

STATISTICS PRESS NOTICE – WEEKLY DEATH STATISTICS (Week ending 16th October 2020)



9:30am Friday 23rd October 2020

Covid-19 related deaths: week ending 16th October

Latest figures published today by NISRA show that twenty-seven deaths involving Covid-19 occurred in the last week, from 10th to 16th October. The total Covid-19 related deaths figure stands at 942.

Of this total, 519 (55.1%) took place in hospital, 357 (37.9%) in care homes, eight (0.8%) in hospices and 58 (6.2%) at residential addresses or other locations. The 365 deaths which occurred in care homes and hospices involved 86 separate establishments.

The comparative number of deaths reported daily by the Department of Health to 16th October was 610. 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 441 deaths of care home residents involving Covid-19 in the year to date to 16th October 2020, 81.0% (357) occurred in a care home, with the remaining 84 occurring in hospital. On this basis, deaths of care home residents account for 46.8% 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 16th October 2020 (week 41) was 278, 70 less than in week 40 and 17 less than the 5-year average of 295. The total in week 41 was impacted by the Registration system being unavailable on Friday 16th October due to a platform upgrade. Over the last 29 weeks in total, 1,288 'excess deaths' (deaths above the average for the corresponding period in previous years) have been registered in Northern Ireland, with the number of 'excess deaths' in the year to date to 16th October totalling 1,029.

Covid-19 was mentioned on the death certificate of seventeen (6.1%) of the 278 deaths registered in week 41. This is six more than last week (week 40) and brings the total number of Covid-19 related deaths registered in the calendar year up to 16th October to 930.

Persons aged 75 and over accounted for two-thirds (64.7%) of all deaths and 79.0% of Covid-19 related deaths registered this calendar year up to 16th October.

For Covid-19 related deaths, those with an address in Belfast Local Government District (LGD) accounted for 264 (28.4%) of the 930 deaths registered in the calendar year to 16th October.

NISRA

October 2020

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. 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 610 deaths associated with Covid-19 by 16th October 2020 (including revisions up to 21st October 2020).**
 - 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.
4. Quoted figures based on occurrence take into account registrations up to 21st October 2020, to allow for delays in death registrations.

5. 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).

6. Further information on the statistics provided in this publication can be obtained from NISRA Customer Services at:

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