

Mortality in 2020.

Deaths by cause – provisional data.

28.06.2021

↑ 68 thousand

Number of deaths risen in 2020 compared to 2019.

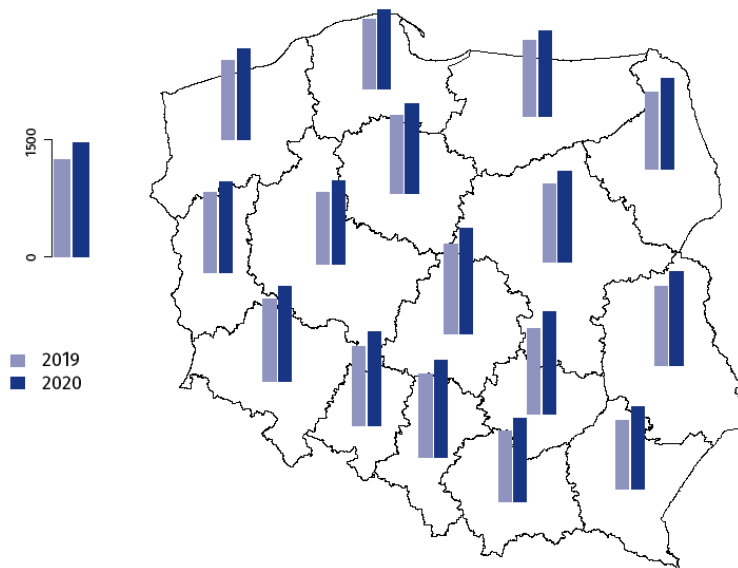
Demographic situation in Poland in 2020 was shaped by COVID-19 pandemic. It was mainly affected by the number of deaths, which was the highest in several years.

Mortality in 2020

Number of deaths in 2020 exceeded by more than 100 thousand the annual average from last 50 years (477 thousand deaths compared to 364 thousand). Moreover mortality rate per 100 thousand population reached the highest value from 1951.

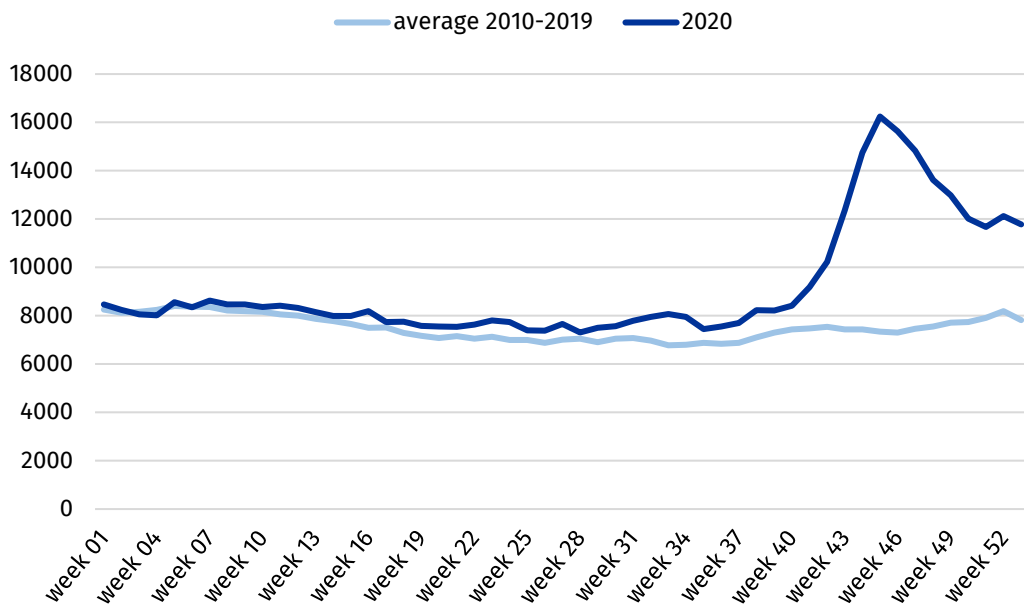
Mortality rate in 2020 reached the highest value from 70 years. It exceeded 1240 deaths per 100 thousand population.

