

STATISTICS PRESS NOTICE – WEEKLY DEATH STATISTICS (Week ending 15th January 2021)



9.30am Friday 22nd January 2021

Covid-19 related deaths: week ending 15th January 2021

Latest figures published today by NISRA show that 156 deaths involving Covid-19 occurred in the week 9th to 15th January 2021, the highest weekly number since the pandemic began. The total number of Covid-19 related deaths that occurred up to 15th January 2021 has now reached 2,186. Two days, 11th and 7th January 2021, saw the joint highest number of Covid-19 related deaths occurring in any one day since the start of the pandemic (28).

Of the 2,186 Covid-19 related deaths, 1,367 (62.5%) took place in hospital, 656 (30.0%) in care homes, 13 (0.6%) in hospices and 150 (6.9%) at residential addresses or other locations. The 669 deaths which occurred in care homes and hospices involved 163 separate establishments.

The comparative number of deaths reported daily by the Department of Health to 15th January 2021 was 1,583. These figures are 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.

Further analysis, which includes deaths of care home residents in hospital, shows that of the 858 deaths of care home residents involving Covid-19 occurred between 18th March 2020 and 15th January 2021, 76.5% (656) occurred in a care home, with the remaining 202 occurring in hospital. On this basis, deaths of care home residents account for 39.2% of all Covid-19 related deaths; however, no assumptions can be made in relation to where or when the deceased contracted the disease.

Separate analyses, 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 15th January 2021 (week 2, 2021) was 443, 125 less than week 1, and 44 more than the 5-year average (2016-2020) of 399.

Covid-19 was mentioned on the death certificate of 153 (34.5%) of the 443 deaths registered in week 2 2021. This is the highest weekly number of Covid-19 related death registrations

since the start of the pandemic and means that the total number of Covid-19 related deaths registered to 15th January 2021 has now exceeded 2,000 (2,129).

Persons aged 75 and over accounted for 77.1% of the 2,129 Covid-19 related deaths registered between 19 March 2020 and 15th January 2021, while those with an address in Belfast Local Government District (LGD) accounted for 460 (21.6%) of the total.

NISRA

January 2021

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Statistics on weekly deaths registered in Northern Ireland can be found at: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/weekly-deaths>.
2. All media queries to Department of Finance Press Office at dof.pressoffice@finance-ni.gov.uk or on Tel: 028 90816724. Out of office hours please contact the Duty Press Officer on 028 9037 8110 and your call will be returned.
3. Data for weeks 51, 52 and 1 are affected by the Christmas period. Week 51 contained one public holiday for 25 December, and week 52 contained two public holidays, 28 December and 1 January. As a result, death registrations were likely to be lower than the actual number of deaths that occurred in these weeks. Registrations for week 1 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 turn of the year as it is affected by public holidays and won't give a reliable indication of the trend.
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 1,583 deaths associated with Covid-19 by 15th January 2021 (including revisions up to 20th 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. Quoted figures based on occurrence take into account registrations up to 20th January 2021, to allow for delays in death registrations.
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. Further information on the statistics provided in this publication can be obtained from NISRA Customer Services at:
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