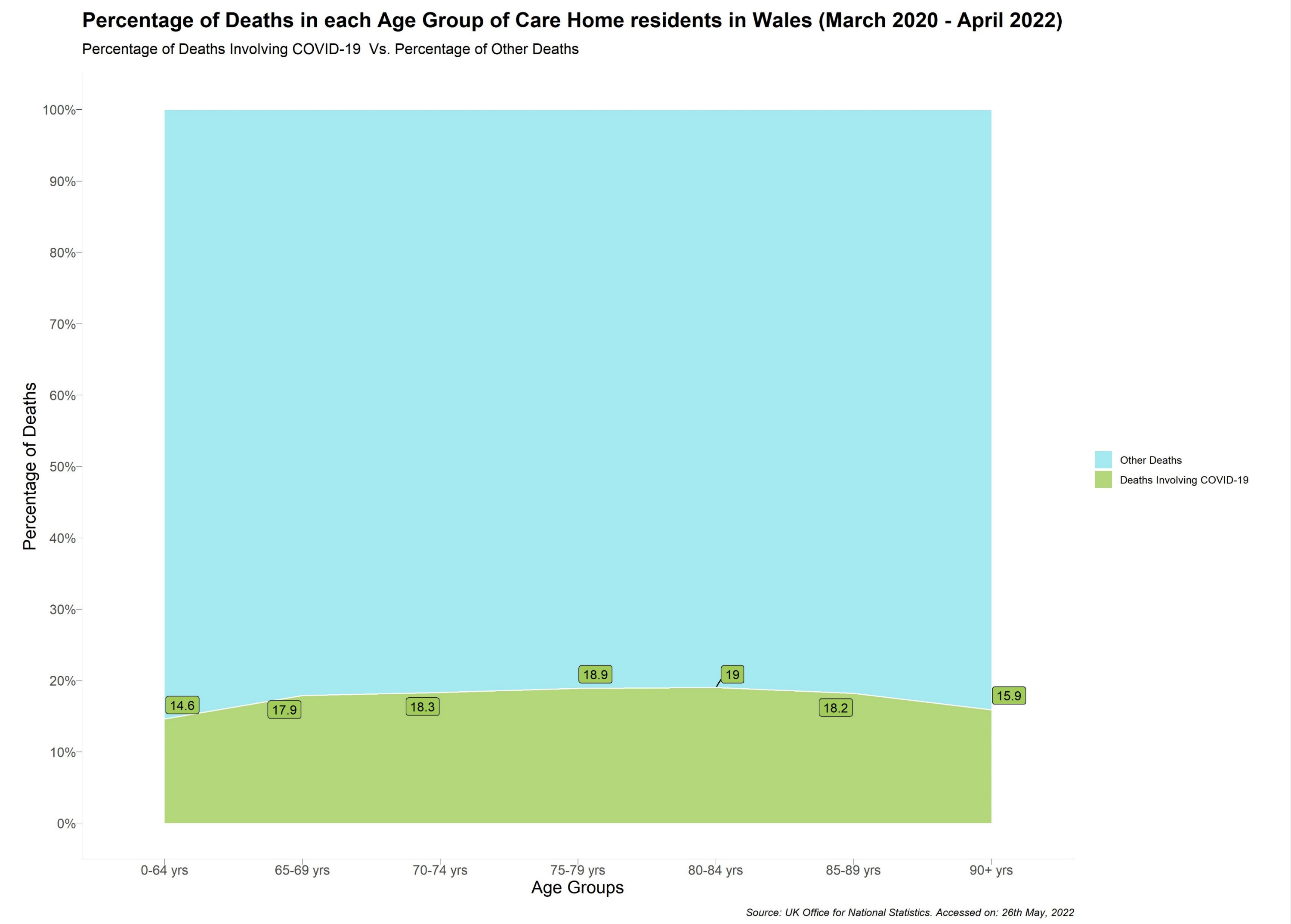

Figure 3. Area Chart showing the comparison of Total Deaths and COVID-19 Death percentages between different Age Groups in Care Homes in Wales
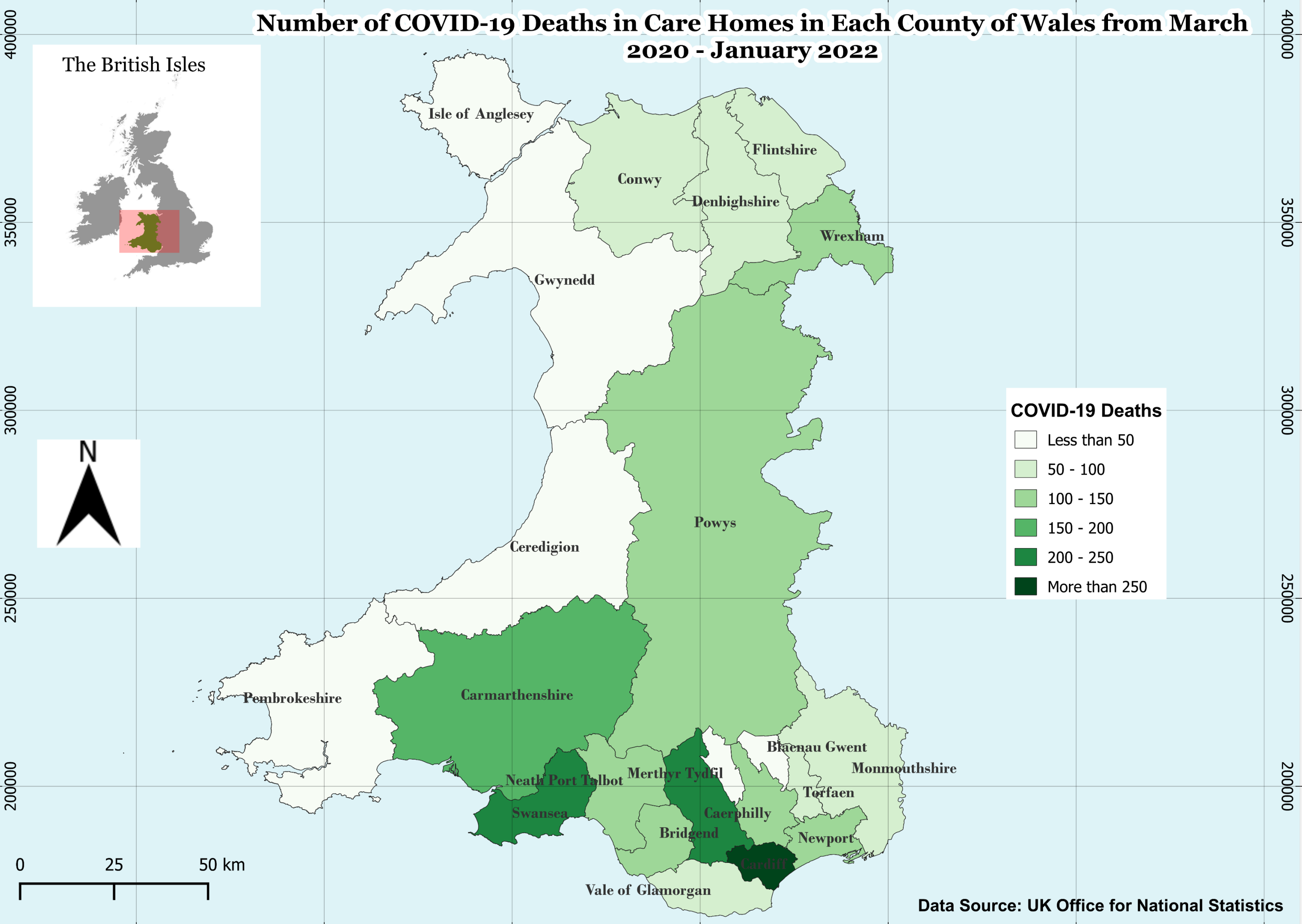

Figure 4. Map showing COVID-19 Deaths in Care Homes in each of the 22 counties of Wales

Discussion

Figure 1. shows that the increase in the number of deaths from March to April 2020 is significantly higher than the expected five-year average and this could be explained by the emergence of the COVID-19 virus. In **Figure 2.** the total number of deaths and the deaths involving COVID-19 increase with older age groups but **Figure 3.** shows that age groups 75-79 and 80-84 years have the highest percentage of COVID-19-related deaths. The map in **Figure 4.** shows that Cardiff has the highest number of COVID-related deaths in Care

Discussion (Cont'd)

Homes (more than 250) followed by Swansea and Caerphilly (200 – 250 deaths).

References

1. Office for National Statistics [Internet]. Deaths involving COVID-19 in the care sector, England and Wales; [cited 2022 Jul 14]. Available from: https://www.onsgov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/articles/deathsinvolvingcovid19inthecaresectorenglandandwales/latest