

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

## Metadata Sheet for Scotland

(Last revised 20/08/2020)

### Data Source 1

National Records of Scotland (NRS). "Deaths involving coronavirus (COVID-19) in Scotland", weekly reports and data available at: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/covid19stats>

### Coverage

All deaths where COVID-19 was mentioned on the death certificate, i.e. includes laboratory-confirmed, probable and suspected cases.

### Data collection method

When a death occurs, a family member or a representative of the deceased must report the death by appointment with a registrar. This must be done within 8 days from the date of death. On average, there is a 3-day gap between the occurrence of a death and its registration.

The numbers reported include the deaths where COVID-19 was mentioned on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause of death or as a contributory cause. The cause of death is coded according to the 10th revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10); the numbers reported by the NRS regarding COVID-19 correspond to the codes U07.1 and U07.2.

Deaths are allocated to areas based on the usual residence of the deceased. If the deceased was not a Scottish resident, the death is allocated to the area where the death occurred.

### Collected Data

Our data files provide the following information from the weekly updates published by the NRS:

- The weekly cumulative number of COVID-19 deaths, by age and sex, from the week of March 16-22 onwards. These data are by week of registration (see **Periodicity and countdown stop time**).
- The weekly cumulative number of COVID-19 deaths by place of death (care homes, hospitals, other institutions or at home/non institutions), total (all ages and both sexes combined) by week of registration, from the week of March 16-22 onwards.
- The daily cumulative number of COVID-19 deaths by place of death (care homes, hospitals, other institutions or at home/non institutions), total (all ages and both sexes combined) by date of occurrence, from March 12 onwards.
- The daily cumulative number of COVID-19 deaths by date of registration, total (all ages and both sexes combined) from March 12 onwards.
- The daily cumulative number of COVID-19 deaths by date of occurrence, total (all ages and both sexes combined) from March 12 onwards.

Further data by region, underlying causes of death, health board of residence and other variables are available in the documentation files downloadable from our website "The Demographics of COVID-19 Deaths". In addition to COVID-19 data, those files also provide data on deaths from all causes combined. This information can also be consulted in the archives of the NRS (see **Data Source 1**), including the section "Related statistics"<sup>1</sup>, where further details on the age and sex distribution of deaths (COVID-19 or all deaths) by location are available.

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<sup>1</sup> National Records of Scotland. "Related Statistics: Statistics relevant to COVID-19", downloadable data files available at: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/vital-events/general-publications/weekly-and-monthly-data-on-births-and-deaths/deaths-involving-coronavirus-covid-19-in-scotland/related-statistics>

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

The weekly reports on COVID-19 with downloadable data files are published every Wednesday on the website of the NRS (see **Data Source 1**). The registration weeks covered by NRS's reports run from Monday to Sunday. For example, the first report, published on April 8 2020, covers all deaths registered from Monday to Sunday of the previous week (March 30 to April 5). On every update, the deaths registered on the preceding week are included in the NRS's reports and data files.

Due to the very low number of new COVID-19 deaths during the month of August 2020, the weekly reports published by the NRS will be replaced by detailed monthly reports. The last weekly report was published on August 12 2020, and the next report will be released on September 16 2020. Nevertheless, the weekly reports may be re-introduced if changes on the spread or impact of COVID-19 in Scotland are observed.

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### **Data Source 2**

Scottish Government. "Coronavirus (COVID-19): trends in daily data". Daily updates available at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-trends-in-daily-data/>

### **Coverage**

All people with a positive test for COVID-19 who died within 28 days following the detection of the infection. Includes deaths in hospitals, care homes and the community.

### **Data collection method**

The Scottish Government receives the information from the National Records of Scotland (NRS). The daily data are for the confirmed cases only (i.e. those individuals who had a positive COVID-19 test), who died within 28 days following the detection of the infection. See **Data collection method** for **Data Source 1**.

From April 2 2020, a new reporting procedure was put in place, which reduces the delay in the reporting of COVID-19 deaths. See details here: <https://www.gov.scot/news/new-process-for-reporting-covid-19-deaths/>

### **Collected Data**

Our data files provide the following information from the weekly updates published by the Scottish Government:

- The daily cumulative number of COVID-19 deaths by date of registration, total (all ages and both sexes combined) from March 14 onwards.

Further data on COVID-19 cases concerning medical consultations, testing, hospitalisations, cases in care-homes and other variables are available in the documentation files downloadable from our website "The Demographics of COVID-19 Deaths" as well as in the website of the Scottish Government (see **Data Source 2**).

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

Figures are updated daily at 2pm, based on the latest information received from the NRS (see **Data collection method**).