



# Daily Updates of Totals by Week and State

Provisional Death Counts for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

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Updated: May 26, 2021

 Note: Provisional death counts are based on death certificate data received and coded by the National Center for Health Statistics as of May 26, 2021. Death counts are delayed and may differ from other published sources (see Technical Notes). Counts will be updated periodically. Additional information will be added to this site as available.

The provisional counts for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) deaths are based on a current flow of mortality data in the National Vital Statistics System. National provisional counts include deaths occurring within the 50 states and the District of Columbia that have been received and coded as of the date specified. It is important to note that it can take several weeks for death records to be submitted to National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), processed, coded, and tabulated. Therefore, the data shown on this page may be incomplete, and will likely not include all deaths that occurred during a given time period, especially for the more recent time periods. Death counts for earlier weeks are continually

revised and may increase or decrease as new and updated death certificate data are received from the states by NCHS. COVID-19 death counts shown here may differ from other published sources, as data currently are lagged by an average of 1–2 weeks.

The provisional data presented on this page include the provisional counts of deaths in the United States due to COVID-19, deaths from all causes and percent of expected deaths (i.e., number of deaths received over number of deaths expected based on data from previous years), pneumonia deaths (excluding pneumonia deaths involving influenza), pneumonia deaths involving COVID-19, influenza deaths, and deaths involving pneumonia, influenza, or COVID-19; by week ending date, month, and year, and specific jurisdictions.

For the Index of Provisional COVID-19 Mortality Surveillance and Ad-hoc Data Files, [click here](#).

Table 1 has counts of deaths involving COVID-19 and other select causes of death by time-period in which the death occurred. For data on deaths involving COVID-19 by time-period and jurisdiction, [Click here to download](#).

**Table 1. Deaths involving coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), pneumonia, and influenza reported to NCHS by time-period and jurisdiction of occurrence.**

**Data as of:**  
5/26/2021

State							
United States							
Week ending date in which the death occurred	All Deaths involving COVID-19 [1]	Deaths from All Causes	Percent of Expected Deaths [2]	Deaths involving Pneumonia [3]	Deaths involving COVID-19 and Pneumonia [3]	All Deaths involving Influenza [4]	Deaths involving Pneumonia, Influenza, or COVID-19 [5]
5/22/2021	821	14,606	28	1,009	447	1	1,384
5/15/2021	2,054	32,146	61	2,408	1,162	5	3,303
5/8/2021	2,976	44,021	82	3,477	1,585	5	4,871
5/1/2021	3,629	51,172	95	4,174	1,988	3	5,817
4/24/2021	4,218	54,471	101	4,672	2,303	14	6,598
4/17/2021	4,148	54,496	99	4,610	2,239	7	6,523
4/10/2021	4,067	56,926	102	4,670	2,156	12	6,591
4/3/2021	4,003	55,381	99	4,514	2,076	17	6,455
3/27/2021	4,284	57,543	101	4,830	2,261	15	6,865
3/20/2021	4,719	57,398	101	5,072	2,478	7	7,318
3/13/2021	5,473	58,954	102	5,514	2,923	13	8,073
3/6/2021	6,442	60,803	106	6,283	3,501	26	9,242
2/27/2021	8,237	64,156	110	7,260	4,461	19	11,047
2/20/2021	10,329	66,886	114	8,615	5,670	15	13,287
2/13/2021	12,862	68,727	115	9,807	6,966	23	15,718
<b>Total</b>	<b>579,041</b>	<b>4,640,192</b>		<b>508,878</b>	<b>283,753</b>	<b>9,299</b>	<b>812,191</b>

Weekly
Monthly
Yearly

NOTE: Empty data cells represent death counts between 1-9 that have been suppressed in accordance with NCHS confidentiality standards. Number of deaths reported in this table are the total number of deaths received and coded as of the date of analysis and may not represent all deaths that occurred in that period. Counts of deaths occurring before or after the reporting period are not included in the table. Data during recent periods are incomplete because of the lag in time between when the death occurred and when the death certificate is completed, submitted to NCHS and processed for reporting purposes. This delay can range from 1 week to 8 weeks or more, depending on the jurisdiction and cause of death. The United States population, based on 2019 postcensal estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau, is 328,239,523. United States death counts include the 50 states, plus the District of Columbia and New York City. New York state estimates exclude New York City.

[1] Deaths with confirmed or presumed COVID-19, coded to ICD-10 code U07.1.

[2] Percent of expected deaths is the number of deaths for all causes for these time-periods in 2020 or 2021 compared to the average number across the same time-period in 2017–2019. Previous analyses of 2015–2016 provisional data completeness have found that completeness is lower in the first few weeks following the date of death (<25%), and then increases over time such that data are generally at least 75% complete within 8 weeks of when the death occurred (8).

[3] Counts of deaths involving pneumonia (J12.0-J18.9) include pneumonia deaths that also involve COVID-19 and exclude pneumonia deaths involving influenza.

[4] Counts of deaths involving influenza (J09-J11) include deaths with pneumonia or COVID-19 also listed as a cause of death.

[5] Deaths with confirmed or presumed COVID-19, pneumonia, or influenza, coded to ICD-10 codes U07.1 or J09-J18.9.

## Understanding the Numbers: Provisional Death Counts and COVID-19

*Provisional death counts deliver the most complete and accurate picture of lives lost to COVID-19. They are based on death certificates, which are the most reliable source of data and contain information not available anywhere else, including comorbid conditions, race and ethnicity, and place of death.*

### How it Works

**The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) uses incoming data from death certificates to produce provisional COVID-19 death counts.** These include deaths occurring within the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

**NCHS also provides summaries that examine deaths in specific categories and in greater geographic detail,** such as deaths by county and by race and Hispanic origin.

**COVID-19 deaths are identified using a new ICD-10 code.** When COVID-19 is reported as a cause of death – or when it is listed as a “probable” or “presumed” cause — the death is coded as **U07.1**. This can include cases with or without laboratory confirmation.

### Why These Numbers are Different

Provisional death counts may not match counts from other sources, such as media reports or numbers from county health departments. Counts by NCHS often track 1–2 weeks behind other data.

- **Death certificates take time to be completed.** There are many steps to filling out and submitting a death certificate. Waiting for test results can create additional delays.
- **States report at different rates.** Currently, 63% of all U.S. deaths are reported within 10 days of the date of death, but there is significant variation between states.
- **It takes extra time to code COVID-19 deaths.** While 80% of deaths are electronically processed and coded by NCHS within minutes, most deaths from COVID-19 must be coded by a person, which takes an average of 7 days.
- **Other reporting systems use different definitions or methods for counting deaths.**

## Things to know about the data

**Provisional counts are not final and are subject to change.** Counts from previous weeks are continually revised as more records are received and processed.

**Provisional data are not yet complete.** Counts will not include all deaths that occurred during a given time period, especially for more recent periods. However, we can estimate how complete our numbers are by looking at the average number of deaths reported in previous years.

**Death counts should not be compared across states.** Some states report deaths on a daily basis, while other states report deaths weekly or monthly. State vital record reporting may also be affected or delayed by COVID-19 related response activities.

For more detailed technical information, visit the [Provisional Death Counts for Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Technical Notes](#) page.

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