



Experimental Statistics - Estimate of Weekly Deaths (EoWD) during the COVID-19 outbreak

Main results

- The estimated number of deaths in Spain during the first 21 weeks of 2020 (through May 24) came to 225,930 people. This was an increase of 24.1% (43,945 more deaths) than the same period the previous year.
- By communities, the greatest increases in the period were in the Comunidad de Madrid (72.7%), Castilla-La Mancha (58.0%) and Cataluña (41.0%). On the other hand, the smallest increases were seen in Islas Baleares (0.5%) and Región de Murcia (1.1%).
- The week of 2020 with the highest number of deaths was week 14, which runs from March 30 to April 5. The number of dead came to 20,575 people, or 154.6% more than in the same week of 2019.
- The number of deaths in week 21 (spanning May 18-24) is estimated at 7,470 people, similar to the figure of 7,429 for the same week in 2019.
- By age, the greatest increases in deaths since the beginning of the year occurred among those over 90 years of age, with a total of 60,032 deaths. This was 27.2% more than in the same period in 2019.

As part of its social commitment to offer information that may prove useful to citizens in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Statistics Institute (INE) is today launching an experimental operation that will provide a weekly estimation of the number of deaths by province and island.

The INE will undertake this project using updated data received from the Civil Registries combined with historical information from the Death Statistics, in order to estimate the deaths resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak.

The objective is to carry out a weekly study of deaths occurring during 2020, and to compare this with the historical data from the year 2000. This will allow us to interpret the data using a necessary historical perspective, given the variability in deaths over time.

Three types of data will thus coexist in the project:

- Definitive data (deaths from 2000 to 2018)
- Provisional data (initially, all data from 2019)
- Estimated data (from 2020)

Estimated deaths in the first 21 weeks of 2020

Given that this data reflects mortality without distinguishing its cause, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic cannot be accurately measured. However, a considerable increase can be observed in the number of deaths in Spain.

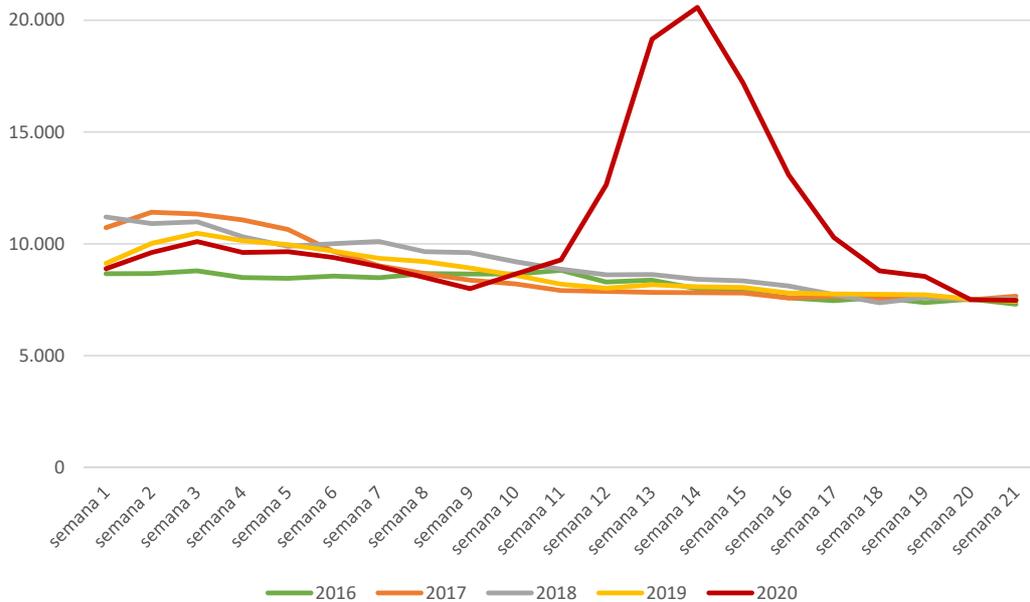
During the first 21 weeks of 2020 (until May 24), 225,930 deaths have been observed, with an increase of 24.1% (or 43,945) compared to the same period in 2019.

The week with the highest number of deaths was 14 (from March 30 to April 5) with 20,575 deaths, 154.6% more than in the same week of 2019.

During weeks 12 to 16 (from March 16 to April 19) the increase in deaths was always above 50%.

In week 21, the last week studied, the number of deaths is estimated at 7,470 people, a figure similar to that for same week in 2019, when 7,429 deaths were recorded.

