

# Deaths involving coronavirus (COVID-19) in Scotland

Week 49 (30 November to 06 December 2020)



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This statistical report includes provisional statistics on the number of deaths associated with coronavirus (COVID-19) and the total number of deaths registered in Scotland, for weeks 1 to 49 of 2020

National Records of Scotland (NRS) has been closely monitoring the weekly number of deaths, and given the increase in recent weeks, we have taken the decision to make additional weekly analysis available through this short publication providing a weekly breakdown of deaths from all causes and deaths involving COVID-19.

This weekly publication includes breakdowns by sex, age, health board, local authority and location of death. It also includes an analysis of excess deaths by location and broad cause of death.

In addition, we publish a comprehensive and detailed analysis of mortality on a monthly basis. This report includes analysis of deaths occurring in the previous month, and looks at age-standardised death rates, breakdown by deprivation, urban/rural, an analysis of leading causes of death and a breakdown by main pre-existing condition of those who died with COVID-19.

NRS mortality data (COVID-19 and excess deaths) will continue to be made available on a weekly basis through the [Scottish Government's COVID-19 dashboard](#)

## Key Findings

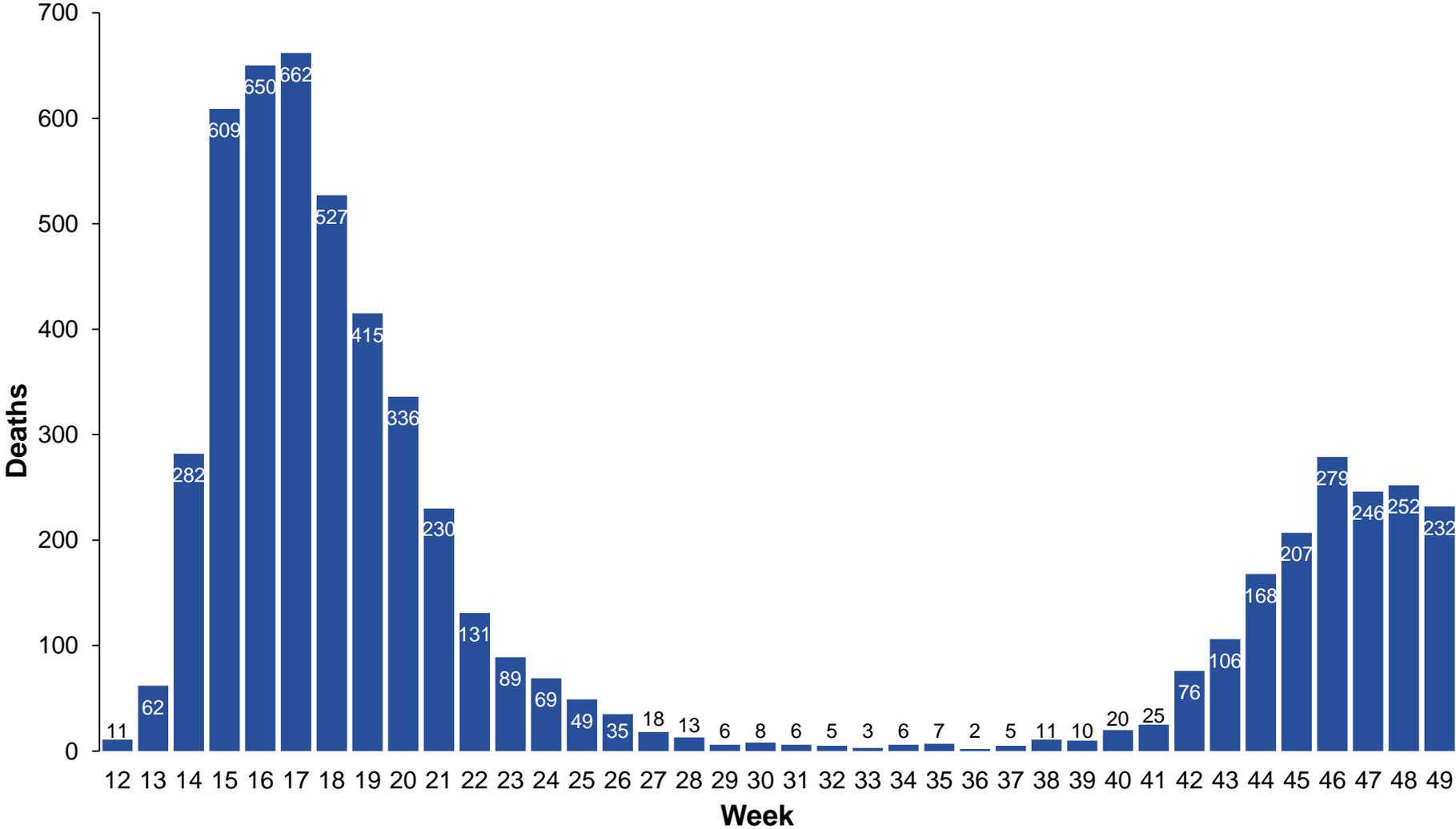
### COVID deaths

- As at the 6<sup>th</sup> of December, there have been a total of 5,868 deaths registered in Scotland where the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was mentioned on the death certificate.
- Of the total number of deaths registered in week 49 (30 November to 6 December), there were 232 where COVID-19 was mentioned on the death certificate, a decrease of 20 from the previous week (23 November to 29 November).
- Of deaths involving COVID-19 in the latest week:
  - 74% (171 deaths) were aged 75+, and 9% (21 deaths) were aged under 65.
  - 55% were male (127 deaths) and 45% female (105 deaths).
  - There were 73 deaths in Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board area, 53 in Lanarkshire and 34 in Ayrshire and Arran.
  - At council level, the highest number of deaths occurred in Glasgow City (38), South Lanarkshire (31), North Lanarkshire (22) and Renfrewshire (22).
  - The majority (63%) occurred in hospitals (145 deaths), with 78 deaths in care homes and 9 at home or in non-institutional settings.

