

# The Demography of COVID-19 Deaths (<https://dc-covid.site.ined.fr/en/>)

## Metadata Sheet for Romania

(Last revised 07/04/2021)

### Source

Information bulletin published daily by the Ministry of Health (MH), <http://www.ms.ro>, <https://stirioficiala.ro>

Up to 22/03/2020 also: Press release published by the Ministry of Health (MH) concerning death records due to COVID-19, <http://www.ms.ro>

### Coverage

The National Centre for the Surveillance and Control of Communicable Diseases (NCSCCD) has been regularly updating case definitions and COVID-19 surveillance methodology that evolved during the epidemic.

According to the definition of “*Death of a patient with a confirmed COVID-19 infection*” used in Romania, the officially published statistics on COVID-19 deaths refer to laboratory confirmed deaths notified by the medical institutions. Deaths among the suspect cases must be laboratory confirmed post-mortem to be included in the official statistics. The adjustment to the definition issued on 29/05/2020 suggest that a certain proportion of COVID-19 deaths refer to the laboratory confirmed cases who had in dynamics two RT-PCR negative tests, but the clinical evolution was highly suggestive for COVID-19 infection [1]. The complete definition is given in “Further information”.

### Data collection method

Data on COVID-19 deaths are managed at the national level by NCSCCD, which is the part of the National Institute of Public Health (NIPH, <https://insp.gov.ro>).

Informational flow concerning COVID-19 infection, including COVID-19 deaths, is organized at four different levels [2]:

1. Peripheral level (hospitals, institutions for institutionalized persons, hospitals / chronic patient care units and closed units (e.g., penitentiaries), etc. in the network of the Ministry of Health or other ministries);
2. Local level represented by the district public health authorities;
3. Regional level represented by regional centres of public health;
4. National level represented by the NCSCCD.

Deaths among suspect / confirmed COVID-19 cases at hospitals and other medical institutions (peripheral level) are immediately reported by telephone to district public health authorities (local level). In case of death of a suspect COVID-19 case, necropsy lung samples are collected and sent for virological diagnosis (positive results are reported immediately by laboratory to the district public health authorities). In turn, the district public health authorities immediately report by telephone to the NCSCCD about deaths registered among suspect /

confirmed COVID-19 cases and fill in the data related to these cases in the Corona Forms application [2].

### **Collected data**

The first case of death was published by MH on 22/03/2020. MH published individual death records as press release until 11/06/2020 several times per day (see an example in Annex 1). Most of the published death records include the following information: age in complete years; sex; county of residence of the deceased; date of admission / transfer to the hospital and its name; date of sample validation; date of occurrence of the death; pre-existing medical conditions. It was also mentioned if a patient died at home or at other place (e.g., in ambulance), if the deceased was a beneficiary of the centre for the elderly, and if the sample collection was performed post-mortem.

MH issued press releases to rectify certain death records (deaths records 137, 260, 341, 495, 553,892, 899, 900-904, 1052, 1136).

Since 11/06/2020, MH stopped publishing individual death records. Since then, the data aggregated by 10-year age groups and sex on laboratory confirmed COVID-19 deaths are included in "Information bulletin" published daily on the web site of MH (until 31/01/2021) and <https://stiriofficiale.ro>. Since 31/01/2021, information bulletin has been publishing daily only on the latter website.

The collected data on deaths due to laboratory confirmed COVID-19 infection are available by 10-year age groups, sex (total number of deaths by sex since 11/06/2020) and by date of publication of death record / information bulletin. Data collected between 22/03/2020 and 10/06/2020 are also available by date of occurrence of the death and date of publication.

### **Periodicity and countdown stop time**

Until 11/06/2020, MH published individual death records with the indication of the date of death as press release several times per day (2-7 times). Since 11/06/2020, information bulletin is issued daily at 13.00 and includes the information about deaths due to laboratory confirmed COVID-19 infection notified by medical institutions during the last 24 hours before 10.00 a.m. of the day of publication. For example, deaths counts published on 17/03/2021 cover deaths notified by medical institutions between 16.03.2021 (10:00 a.m.) – 17.03.2021 (10:00 a.m.).

### **Further information**

We have saved press releases, including those for death rectifications, and information bulletins published on the web-site of MH and <https://stiriofficiale.ro> as pdf file for each day when COVID-19 deaths were registered starting from 22/03/2020. In the excel data file, we provide links to the webpages where the press releases and information bulletins were published.

The example of the press release issued on 31/03/2020 is shown in Annex 1, and the extract from information bulletin issued on 17/03/2021 is shown in Annex 2.

The definition of “*Death of a patient with a confirmed COVID-19 infection*” presented by the NCSCCD is as follows:

“Death of a patient due to confirmed COVID-19 is defined as a death of a patient with a confirmed COVID-19, unless there is another clear cause of death that cannot be related to COVID-19 (e.g., trauma, bleeding acute major, etc.), and there was no period of complete recovery between illness and death.

