

COVID-19 Mortality Overview

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

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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 12/15/2021

Deaths through week ending 12/11/2021

797,517

Total

2021

2020

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 12/15/2021

Most Current (Incomplete) Weekly Total,
week ending 12/11/2021

2,044

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

25,984

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

1,533

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 12/15/2021

Total

2021

2020

Hospital or Other Inpatient Health-Care Setting

Nursing Home or Long-Term Care Facilities

68.1% (542,846 deaths)

15.6% (124,285 deaths)

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Death by Age Group

Data as of 12/15/2021

Total

2021

2020

65-and-over age group

45-64 age group

Under 45 age group

74.8% (596,339 deaths)

21.1% (168,311 deaths)

4.1% (32,853 deaths)

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Percentage of COVID-19 Deaths by Race & Hispanic Origin

Data as of 12/15/2021

Total

2021

2020

Non-Hispanic White

Hispanic

Non-Hispanic Black

63% (500,701 deaths)

17% (137,168 deaths)

15% (117,291 deaths)

Non-Hispanic Asian

NH American Indian/Alaskan Native

NH Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders

3% (26,410 deaths)

1% (8,983 deaths)

0.2% (1,766 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 12/12/2021

Total

2021

2020

Influenza & Pneumonia

Hypertension

Diabetes

48.8% (387,085 deaths)

18.7% (148,035 deaths)

15.4% (122,405 deaths)

Alzheimer disease and other Dementias

Sepsis

11.2% (89,075 deaths)

9.9% (78,183 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 12/4/2021

917,403

This number reflects the total estimated number of excess deaths occurring since February 1, 2020.

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

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