Map 1. Mortality rate per 100 thousand population by voivodship



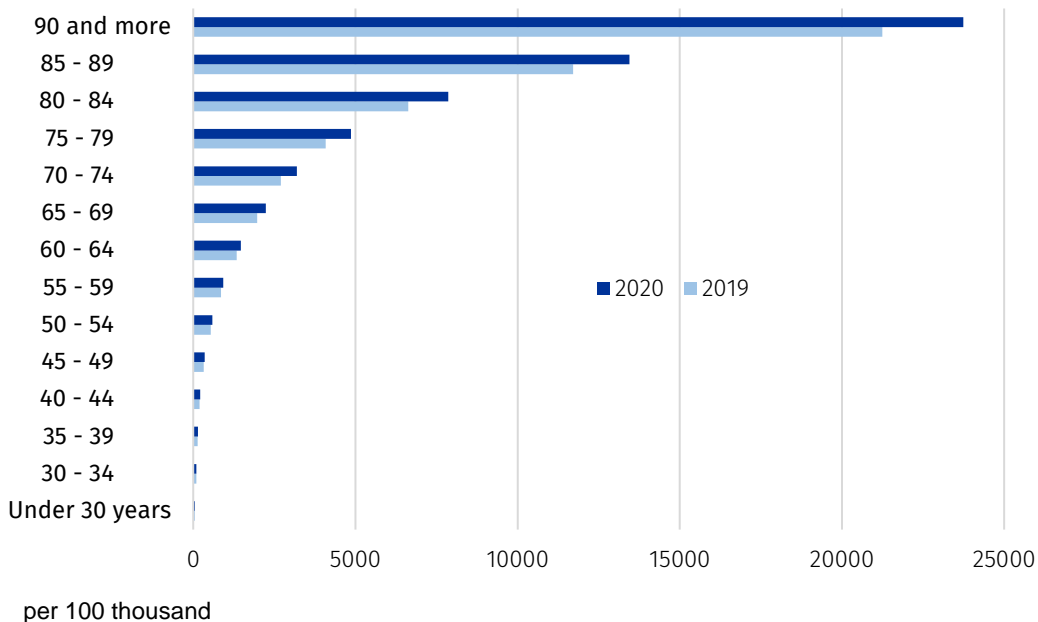
In 2020, 477 335 people died– this number was higher compared to 2019 by nearly 68 thousand. The highest death rate in 2020 was noted in 4th quarter – there was over 60 percent more deaths than in analogical period of previous year. The most notable was 45th week (from 2nd to 8th November) when more than 16 thousand people died. Weekly average in 2020 exceeded 9 thousand deaths, while in 2019 it was less than 8 thousand deaths.

Chart 1. Deaths by week in 2020 and average 2010-2019



Data analyses of deaths in 2019 and 2020 by age structure shows rises in almost all age groups. The biggest increase was noted in 70-84 age old group. The number of deaths in that group rose by nearly 20%. In the remaining age groups rises were noted from about 1% (15-19 age old) to nearly 15% (85-89 years). The only age groups with less deaths than in the year before were the youngest ones (0-14 years) where the number of deaths fell by about 10%.

Chart 2. Deaths by age in 2019-2020



Death rate varies depending on age and sex. Males note excess mortality in all age groups – they die more often than females. Differences in the younger age groups are not significant: in group 0-4 years female death rate is 69 per 100 thousand, for males it is 86 per 100 thousand but in age group 20-44 years it rises to triple more deaths of males and within it age group 25-29 the difference in death rate is even quadrupled (114 deaths of males compared to 29 deaths females per 100 thousand of each sex).

