

Mortality in the first half of 2021.

Deaths by cause – provisional data.

31.01.2022 r.

↑ 62 thousand

Number of deaths rose in the first half of 2021 compared to the first half of 2020.

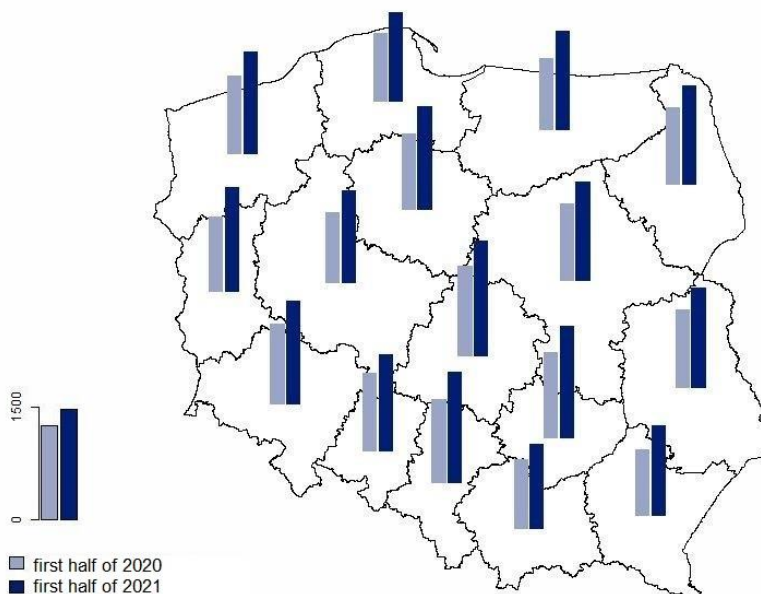
Demographic situation in Poland in the first half of 2021 was shaped by third wave of COVID-19 pandemic. It was mainly affected by the number of deaths, which was the highest in several years.

Mortality in the first half of 2021

Number of deaths in the first half of 2021 exceeded by more than 70 thousand the annual average from last 15 years (271 thousand deaths compared to 199 thousand). Moreover mortality rate per 100 thousand population in the first half of 2021 was higher by more than 30 than in the first half of 2020.

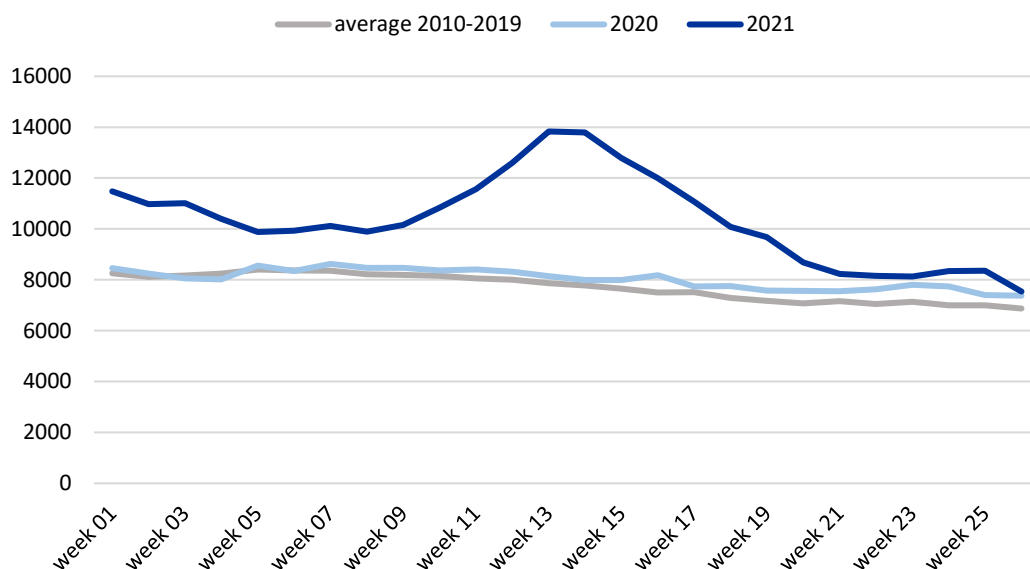
Mortality rate in first half of 2021 was higher by 30 compared to the first half of 2020 r. It exceeded 1417 deaths per 100 thousand population.