Death of a patient due to confirmed COVID-19 cannot be attributed to a pre-existing disease (e.g., cancer, haematological conditions, etc.), and COVID-19 must be reported as the cause of death **regardless the pre-existing medical conditions** that are suspected to have favoured the severe evolution of COVID-19.

COVID-19 should be recorded on the death certificate as cause of death for all decedents where COVID-19 caused, or is assumed to have caused, or contributed to death” [2].

On 29/05/2020, the Ministry of Health issued the Order no. 961 according to which “confirmed COVID-19 cases resulted in death in which RT-PCR tests taken in dynamics from sputum / bronchial aspirate are negative (2 tests) can be considered as death due to SARS-CoV-2 infection, if the clinician detects highly suggestive signs and symptoms, and the death is correlated with the clinical evolution determined by COVID-19. If it is necessary to clarify the cause of death, RT-PCR examinations of lung tissue collected by the pathological anatomy / forensic specialist are indicated without the need for necropsy” [1].

## References

1. The National Centre for the Surveillance and Control of Communicable Diseases. Methodology for surveillance of Acute Respiratory Syndrome with New Coronavirus (COVID-19). Updated 04/06/2020

<http://www.cnscbt.ro/index.php/info-medical/1781-metodologia-de-supraveghere-a-covid-19-actualizare-04-06-2020/file>

2. The National Centre for the Surveillance and Control of Communicable Diseases. Methodology for surveillance of Acute Respiratory Syndrome with New Coronavirus (COVID-19). Updated 28/02/2021

<http://www.cnscbt.ro/index.php/info-medical/2297-metodologia-de-supraveghere-a-covid-19-actualizare-24-02-2021/file>



# MINISTERUL SĂNĂTĂȚII



[Acasa](#) / [stiri](#) / [Decese 70-72](#)

## Comunicate de presa

### Decese 70-72

31 martie 2020

#### Deces 70

Femeie, 60 ani, jud Ialomița. Persoană cu Insuficiență renală cronică, dializată, cu HTA și hepatită cronică cu virus B, debut în 23.03.2020 (febră, frison, cefalee), internată în 25.03.2020 în Secția Nefrologie ATI Spital Municipal Slobozia.

S-au recoltat probe pentru COVID 19 în data de 26.03.2020, rezultat pozitiv în data de 28.03.2020. Decedat în 31.03.2020.

Nu a avut istoric de călătorie și nici contact recunoscut cu caz confirmat.

#### Deces 71

Femeie, 53 ani, jud. Hunedoara. Pacienta internată în data de 17.03.2020 pe Secția de Oncologie cu diagnosticul de Neoplasm ovarian stadiu terminal, Pleurezie metastatică, carcinomatoză peritoneală. Contact cu cazuri confirmate cu COVID-19, motiv pentru care s-au recoltat probe, a fost confirmată în 30.03.2020. Decedată în 29.03.2020.

## Annex 2: Extract from Information Bulletin published on 17/03/2021

### Ultimele informații oficiale

17 MARTIE 2021 13:20

Grupul de Comunicare Strategică

#### **BULETIN DE PRESĂ 17 martie 2021, ora 13.00**

Până astăzi, 17 martie, pe teritoriul României, au fost confirmate 874.985 de cazuri de persoane infectate cu noul coronavirus (COVID – 19).

790.813 pacienți au fost declarați vindecați.

Distribuie pe



Până astăzi, 21.787 de persoane diagnosticate cu infecție cu SARS – CoV – 2 au decedat.

În intervalul 16.03.2021 (10:00) – 17.03.2021 (10:00) au fost raportate 89 de decese (45 bărbați și 44 femei), ale unor pacienți infectați cu noul coronavirus, internați în spitalele din Alba, Argeș, Arad, Bacău, Bistrița-Năsăud, Bihor, Botoșani, Brașov, Buzău, Caraș-Severin, Cluj, Constanța, Dolj, Galați, Gorj, Harghita, Hunedoara, Iași, Maramureș, Mehedinți, Mureș, Neamț, Olt, Satu Mare, Sibiu, Suceava, Timiș, Vaslui, Vâlcea, Ilfov și București.

Dintre acestea, 5 decese au fost înregistrate la categoria de vârstă 40-49 ani, 8 decese la categoria de vârstă 50-59 ani, 26 decese la categoria de vârstă 60-69 ani, 37 decese la categoria de vârstă 70-79 ani și 13 decese la categoria de peste 80 de ani.

85 dintre decesele înregistrate sunt ale unor pacienți care au prezentat comorbidități, iar pentru 4 pacienți decedați nu au fost raportate comorbidități până în prezent.

Source: <https://stirioficiale.ro/informatii/buletin-de-presa-17-martie-2021-ora-13-00>