Death rate is raising with age. In the oldest age groups the rise is sharp. Mortality rate for each sex tends to equalize with age – for each 100 thousand males aged 90 and more in 2020 more than 26.5 thousand died, for females – nearly 23 thousand.

Table 1. Deaths by age in 2019 and 2020

Age of deceased	Total		Males		Females		Urban areas		Rural areas	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020

In absolute figures

Total	409 709	477 355	211 423	249 744	198 286	227 611	253 198	295 371	156 511	181 984
0 - 4 years	1 644	1 477	883	840	761	637	949	854	695	623
5 - 9	184	153	96	90	88	63	89	81	95	72
10 - 14	213	206	121	102	92	104	124	109	89	97
15 - 19	640	641	452	459	188	182	321	327	319	314
20 - 24	1 148	1 202	908	933	240	269	602	641	546	561
25 - 29	1 765	1 776	1 430	1 427	335	349	973	997	792	779
30 - 34	2 862	2 868	2 302	2 263	560	605	1 676	1 708	1 186	1 160
35 - 39	4 278	4 739	3 305	3 629	973	1 110	2 533	2 904	1 745	1 835
40 - 44	5 986	6 696	4 482	5 026	1 504	1 670	3 632	4 036	2 354	2 660
45 - 49	8 330	9 331	6 062	6 912	2 268	2 419	4 846	5 504	3 484	3 827
50 - 54	12 194	13 485	8 818	9 764	3 376	3 721	6 912	7 696	5 282	5 789
55 - 59	21 084	21 964	14 881	15 585	6 203	6 379	12 228	12 791	8 856	9 173
60 - 64	36 959	39 965	24 943	27 267	12 016	12 698	23 005	24 512	13 954	15 453
65 - 69	47 934	55 643	31 074	36 569	16 860	19 074	30 764	35 600	17 170	20 043
70 - 74	45 339	58 754	26 891	35 155	18 448	23 599	29 786	38 416	15 553	20 338
75 - 79	42 797	50 037	22 332	26 637	20 465	23 400	27 554	32 170	15 243	17 867
80 - 84	58 105	68 976	25 710	31 544	32 395	37 432	35 905	42 565	22 200	26 411
85 - 89	63 309	73 487	22 369	27 290	40 940	46 197	38 188	44 649	25 121	28 838
90 and more	54 938	65 955	14 364	18 252	40 574	47 703	33 111	39 811	21 827	26 144

