

The Demography of COVID-19 Deaths (<https://dc-covid.site.ined.fr/en/>)
Metadata Sheet for The Netherlands
(Last revised 10/03/2022)

Data source

Netherlands National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid en Milieu - RIVM)

Webpage: <https://www.rivm.nl/coronavirus-covid-19>

Coverage

Deaths with a positive COVID-19 test result that occurred in hospital or elsewhere.

Data collection method

Through its surveillance system, involving collaboration between doctors, labs and municipal health services, RIVM collects data on positively tested COVID-19 patients. Deaths are reported to the municipal health services. Some underestimation is likely since not all COVID-19 patients are tested and as such only the deaths of people already recorded as positive in the surveillance system are included in the death statistics. Moreover, there may be one or two days' delay between the date of death and the actual reporting (leading to subsequent corrections). This issue is evident in the series of daily totals of cumulative deaths.

From 23 March 2020 to 30 June 2020, data are provided daily. Thereafter, weekly reports are provided. Aggregate data, though provided weekly, present the daily total number of deaths.

The time series coming from this data source and published in the excel sheets "RIVM_Total_DateOccurrence_Data" and "RIVM_Deaths_Age&Sex&Occurrence" include death counts occurred since the beginning of the pandemic and may account for retrospective corrections.

Data collected

Age

Sex

Aggregate data (all ages and sexes combined)

Data cut off time

Daily figures recorded at 10:00

New source file

Since 5 October 2021, we collect the csv file detailing cases, hospital admissions and deaths in the Netherlands by age, sex and date (available here: <https://data.rivm.nl/covid-19/>, file: 'COVID-19_casus_landelijk.csv').

From this file we can detail the number of deaths per age group and sex and per week of occurrence. The need to use this file arises from the fact that the weekly report no longer gives details by sex since 10 August 2021. However, deaths of persons under 50 years of age have been aggregated.

The total number of deaths in the "RIVM_Deaths_Age&Sex&Publication" tab is consistent with the previous tabs ("RIVM_Total_DateOccurrence_Data" and "RIVM_Data").

The total number of deaths in the “RIVM_Deaths_Age&Sex&Occurrence” tab is 1 less than the other tabs. This is because the file contains the information of a death of a male in the 70-79 age group for which the week of death is not filled in.

Update of February 22, 2022

As of 22/02/2022, the RIVM stops publishing the file 'overledenen-per-dag-vanaf-27-februari-2020.csv' which gave every Tuesday the series of deaths per day of death (tab 'RIVM_Total_DateOccurrence_Data').

To compensate for this loss of information, we created 2 new tables, respectively from the files 'COVID-19_aantallen_gemeente_cumulatief.csv' and 'COVID-19_casus_landelijk.csv'.

The first one, 'RIVM_Total_ByReportDate', gives the total number of deaths counted since the beginning of the pandemic every day, by report date.

The second one, 'RIVM_Total_WeekOccurrence_Data', gives the total number of deaths counted since the beginning of the pandemic, by week of occurrence.