

The demography of COVID-19 deaths (<https://dc-covid.site.ined.fr/en/>)
Summary of metadata for Japan
(Last revised 30/05/2022)

Development of data collection systems during the pandemic

Since the beginning of the pandemic, there have been two official reporting sources for Japan: the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research (IPSS) and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW). Both sources provide full coverage of deaths in Japan. The number of deaths reported by the IPSS is the sum of the deaths published by each prefecture or municipality. In contrast, the number of deaths reported by the MHLW is the sum of fatal cases verified and confirmed on a case-by-case basis by each prefecture. Therefore, the totals do not match. The main difference is the inclusion of unknown cases in the age and sex variables. These differences in reported deaths from the two sources were larger at the start of the pandemic in 2020 and have decreased over the course of 2021 and 2022.

Summary description of each source as of 21 April 2022

A.1. Data source 1

National Institute of Population and Social Security Research (IPSS):
<http://www.ipss.go.jp/projects/j/choju/covid19/index-en.asp>

A.2. Coverage

2.1 COVID-19 definition

Confirmed COVID-19 deaths.

2.2 Place of death

All places.

2.3. Geographical coverage

The whole country.

2.4. Time coverage

From 31/03/2020 to 18/04/2022.

A.3. Data collection method

IPSS data are based on aggregate information published by prefectures or municipalities, either through press releases, on their official websites or in the media.

A.4. Collected data

4.1. Age group: 0-9, 10-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80-89, 90+

4.2. Sex: male and female, broken down by age group

4.3. Reference date type: report date

4.4. Place of death: *Not applicable*

A.5. Update frequency and data cut-off time

Weekly update; deaths up to Monday are compiled and uploaded to the website in the same week.

B.1. Data source 2

Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW):
<https://covid19.mhlw.go.jp/en/>

B.2. Coverage

2.1 COVID-19 definition

Confirmed COVID-19 deaths.

2.2 Place of death

All places.

2.3. Geographical coverage

The whole country.

2.4. Time coverage

From 11/05/2020 to 19/04/2022.

B.3. Data collection method

The number of deaths as defined for this source is the sum of fatal cases that the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare was able to confirm in detail with each prefecture. The figures are created on the basis of the confirmed information and based on the cases provided by each jurisdiction each Tuesday.

B.4. Collected data

4.1. Age group: 0-9, 10-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80-89, 90+

4.2. Sex: male and female, broken down by age group

4.3. Reference date type: report date

4.4. Place of death: *Not applicable*

B.5. Update frequency and data cut-off time

Weekly update: deaths up to Tuesday are compiled and uploaded the following Thursday.

ANNEX: Detailed metadata sheet for Japan (Last revised 30/06/2021)

Data Source 1: IPSS

National Institute of Population and Social Security Research (IPSS)
<http://www.ipss.go.jp/projects/j/choju/covid19/index-en.asp>

Coverage

All deaths of people with confirmed COVID-19 infection (positive tests) occurred in hospitals and elsewhere.

Data collection method

Based on the Act on the Prevention of Infectious Diseases and Medical Care for Patients with Infectious Diseases, doctors who diagnosed persons with COVID-19 must file a notification with the prefectural governor via the nearest Public Health Centers. If the patient dies, the prefecture or municipality concerned publishes the death and report to the national level (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare). IPSS data is based on the published aggregated information by prefectural or municipality governments either by press releases, in their official website or media.

Collected Data

Age (10 year age groups)

Sex

Date of occurrence, or if it is not disclosed, date of publication by the jurisdiction.

Prefecture or municipality where the death occurred.

Countdown stop time

Weekly update; deaths occurred up to Monday are compiled and uploaded to the website within the same week.

Data Source 2: MHLW

Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW)

<https://covid19.mhlw.go.jp/en/>

Coverage

All deaths of people with confirmed COVID-19 infection (positive tests), notified to the MHLW by the prefectures, and based on the Act on the Prevention of Infectious Diseases and Medical Care for Patients with Infectious Diseases, by 10-year age groups and sex. It includes deaths in hospitals and elsewhere.

Data collection method

The number of deaths as defined for this source is the sum of fatal cases that the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare was able to confirm in detail with each prefecture. The figures is created based on the confirmed, case-based information provided by each jurisdiction every Tuesday

Collected Data

Age (10 year age groups)

Sex

Date of report to the local Public Health Centers

Prefecture or municipality where the death occurred.

Countdown stop time

Weekly update; deaths occurred up to Tuesday are compiled and uploaded the following Thursday.

Note

The number of deaths updated weekly on the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research (IPSS) website is the aggregated sum of figures published on the website of each jurisdiction. In contrast, the number of deaths as defined for this indicator is the sum of fatal cases that the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare was able to confirm in detail (individual cases revision) with each prefecture. Therefore, the totals do not match.