

# COVID-19 Mortality Overview

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

Contents	
<a href="#">COVID-19 Mortality Overview</a>	<a href="#">Health Disparities</a>
<a href="#">Daily Updates of Totals by Week and State</a>	<a href="#">Excess Deaths Associated with COVID-19</a>
<a href="#">Weekly Updates by Select Demographic and Geographic Characteristics</a>	<a href="#">Index of Available Data Files</a>
	<a href="#">Technical Notes</a>

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, NCHS is releasing provisional death data from the National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) on a [daily](#) and [weekly](#) basis. These data come directly from death certificates filed at the state and local level, and feature counts of COVID-19-related deaths by age, gender, race and Hispanic origin, place of death, and include information on other health conditions and comorbidities involved in these deaths. Estimates on excess deaths – the number of deaths exceeding the normal average total of deaths in recent years – are also included. The statistical summary below is updated weekly (usually on Wednesday), and includes links to corresponding data tables on the NCHS COVID-19 data page.

## Weekly Summary on COVID-19 Deaths

NOTE: Due to delayed reporting of death certificates, this count is incomplete and less than counts from other sources besides NCHS. The result is a lag in the count totals of a few weeks, and as more data are received, these totals will likely equal or exceed counts reported by other sources through the same week.

## Deaths Attributed to COVID-19 on Death Certificates

Data as of 9/8/2021

Total

2021

2020

Deaths through week ending 9/4/2021

**643,858**

In at least 90% of these deaths, COVID-19 was listed as the underlying cause of death. For the remaining deaths, COVID-19 was listed as a contributing cause of death.

## Weekly Highs and Lows of COVID-19 Deaths

Data as of 9/8/2021

Most Current (Incomplete) Weekly Total,  
week ending 9/4/2021

**2,032**

Highest Weekly Number of Deaths, week  
ending 1/9/2021

**25,924**

Lowest Weekly Number of Deaths, week  
ending 7/3/2021

**1,486**

Note: Lowest weekly number is selected based on weeks after the initial first wave peak (4/1/2020) and not within the last 5 weeks. Data for the most recent 5 weeks are typically less than 90% complete, with lower levels of completeness in more recent weeks.

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## Place of Death

Data as of 9/8/2021

Total

2021

2020

Hospital or Other Inpatient Health-Care Setting

Nursing Home or Long-Term Care Facilities

**66.1% (425,870 deaths)**

**17.9% (115,358 deaths)**

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## Death by Age Group

Data as of 9/8/2021

Total

2021

2020

65-and-over age group

45-64 age group

Under 45 age group

**78.1% (502,863 deaths)**

**18.7% (120,515 deaths)**

**3.2% (20,480 deaths)**

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## Percentage of COVID-19 Deaths by Race & Hispanic Origin

Data as of 9/8/2021

Total

2021

2020

Non-Hispanic White

Hispanic

Non-Hispanic Black

**61% (393,584 deaths)**

**18% (116,484 deaths)**

**15% (97,323 deaths)**

Non-Hispanic Asian

NH American Indian/Alaskan Native

NH Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders

**4% (23,785 deaths)**

**1% (7,168 deaths)**

**0.2% (1,294 deaths)**

NOTE: This is the distribution of all COVID-19 deaths according to race and Hispanic origin. The non-Hispanic white population accounts for the majority of deaths overall which is reflected in this percentage distribution. When compared to their own race and Hispanic sub-population, COVID-19 deaths disproportionately affect Hispanic, non-Hispanic black, and non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaskan Native populations. Please see the [Health Disparities page](#) for more information.

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## Most Frequently Listed Comorbidities with COVID-19 Deaths

Data as of 9/5/2021

Total

2021

2020

Influenza & Pneumonia

Hypertension

Diabetes

46.8% (299,804 deaths)

19.3% (123,804 deaths)

15.7% (100,939 deaths)

Alzheimer disease and other Dementias

Sepsis

12.6% (81,065 deaths)

9.7% (62,003 deaths)

NOTE: There were co-morbidities or other conditions listed on the death certificate for as many as 95% of all COVID-19 deaths ([Table 3, Weekly](#)). The other 5% of death certificates in which COVID-19 was the only condition listed was likely related to a lack of detail listed about other conditions present at the time of death.

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## Total Excess Deaths

Total Excess Deaths from  
2/1/2020 to 8/28/2021

**723,539**

This number reflects the mid-point between the estimated range of 636,796 to 810,282 excess deaths.

Refer to "[Number of Excess Deaths](#)" dashboard listed under "Options."

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