Map 1. Mortality rate per 100 thousand population by voivodship



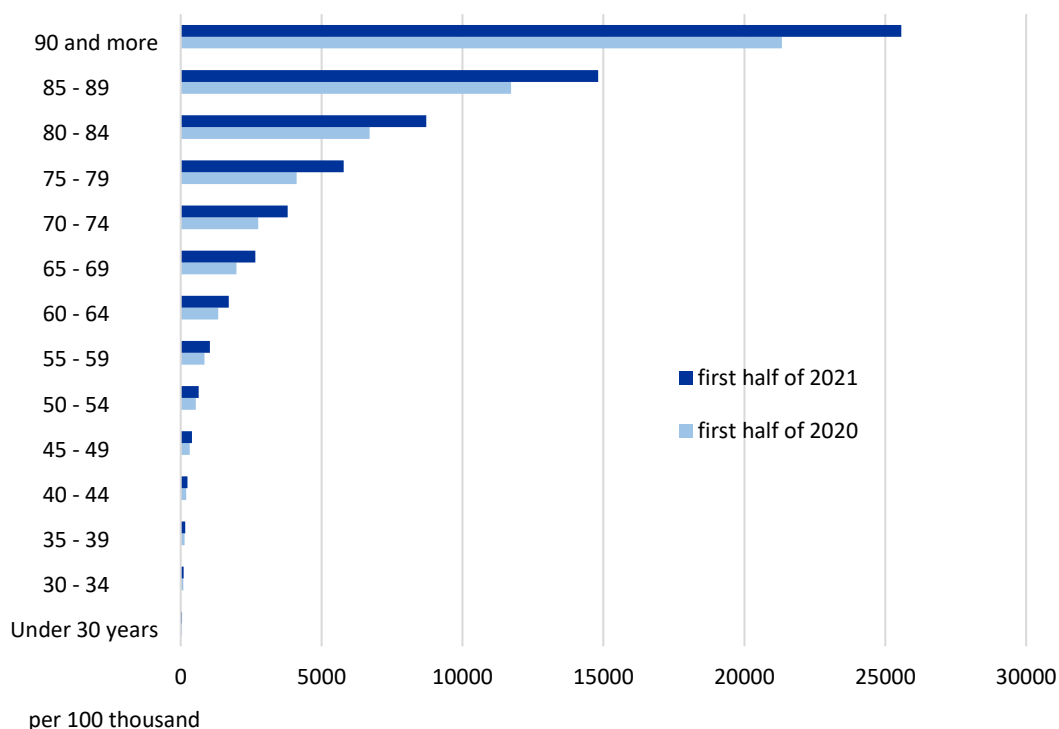
In the first half of 2021, 270 662 people died – this number was higher compared to the first half of 2020 by nearly 62 thousand. The highest death rate in the first half of 2021 was noted in the turn of March and April – there was over 70 percent more deaths than in analogical period of previous year. The most notable were 13th and 14th week (from 29th March to 11th April) when nearly 14 thousand people died. Weekly average in the first half of 2021 exceeded 10 thousand deaths, while in the first half of 2020 it was slightly more than 8 thousand deaths.

Chart 1. Deaths by week in the first half of 2021 and average 2010-2019



Data analysis of deaths in the first half of 2020 and 2021 by age structure shows increase in almost all age groups. The only age group with less deaths than in the period before was 5-9 age group where the ratio of deaths was 7.4 per 100 thousand population while in the first half of 2020 it was equal to 8. The biggest increase of ratio of deaths was noted in 70-79 age group – increase was about by 40 per cent. In the remaining age groups increase was noted from about 4% (0-4 and 20-24 age group) to nearly 30% (80-84 age group).

