

Deaths involving coronavirus (COVID-19) in Scotland

Week 43
(19 to 25 October 2020)



Published on 28 October 2020

This statistical report includes provisional statistics on the number of deaths associated with coronavirus (COVID-19) and the total number of deaths registered in Scotland, for weeks 1 to 43 of 2020

National Records of Scotland (NRS) has been closely monitoring the weekly number of deaths, and given the increase in recent weeks, we have taken the decision to make additional weekly analysis available through this short publication providing a weekly breakdown of deaths from all causes and deaths involving COVID-19.

This weekly publication includes breakdowns by sex, age, health board, local authority and location of death. It also includes an analysis of excess deaths by location and broad cause of death.

In addition, we publish a comprehensive and detailed analysis of mortality on a monthly basis. This report includes analysis of deaths occurring in the previous month, and looks at age-standardised death rates, breakdown by deprivation, urban/rural, an analysis of leading causes of death and a breakdown by main pre-existing condition of those who died with COVID-19.

NRS mortality data (COVID-19 and excess deaths) will continue to be made available on a weekly basis through the [Scottish Government's COVID-19 dashboard](#)

Key Findings

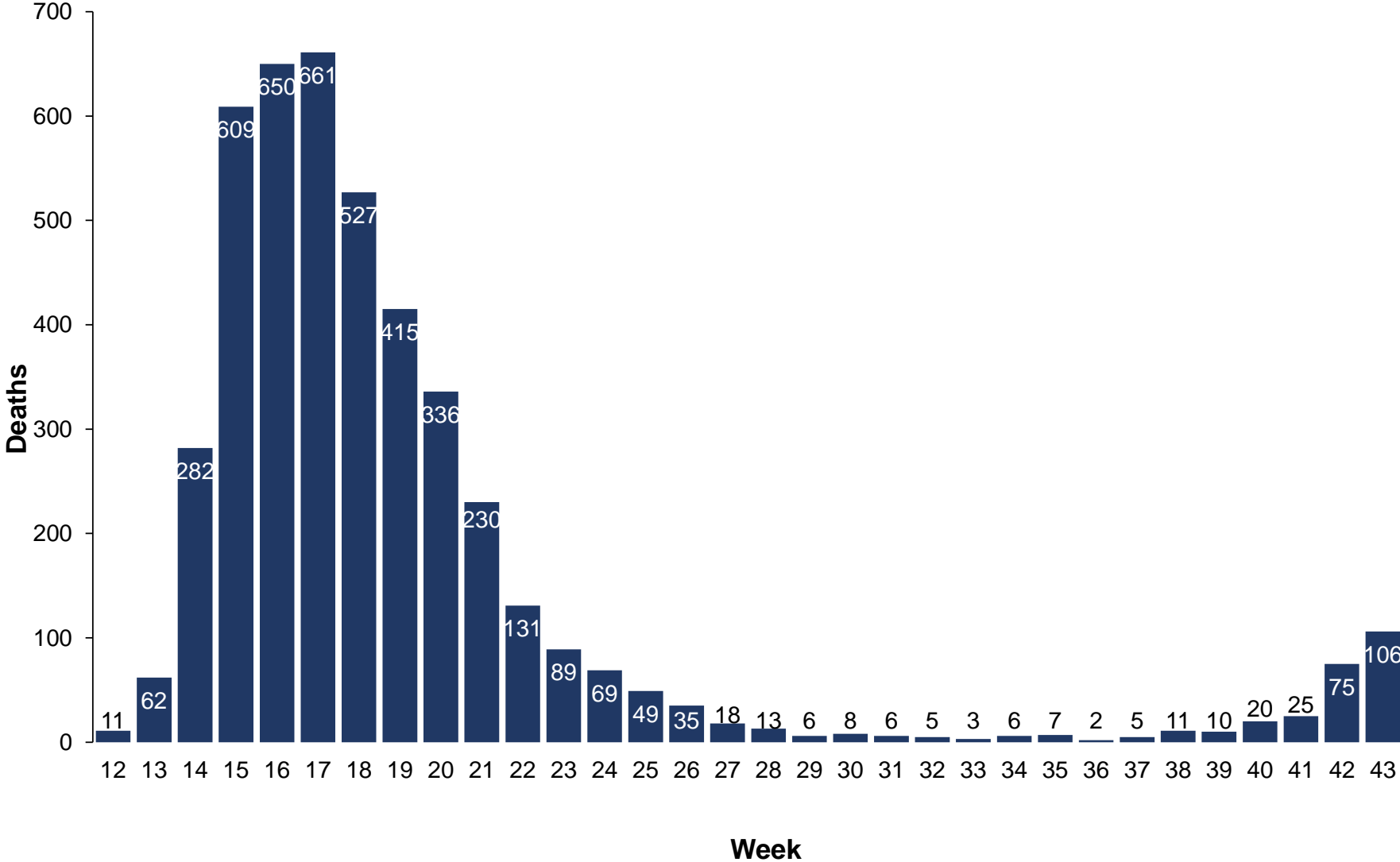
COVID-19 deaths

- As at 25th October, there have been a total of 4,482 deaths registered in Scotland where the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was mentioned on the death certificate.
- Of the total number of deaths registered in week 43 (19th to 25th October), there were 106 where COVID-19 was mentioned on the death certificate, an increase of 31 from the previous week (12th to 18th October). This is the highest weekly figure since late May.
- Of deaths involving COVID-19 in the latest week:
 - Two-thirds (66%) were aged 75+, and 15% were aged under 65.
 - 58% were male (61 deaths) and 42% female (45 deaths).
 - There were 44 deaths in Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board area, 20 in Lanarkshire and 14 in Lothian.
 - The majority (77%) occurred in hospitals (82 deaths), with 18 deaths in care homes and 6 at home or in non-institutional settings.