per 100 thousand population

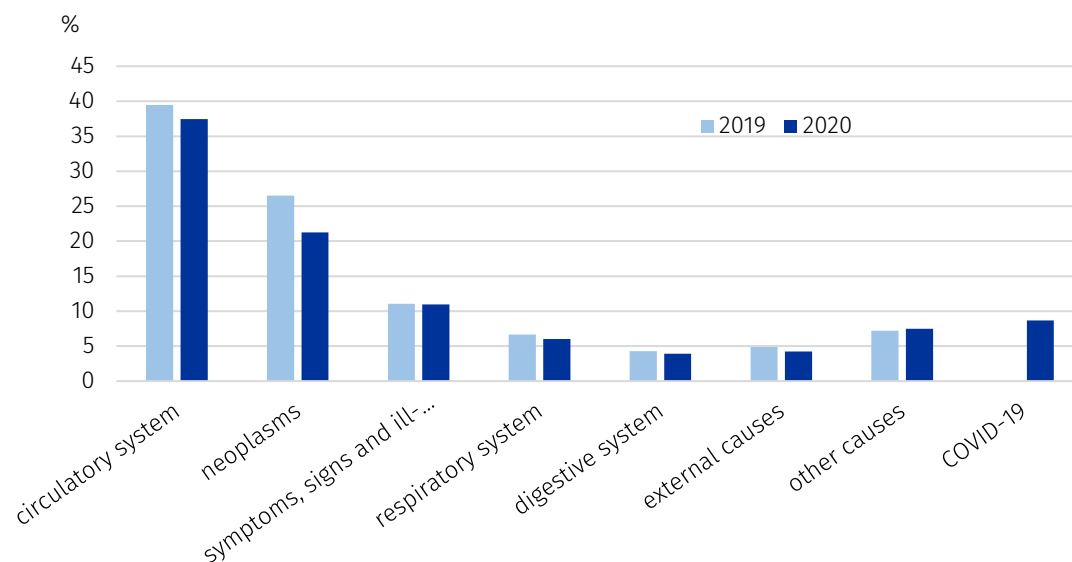
TOTAL	1067.3	1244.6	1138.5	1346.2	1000.6	1149.4	1098.3	1284.2	1020,8	1185.3
0 - 4 years	85.9	77.3	89.8	85.5	81.8	68.5	84.3	76.0	88.2	79.0
5 - 9	9.3	7.9	9.4	9.1	9.2	6.7	7.9	7.3	11.2	8.7
10 - 14	10.8	10.1	11.9	9.7	9.5	10.4	11.3	9.6	10.1	10.7
15 - 19	35.3	35.6	48.6	49.8	21.3	20.8	32.4	33.0	38.7	38.9
20 - 24	55.4	60.1	85.8	91.3	23.7	27.5	55.1	60.6	55.8	59.6
25 - 29	69.1	72.3	109.9	114.1	26.7	28.9	68.7	74.4	69.5	69.7
30 - 34	96.4	100.0	152.8	155.5	38.3	42.8	92.5	98.9	102.4	101.8
35 - 39	132.8	146.8	202.9	222.3	61.1	69.6	126.4	144.9	143.5	149.8
40 - 44	199.3	219.2	295.7	326.1	101.1	110.4	197.7	215.4	201.8	225.3
45 - 49	326.2	352.5	473.2	520.4	178.2	183.5	322.3	351.5	331.8	354.1
50 - 54	536.4	592.7	781.7	864.6	294.8	324.7	524.7	584.7	552.5	603.7
55 - 59	859.7	929.3	1249.7	1354.9	491.6	525.8	834.9	915.8	896.3	948.8
60 - 64	1336.4	1469.4	1920.7	2131.7	819.2	881.3	1303.6	1431.7	1394.2	1533.5
65 - 69	1966.9	2237.3	2850.7	3280.6	1251.6	1389.9	1903.8	2168.0	2090.9	2371.9
70 - 74	2705.6	3191.7	3803.4	4514.0	1904.4	2222.0	2648.7	3106.6	2821.9	3365.8
75 - 79	4088.2	4861.9	5587.4	6724.2	3162.3	3696.5	4007.8	4730.9	4242.1	5117.1
80 - 84	6626.9	7862.0	8665.3	10581.4	5584.4	6462.4	6356.8	7493.6	7116.0	8538.5
85 - 89	11714.1	13453.1	13876.0	16661.3	10795.2	12079.2	11170.0	12796.7	12651.0	14613.8
90 and more	21240.5	23742.9	22861.7	26562.7	20720.4	22816.2	20257.4	22527.3	22928.5	25868.5

Deaths by cause – provisional data

Main reason of number of deaths rise in Poland in 2020 was SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. It reached peak of new cases in last months of 2020. World Health Organization (WHO) noted appearance of new disease in International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems – Revision 10 (ICD-10). WHO added new (emergency) codes in March and April 2020 that allowed to code deaths caused by COVID-19 – under U07 code. Statistics Poland immediately broadened the range of used codes making it possible to monitor all pandemic-related deaths. In 2020 deaths statistics introduced new cause of deaths – code from chapter XXII, Special purpose codes – COVID-19.

In 2020 WHO due to pandemic introduced new code to qualify deaths caused by COVID-19. In Poland it caused more than 41 thousand deaths in 2020.