Chart 2. Deaths by age in the first half of 2020 and 2021



Death rate varies depending on age and sex. Males note excess mortality in all age groups – the death rate for men are higher than for females. Differences in the youngest age groups are not significant. In group 0-4 years males death rate is 89 per 100 thousand, for females it is 63 per 100 thousand. In age group 20-44 years it is three times higher for males and within it age group 25-29 the difference in death rate is rising up to to 3.5 times higher (116 deaths of males compared to 34 deaths females per 100 thousand of each sex).

Death rate is raising with age. It grows rapidly in the oldest age groups. Mortality rate for each sex tends to equalize with age – for each 100 thousand males aged 90 and more in the first half of 2021 more than 28.5 thousand died, for females – more than 24.5 thousand.

Table 1. Deaths by age in the first half of 2020 and 2021

Age of deceased	Total		Males		Females		Urban areas		Rural areas	
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021

In absolute figures

TOTAL	208 598	270 662	108 088	141 589	100 510	129 073	129 290	169 833	79 308	100 829
0 - 4 years	748	769	434	432	314	337	424	469	324	300
5 - 9	78	71	48	37	30	34	40	34	38	37
10 - 14	98	106	42	62	56	44	57	68	41	38
15 - 19	310	350	229	227	81	123	157	196	153	154
20 - 24	572	579	457	446	115	133	303	323	269	256
25 - 29	818	897	673	701	145	196	466	467	352	430
30 - 34	1 312	1 466	1 029	1 113	283	353	776	858	536	608
35 - 39	2 178	2 578	1 674	1 975	504	603	1 348	1 598	830	980
40 - 44	2 968	3 748	2 230	2 771	738	977	1 832	2 337	1 136	1 411
45 - 49	4 147	5 417	3 062	3 908	1 085	1 509	2 463	3 252	1 684	2 165
50 - 54	6 053	7 341	4 382	5 319	1 671	2 022	3 423	4 360	2 630	2 981
55 - 59	10 073	11 939	7 151	8 457	2 922	3 482	5 854	6 989	4 219	4 950
60 - 64	18 249	22 617	12 380	15 147	5 869	7 470	11 205	13 979	7 044	8 638
65 - 69	24 518	33 269	16 168	21 591	8 350	11 678	15 658	21 550	8 860	11 719
70 - 74	24 688	36 804	14 645	21 967	10 043	14 837	16 249	24 360	8 439	12 444
75 - 79	21 263	29 782	11 221	15 942	10 042	13 840	13 807	19 392	7 456	10 390
80 - 84	29 457	37 337	13 098	16 839	16 359	20 498	18 320	23 353	11 137	13 984
85 - 89	31 964	39 685	11 420	14 743	20 544	24 942	19 350	24 394	12 614	15 291
90 and more	29 104	35 907	7 745	9 912	21 359	25 995	17 558	21 854	11 546	14 053

