

The demography of COVID-19 deaths (<https://dc-covid.site.ined.fr/en/>)
Summary of metadata for Norway
(Last revised 01/07/2022)

Development of data collection systems during the pandemic

In Norway, the Norwegian Institute of Public Health (Folkehelse-instituttet, FHI) centralizes statistics on the COVID-19 pandemic, including mortality figures. The FHI updates its figures daily during the week and publishes a weekly report on Wednesday. Since 20/06/2020, this report has given information on the number of deaths by place of death. From this date onwards, the daily reports were no longer published in pdf format, but directly on their website. Prior to 17/03/2022, the only cases counted were those for which COVID-19 infection was laboratory-confirmed. Since that date, deaths counted have included all those for which COVID-19 is mentioned on the death certificate. However, the FHI no longer publishes death figures by age and sex.

Summary description of each source as of 21 April 2022

A.1. Data source 1

Norwegian Institute of Public Health (Folkehelse-instituttet, FHI):

<https://www.fhi.no/sv/smittsomme-sykdommer/corona/dags--og-ukerapporter/dags--og-ukerapporter-om-koronavirus/>

A.2. Coverage

2.1 COVID-19 definition

Confirmed (until 16/03/2022) and suspected (since 17/03/2022) COVID-19 deaths.

2.2 Place of death

All places.

2.3. Geographical coverage

The whole country.

2.4. Time coverage

From 15/04/2020 to 21/04/2022.

A.3. Data collection method

Deaths where COVID-19 is mentioned on the death certificate.

A.4. Collected data

4.1. Age group: 0-39, 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: Hospital, institutions, home, unknown

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

Daily reports are published Monday to Friday at 13:00 and include the number of deaths reported up to 08:00 on the same day. Weekly reports are published on Wednesday.

ANNEX: Detailed metadata sheet for Norway (Last revised 07/05/2021)

Data Source

Daily and weekly surveillance reports published by the Norwegian Institute of Public Health (Folkehelseinstituttet in Norwegian, FHI):

Folkehelseinstituttet, "COVID-19 Dagsrapport" [COVID-19 Daily report].

Daily reports in PDF format from 12/03/2020 until 19/06/2020. Online updates at FHI's website from 20/06/2020 onwards.

Website: <https://www.fhi.no/sv/smittestomme-sykdommer/corona/dags--og-ukerapporter/dags--og-ukerapporter-om-koronavirus/>

(English version: <https://www.fhi.no/en/id/infectious-diseases/coronavirus/daily-reports/daily-reports-COVID19/>).

From 20/06/2020, the data on the distribution by place of death are updated in the weekly reports:

Folkehelseinstituttet, "COVID-19 Ukkerapport" [Rapport hebdomadaire COVID-19]:

<https://www.fhi.no/en/publ/2020/weekly-reports-for-coronavirus-og-covid-19/>

The daily and weekly PDF reports are available only in Norwegian.

Coverage

All deaths of people with confirmed COVID-19 infection (positive tests), notified to the FHI. Includes deaths in hospitals and other health institutions (including nursing homes and other care institutions like residential and treatment centres), and deaths at home.

Data collection method

FHI's daily reports provide information about the COVID-19 situation in Norway, based on data reported by doctors and laboratories to the Norwegian Surveillance System for Communicable Diseases (MSIS), the Norwegian Intensive Care and Pandemic Register (NIPaR) and the Norwegian Syndromic Surveillance System (NorSySS). COVID-19 deaths must be reported by the local health authorities – e.g., municipal doctors or other health personnel – to the FHI, who is responsible for the MSIS. The system of notification is by phone. The local health authorities must also send a report to the Cause of Death Register. COVID-19 is not necessarily the underlying cause of death (i.e. patients may have died from or with COVID-19).

Every Tuesday, a quality check is performed, whereby the information on COVID-19 related death in MSIS is compared to the information in the Norwegian Cause of Death Register. This verification often results in an adjustment of the number of COVID-19 related deaths in MSIS. Official numbers reported by the FHI are updated the next day (on Wednesday), which explains why there is a "jump" in the reported number of COVID-19 deaths every Wednesday. The day of the week for the quality check procedure in MSIS changed from Wednesday to Tuesday at the end of November 2020.

Collected data

Our data files provide the following information, based on FHI's daily reports and updates:

- The daily cumulative number of COVID-19 deaths, by age-group and sex, from April 15 2020 onwards¹. These data are by date of publication (see **Periodicity and countdown stop time**).
- The daily cumulative number of COVID-19 deaths: total (i.e., all ages and both sexes combined) from March 12 onwards, by date of publication.
- The cumulative number of COVID-19 deaths by place of death, from April 15 2020 onwards. From 15/04/2020 to 19/06/2020, these data are by date of publication, as they were obtained from the daily PDF reports. The last daily report in PDF format was published on 19/06/2020. After that date, the updates on the distribution by place of death are available in the weekly reports, which are published every Wednesday. In those reports, information on the distribution of COVID-19 deaths by place of death include the cumulated deaths which occurred up until the Sunday preceding the publication, based on the data available on the evening before the day of publication (i.e., updated every Tuesday afternoon). For this reason, the total number of deaths until the preceding Sunday in the weekly reports may exceed the daily totals published online on Monday and Tuesday, as the latter are based on the data available in the morning of those days respectively.

Further data on COVID-19 cases by region (county), place of infection, medical consultations, hospitalizations and other variables are available in the documentation files downloadable from our website “The Demographics of COVID-19 Deaths”. This information can also be consulted in FHI’s archives (see **Data Source**)².

Periodicity and countdown stop time

The daily surveillance reports are published around 13:00, including the number of deaths reported until 8:00 of the same day. In a few exceptions, the countdown stop time is some hours later than 8:00 in the morning. From April 25, the details by age, sex and place of death are not updated in the weekends and holidays. From April 25 to May 10, only the total numbers were updated online in the weekends and holidays. After May 10, no updates of any kind are published in the weekends and holidays. From June 20, the daily PDF reports were replaced by online updates on FHI’s website; no daily data on the distribution by place of death are available. However, the data by place of death are updated in the weekly reports, published every Wednesday (<https://www.fhi.no/publ/2020/koronavirus-ukerapporter/>).

¹ FHI’s daily reports start in March 9 2020. However, the distribution of COVID-19 deaths by age-group and sex and by place of death is provided only from April 15 2020 onwards.

² See also FHI’s weekly reports: “COVID-19 Ukerapport”, URL: <https://www.fhi.no/sv/smittsomme-sykdommer/corona/dags--og-ukerapporter/dags--og-ukerapporter-om-koronavirus/>