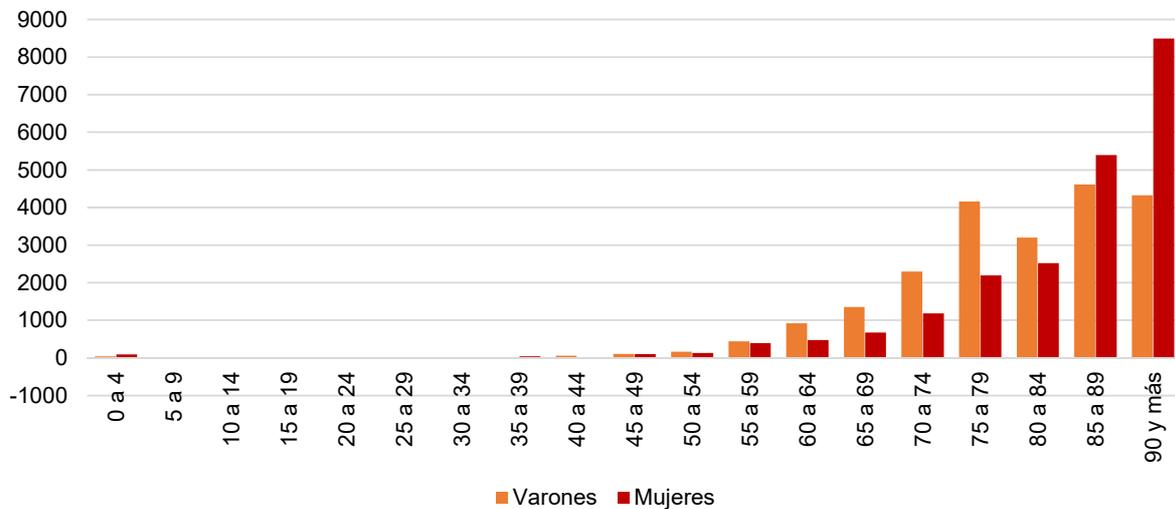
Number of weekly deaths in weeks 1 to 21 (2016-2020). National total



By age, the highest cumulative increases in deaths in the first 21 weeks are among those over 90 years of age (with 12,824 more deaths, 27.2% more than in the same period of 2019) and those in the 85 to 89 age group (with an increase of 10,006 deaths, or 25.0%).

On the other hand, among those under 54, little difference is registered in comparison with the deaths for the same weeks of the year in 2019.

Variation between 2019 and 2020 in the number of deaths until week 21 by age and sex



By Autonomous Community, the greatest increases in deaths in the first 21 weeks of the year occurred in the Comunidad de Madrid (72.7%), Castilla-La Mancha (58.0%) and Cataluña (41.0%).

In turn, the greatest increases were registered in Illes Balears (-6.08%) and Región de Murcia (1.1%).

How is the information prepared?

Several years ago, the Ministry of Justice launched the Inforeg application to record various registry entries, including deaths. This application has been established in the majority of Civil Registries and has achieved a high degree of implantation and stability throughout the national territory (in 2019, only 6.4% of deaths were not recorded with Inforeg).

Inforeg offers the great advantage of being always up-to-date: on any given day, you can see the deaths recorded the day before. While delays may at times occur, they rarely exceed a week, meaning that with the data recorded today, the number of deaths taking place a week ago can be determined with great precision.

An expansion coefficient is applied to the deaths recorded in Inforeg to correct the lack of data in 6.4% of records. This coefficient is calculated using a historical comparison between the data from Inforeg and what that the INE ultimately counts as deaths, which is always higher. In some provinces, the data collected by Inforeg reaches 99% of deaths, while poorest cases it reaches 60%.

Level of detail by province

The data is estimated at the province and island levels, following the NUTS-3 European territorial classification, and are aggregated by Autonomous Community and national level. Information is provided by sex and five-year age groups.

It should be highlighted that the data estimated for 2020 is classified by where the death occurred and, as such, where the registration was made. It is not according to the deceased person's place of residence. As such, there may be cases of residents in one province who

die in another. This is because the place of registration is inherent to the Inforeg system, but the place of residence is not always given properly.

EoWD publication schedule

The EoWD experimental statistic will be published every two weeks, always on Wednesdays (except holidays). Data presented will be 10 days old. That is, on Wednesday of week “w”, data for week “w-2” will be published.

This first publication offers data through week 21 of 2020, which ended on Sunday, May 24 (inclusive).

As provisional data from the Medical Death Certificate / Statistical Death Bulletin becomes available, the estimates will be replaced by this provisional data.

For further information see **INEbase**: www.ine.es/en/ Twitter: [@es_ine](https://twitter.com/es_ine)

All press releases at: www.ine.es/en/prensa/prensa_en.htm

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