

The demography of COVID-19 deaths (<https://dc-covid.site.ined.fr/en/>)
Summary of metadata for Sweden
(Last revised 03/06/2022)

Development of data collection systems during the pandemic

In Sweden the counting of deaths from COVID-19 has remained relatively consistent during the pandemic. There are two sources of data: the Public Health Agency of Sweden (PHAS), and the National Board of Health and Welfare (NBHW). The two sources differ in the definition of COVID-19: PHAS counts deaths where COVID-19 infection has been laboratory confirmed; NBHW includes deaths where COVID-19 is identified as the cause of death on the death certificate. The use of the latter source is therefore recommended as more accurate, unless comparisons are to be made with countries where death certificate data are not available. The only thing that changed during the pandemic was the frequency of the data release: PHAS released data daily until September 2020, then daily from Tuesday to Friday, moving to weekly from March 2022. NBHW usually releases its report on a Wednesday (including data received up to the previous Monday).

Summary description of each source as of 21 April 2022

A.1. Data source 1

Public Health Agency of Sweden (PHAS):

<https://www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se/smittskydd-beredskap/utbrott/aktuella-utbrott/covid-19/bekraftade-fall-i-sverige/>

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 01/04/2020 to 21/04/2022.

A.3. Data collection method

Data are collected via the surveillance system called SmiNet.

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, without age details

4.3. Reference date type: report date for age and sex data in the Excel tab "PHAS_Data"; date of death for daily totals in the Excel tab "PHAS_DailyTotal".

4.4. Place of death: *Not applicable*

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

Publication every Thursday at 14:00 of data received up to and including the previous day.

B.1. Data source 2

National Board of Health and Welfare (NBHW):

<https://www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistik-och-data/statistik/statistik-om-covid-19/statistik-over-antal-avlidna-i-covid-19/>

B.2. Coverage

2.1 COVID-19 definition

COVID-19 identified as the underlying cause of death on the death certificate.

2.2 Place of death

All places.

2.3. Geographical coverage

The whole country.

2.4. Time coverage

From 12/05/2020 to 11/04/2022.

B.3. Data collection method

Vital statistics system (reporting of death certificates).

B.4. Collected data

4.1. Age group: 0-9, 10-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84, 85-89, 90+

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

4.3. Reference date type: report date for data by age and sex in the Excel tab "NBHW_Data" and by place of death in the tab "NBHW_PlaceDeath_Data"; date of death for daily totals in the Excel tab "NBHW_DailyTotal".

4.4. Place of death: *Not applicable*

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

The report is published on Wednesdays and includes data received up to the previous Monday.

ANNEX: Detailed metadata sheet for Sweden (Last revised 28/12/2021)

Source 1

Public Health Agency of Sweden (PHAS): <https://www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se/smittskydd-beredskap/utbrott/aktuella-utbrott/covid-19/bekraftade-fall-i-sverige/>

Coverage

The statistics published by the PHAS show the number of people with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who have died, regardless of the cause of death. Data are provided by 10-year age group and by sex. The daily total since 11 March 2020 is also available by date of death. The numbers of deaths for the most recent days may be subject to revision in subsequent updates and should be interpreted with caution (especially during public holidays).

Data collection method

The data is collected through the SmiNet system.

The time series coming from this data source and published in the excel sheet "PHAS_DailyTotal" includes death counts occurred since the beginning of the pandemic and may account for retrospective corrections.

Data collected

Date of death, age, and sex

Data cut off time

Until 11 September 2020, the data were updated on weekdays at 14:00. The death counts stopped at 00:00 on the same day. Cases reported over weekends are reported in the SmiNet system with some delay. As a result, the data is incomplete until Tuesday. Since Monday 14 September, statistics on COVID-19 deaths have been released at 14:00 from Tuesday to Friday. Deaths are distributed according to date of registration, so the published statistics also relate retroactively to deaths registered on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays.

Source 2

National Board of Health and Welfare (NBHW): <https://www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistik-och-data/statistik/statistik-om-covid-19/statistik-over-antal-avlidna-i-covid-19/>

Coverage

The statistics include deaths whose the underlying cause of death was COVID-19, according to the cause of death certificates submitted to the NBHW. The data are broken down by age, sex, comorbidity and county. The numbers are updated as new death certificates come in. Doctors send the certificates within three weeks of death and the final number changes as new death certificates are received.

The majority of deceased people had laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 according to the Public Health Authority's register of infected people. As an example, the total death count as of

14 May 2020 was 3,395 deaths, of which 87 % (2,950 people out of 3,395) had laboratory-confirmed COVID-19.

Note: The NBHW information on deceased persons differs slightly from the information presented by the PHAS on a daily basis. The PHAS reports only those deceased who had laboratory-verified COVID-19 and died within 30 days. The NBHW reports all cases where the underlying cause of death was COVID-19, regardless of whether the diagnosis was laboratory confirmed or not. More information on causes of death can be found in the fact sheet “Beskrivning av datakällor för avlidna i covid-19” (Description of data sources for COVID-19 deaths, available in the documentation and downloadable here:) <https://www.socialstyrelsen.se/globalassets/1-globalt/covid-19-statistik/statistik-over-antal-avlidna-i-covid-19/datakallor-avlidna-covid19.pdf>)

Data collected

Age, sex, comorbidity, county, type of housing, receipt of home care, and place of death. The time series coming from this data source and published in the excel sheet “NBHW_DailyTotal” includes death counts occurred since the beginning of the pandemic and may account for retrospective corrections.

Publication frequency and data cut off time

Occasional report based on the death certificates received up to the publication day of the report.