All-cause deaths and excess deaths

- The provisional total number of deaths registered in Scotland in week 43 of 2020 (19th to 25th October) was 1,170.
- The average number of deaths registered in the corresponding week over the previous five years was 1,052, hence there were 118 (11%) more deaths registered in week 43 of 2020 compared to the average.
- In week 43 there were 7 excess deaths in care homes (3% above average), 98 excess deaths at home or in non-institutional settings (35% above average) and 16 excess deaths in hospitals (3% above average).
- Across all settings, 78% of excess deaths in week 43 had an underlying cause of COVID-19, 19% were due to other causes and 12% due to circulatory causes. Deaths from respiratory causes were below average for this time of year.

Figure 1: Weekly deaths involving COVID-19 in Scotland, week 12 to week 43



How do NRS compile these statistics?

- Weekly figures are based on the date of registration. In Scotland deaths must be registered within 8 days but in practice, the average time between death and registration is around 3 days.
- Figures are allocated to weeks based on the ISO8601 standard. Weeks begin on a Monday and end on a Sunday. Often weeks at the beginning and end of a year will overlap the preceding and following years (e.g. week 1 of 2020 began on Monday 30 December 2019) so the weekly figures may not sum to any annual totals which are subsequently produced.
- Deaths involving COVID-19 are defined as those where COVID-19 is mentioned on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause of death or as a contributory cause. Cause of death is coded according to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Conditions 10th Revision (ICD-10). The relevant codes included in this publication are U07.1 and U07.2.
- Figures include deaths where 'suspected' or 'probable' COVID-19 appears on the death certificate.
- Data are provisional and subject to change in future weekly publications. The data will be finalised in June 2021. Reasons why the data might be revised later include late registration data being received once the week's figure have been produced or more information being provided by a certifying doctor or The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) on the cause of death.
- Certain user enquiries for ad-hoc analysis related to COVID-19 deaths have been published on our [website](#).

Index of available analysis on registered deaths involving COVID-19

Breakdown	Frequency	When Added	Latest Period Covered	Date Last Published
Age group	Weekly	8 th April 2020	Week 43	28 th October 2020
Sex	Weekly	8 th April 2020	Week 43	28 th October 2020
Location	Weekly	15 th April 2020	Week 43	28 th October 2020
Health Board	Weekly	8 th April 2020	Week 43	28 th October 2020
Local Authority	Weekly	22 nd April 2020	Week 43	28 th October 2020
Excess deaths by cause	Weekly	22 nd April 2020	Week 43	28 th October 2020
Excess deaths by cause and location	Weekly	17 th June 2020	Week 43	28 th October 2020
Age-standardised mortality rates – Scotland	Monthly	13 th May 2020	September	14 th October 2020
Age-standardised mortality rates – sub-Scotland	Monthly	17 th June 2020	March – Sept combined	14 th October 2020
Leading causes of death	Monthly	13 th May 2020	September	14 th October 2020
Pre-existing conditions	Monthly	13 th May 2020	September	14 th October 2020
Deprivation	Monthly	13 th May 2020	March – Sept combined	14 th October 2020
Urban Rural	Monthly	13 th May 2020	March – Sept combined	14 th October 2020
Daily occurrences by location of death	Monthly	13 th May 2020	September	14 th October 2020
Occupation	Monthly	17 th June 2020	March – Sept combined	14 th October 2020
Intermediate Zone	Monthly	17 th June 2020	March – Sept combined	14 th October 2020
Ethnic Group	One-off	8 th July 2020	March to mid-June	8 th July 2020

National Records of Scotland

We, the National Records of Scotland, are a non-ministerial department of the devolved Scottish Administration. Our aim is to provide relevant and reliable information, analysis and advice that meets the needs of government, business and the people of Scotland. We do this as follows:

Preserving the past – We look after Scotland’s national archives so that they are available for current and future generations, and we make available important information for family history.

Recording the present – At our network of local offices, we register births, marriages, civil partnerships, deaths, divorces and adoptions in Scotland.

Informing the future – We are responsible for the Census of Population in Scotland which we use, with other sources of information, to produce statistics on the population and households.

You can get other detailed statistics that we have produced from the Statistics section of our website. Scottish Census statistics are available on the Scotland’s Census website.

We also provide information about future publications on our website. If you would like us to tell you about future statistical publications, you can register your interest on the Scottish Government ScotStat website.

You can also follow us on twitter @NatRecordsScot

Enquiries and suggestions

Please get in touch if you need any further information, or have any suggestions for improvement.

For media enquiries, please contact communications@nrscotland.gov.uk

For all other enquiries, please contact statisticscustomerservices@nrscotland.gov.uk