Chart 3. Deaths by causes



Changes in mortality rate are closely related to the changes in structure of basic death causes. According to provisional data for 2020 the most common reason of deaths – as in previous years – were diseases of the circulatory system and neoplasms. Together they were reason of nearly 60% of deaths in Poland. Compared to 2019 their share fell by more than 7%. Similar drops were observed for nearly all other causes of death. Changes were caused by pandemic whose death toll reached nearly 41.5 thousand. COVID-19 related deaths constituted nearly 9% of all deaths in Poland and took its share from all other death causes.

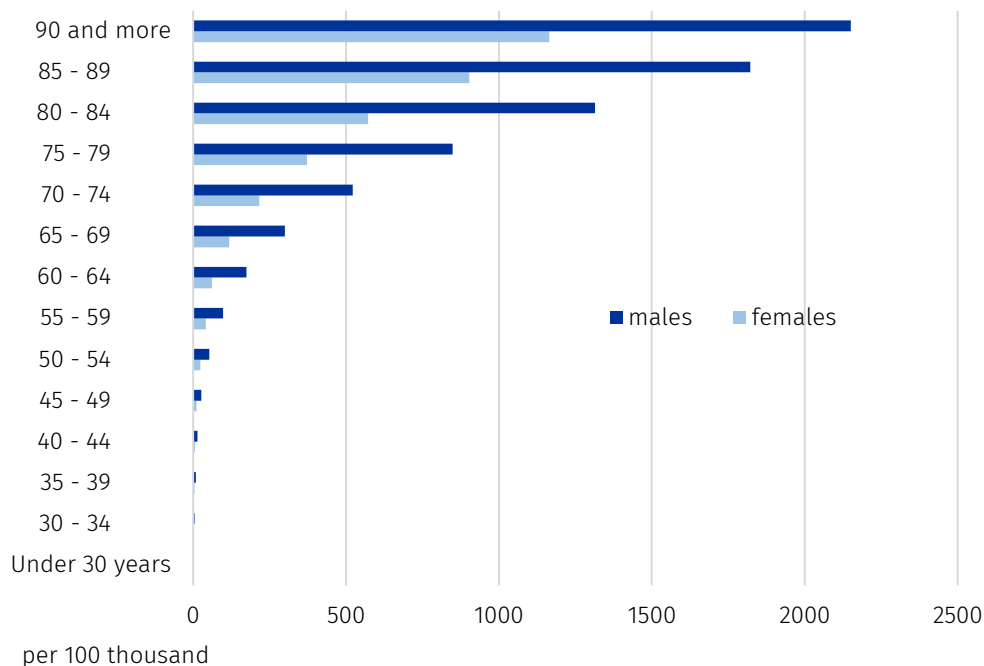
Table 2. Deaths caused by COVID-19 by sex and division by urban and rural areas (provisional data)

Description	In absolute figures	In % to total	Per 100 thousand population
Total	41 442	8.7	108.1
Males	23958	9.6	129.1
Females	17484	7.7	88.3
Urban areas	26565	9.0	115.5
Rural areas	14877	8.2	96.9

Pandemic affected in a greater extent males and urban areas dwellers. Provisional data shows that death rate per 100 thousand population related to COVID-19 was bigger for males than females by 41. Also rate for urban areas was higher by nearly 19 than the one for rural areas.

Analysis of COVID-19 deaths by age structure shows significant disparity in mortality by sex of a deceased. In almost all age groups male death rate is twice as big as female. In age group 60-64 and 65-69 it is even tripled. The possible reason of that situation may be worse health condition of males who often neglect preventive examinations and are burdened with numerous, untreated diseases.

Chart 4. Death rate by COVID-19 per 100 thousand population



There are no doubts that higher death rate in 2020 compared to previous years mostly comes from COVID-19 pandemic. Deaths caused directly by coronavirus constitute about 60% of noted mortality increase.

Final data on deaths by causes in 2020 will be available in 3rd quarter of 2021.

In the case of quoting data from the Statistics Poland, please provide information: "Statistics Poland data source", and in the case of publishing calculations made on data published by the Statistics Poland, please provide information: "Own study based on Statistics Poland data".

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