### All-cause deaths and excess deaths

- The provisional total number of deaths registered in Scotland in week 49 of 2020 (30 November to 6 December) was 1,283.
- The average number of deaths registered in the corresponding week over the previous five years was 1,140, so there were 143 (13%) more deaths registered in week 49 of 2020 compared to the average.
- In week 49 there were 29 excess deaths in care homes (11% above average), 97 excess deaths at home or in non-institutional settings (31% above average) and 18 excess deaths in hospitals (3% above average).
- There were 143 excess deaths across all settings in the latest week. The number of deaths where COVID-19 was the underlying cause (203) was actually higher than the total number of excess deaths because deaths from respiratory causes (-58) and dementia/Alzheimer's (-20) were lower than the average for this time of year.

**Figure 1: Weekly deaths involving COVID-19 in Scotland, week 12 to week 49**



### How do NRS compile these statistics?

- Weekly figures are based on the date of registration. In Scotland deaths must be registered within 8 days but in practice, the average time between death and registration is around 3 days.
- Figures are allocated to weeks based on the ISO8601 standard. Weeks begin on a Monday and end on a Sunday. Often weeks at the beginning and end of a year will overlap the preceding and following years (e.g. week 1 of 2020 began on Monday 30 December 2019) so the weekly figures may not sum to any annual totals which are subsequently produced.
- Deaths involving COVID-19 are defined as those where COVID-19 is mentioned on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause of death or as a contributory cause. Cause of death is coded according to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Conditions 10<sup>th</sup> Revision (ICD-10). The relevant codes included in this publication are U07.1 and U07.2.
- Figures include deaths where 'suspected' or 'probable' COVID-19 appears on the death certificate.
- Data are provisional and subject to change in future weekly publications. The data will be finalised in June 2021. Reasons why the data might be revised later include late registration data being received once the week's figure have been produced or more information being provided by a certifying doctor or The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) on the cause of death.
- Certain user enquiries for ad-hoc analysis related to COVID-19 deaths have been published on our [website](#).

## Index of available analysis on registered deaths involving COVID-19

Breakdown	Frequency	When Added	Latest Period Covered	Date Last updated
<a href="#">Age group</a>	Weekly	8 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Week 49	9 <sup>th</sup> December 2020
<a href="#">Sex</a>	Weekly	8 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Week 49	9 <sup>th</sup> December 2020
<a href="#">Location</a>	Weekly	15 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Week 49	9 <sup>th</sup> December 2020
<a href="#">Health Board</a>	Weekly	8 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Week 49	9 <sup>th</sup> December 2020
<a href="#">Local Authority</a>	Weekly	22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2020	Week 49	9 <sup>th</sup> December 2020
<a href="#">Excess deaths by cause</a>	Weekly	22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2020	Week 49	9 <sup>th</sup> December 2020
<a href="#">Excess deaths by cause and location</a>	Weekly	17 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	Week 49	9 <sup>th</sup> December 2020
<a href="#">Age-standardised mortality rates – Scotland</a>	Monthly	13 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	October	11 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
<a href="#">Age-standardised mortality rates – sub-Scotland</a>	Monthly	17 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	March – Oct combined	11 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
<a href="#">Leading causes of death</a>	Monthly	13 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	October	11 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
<a href="#">Pre-existing conditions</a>	Monthly	13 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	October	11 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
<a href="#">Deprivation</a>	Monthly	13 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	March – Oct combined	11 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
<a href="#">Urban Rural</a>	Monthly	13 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	March – Oct combined	11 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
<a href="#">Daily occurrences by location of death</a>	Monthly	13 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	October	11 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
<a href="#">Occupation</a>	Monthly	17 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	March – Oct combined	11 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
<a href="#">Intermediate Zone</a>	Monthly	17 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	March – Oct combined	11 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
<a href="#">Ethnic Group</a>	One-off	8 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	March to mid-June	11 <sup>th</sup> November 2020

## National Records of Scotland

We, the National Records of Scotland, are a non-ministerial department of the devolved Scottish Administration. Our aim is to provide relevant and reliable information, analysis and advice that meets the needs of government, business and the people of Scotland. We do this as follows:

Preserving the past – We look after Scotland’s national archives so that they are available for current and future generations, and we make available important information for family history.

Recording the present – At our network of local offices, we register births, marriages, civil partnerships, deaths, divorces and adoptions in Scotland.

Informing the future – We are responsible for the Census of Population in Scotland which we use, with other sources of information, to produce statistics on the population and households.

You can get other detailed statistics that we have produced from the Statistics section of our website. Scottish Census statistics are available on the Scotland’s Census website.

We also provide information about future publications on our website. If you would like us to tell you about future statistical publications, you can register your interest on the Scottish Government ScotStat website.

You can also follow us on twitter @NatRecordsScot

### Enquiries and suggestions

Please get in touch if you need any further information, or have any suggestions for improvement.

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