per 100 thousand population*

TOTAL	1087.5	1416.8	1164.8	1532.8	1014.8	1307.8	1123.3	1484.8	1033.8	1315.3
0 - 4 years	78.1	81.4	88.2	89.0	67.4	73.3	75.3	84.7	82.2	76.7
5 - 9	8.0	7.4	9.6	7.5	6.4	7.3	7.2	6.2	9.1	9.0
10 - 14	9.7	10.2	8.1	11.7	11.3	8.7	10.1	11.8	9.1	8.3
15 - 19	34.4	38.9	49.6	49.2	18.5	28.1	31.7	39.5	37.8	38.2
20 - 24	56.8	59.2	88.8	89.2	23.3	27.8	57.0	62.5	56.5	55.5
25 - 29	65.8	75.5	106.4	116.0	23.8	33.6	68.5	72.9	62.6	78.5
30 - 34	90.8	104.6	140.3	156.5	39.7	51.2	88.8	102.8	93.7	107.3
35 - 39	134.9	160.2	205.0	242.7	63.1	75.8	134.4	160.6	135.7	159.6
40 - 44	195.0	243.6	290.3	357.0	97.9	128.1	196.3	247.5	192.9	237.4
45 - 49	316.2	398.6	465.2	573.2	166.1	222.8	317.9	402.9	313.8	392.4
50 - 54	533.0	641.0	777.5	935.8	292.1	350.5	521.1	657.9	549.4	617.8
55 - 59	845.4	1034.2	1233.9	1503.8	477.5	588.1	829.4	1031.3	868.6	1038.3
60 - 64	1332.9	1704.2	1923.2	2427.3	809.0	1062.4	1295.6	1690.7	1396.7	1726.5
65 - 69	1981.4	2653.7	2916.6	3842.2	1222.5	1688.2	1914.3	2614.2	2112.4	2729.5
70 - 74	2746.5	3800.6	3853.7	5373.3	1935.6	2651.6	2691.0	3744.8	2860.2	3914.6
75 - 79	4114.1	5787.2	5651.4	8036.6	3155.0	4376.3	4049.6	5666.4	4239.0	6027.0
80 - 84	6706.4	8708.9	8787.7	11609.9	5637.4	7225.7	6449.2	8375.2	7177.2	9329.7
85 - 89	11725.4	14809.1	13992.9	18552.9	10756.4	13231.0	11142.5	14125.7	12748.2	16047.8
90 and more	21332.1	25572.1	23011.2	28561.1	20782.2	24590.8	20307.2	24264.3	23105.4	27911.6

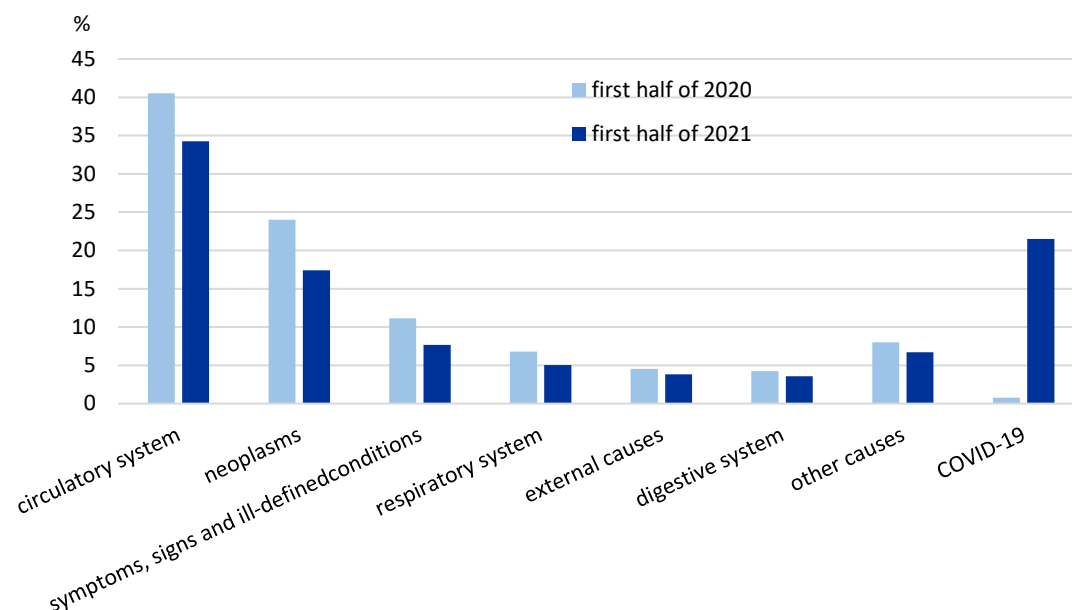
*Estimated data

Deaths by cause – provisional data

The main reason of increase in number of deaths in Poland in the first half of 2021 was SARS-CoV-2 pandemic that started in a previous year. The third wave reached its peak in the turn of March and April. During the first half of 2020 COVID-19 caused 1.5 thousand deaths, which is less than 1% of all deaths. In the first half of the 2021 number of deaths caused by COVID-19 rose by nearly 37 times, reaching 58 thousands of deaths.

In Poland COVID-19 caused more than 58 thousand deaths in the first half of 2021. It was more than one in five of all deaths during this period.

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 the first half of 2021 the most common reason of deaths – as in previous years – were diseases of the circulatory system and neoplasms, but together these groups were reason of slightly more than half of the deaths. Compared to the first half of 2020 their share fell by nearly 13%. Similar drops were observed for nearly all other causes of death. Changes were caused by pandemic whose death toll reached more than 58 thousand. COVID-19 related deaths are nearly 22% of all deaths in Poland.

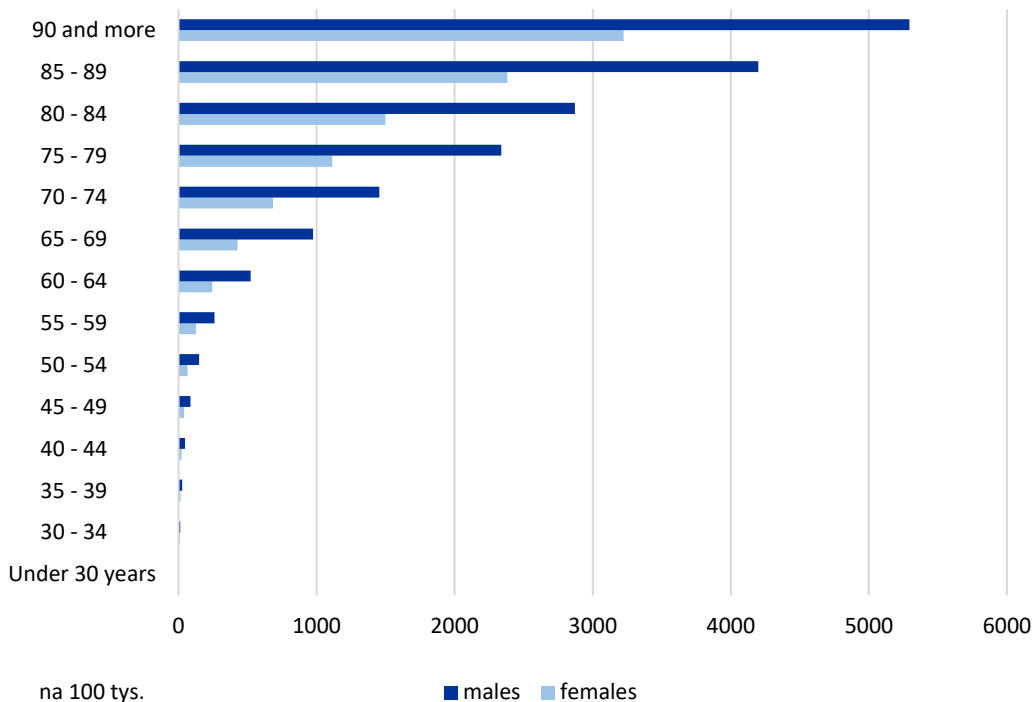
Table 2. Deaths caused by COVID-19 by sex and division by urban and rural areas (provisional data for the first half of the 2021)

Specification	In absolute figures	In % to total	Per 100 thousand population
Total	58 266	21.5	303.7
Males	32325	22.8	348.3
Females	25941	20.1	261.9
Urban areas	39045	23.0	339.3
Rural areas	19221	19.1	250.4

Pandemic affected in a greater extent males and urban areas dwellers. Provisional data for the first half of the 2021 shows that death rate per 100 thousand population related to COVID-19 was bigger for males than females by more than 86. Also rate for urban areas was higher by nearly 89 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. 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 (provisional data for the first half of the 2021)



There are no doubts that higher death rate in the first half of 2021 compared to previous years mostly comes from the third wave of COVID-19 pandemic. Deaths caused directly by coronavirus constitute about 90% of noted mortality increase.

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