

COVID-19 is a contagious respiratory disease caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) pathogen first identified in 2019. COVID-19 causes a range of disease severity from asymptomatic or mild to severe disease requiring hospitalization and even resulting in death. This fact sheet provides COVID-19 data for deaths that occurred between 2020 and 2021 for Sacramento County residents.

Summary

There were over 182,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases among Sacramento County residents between 2020 and 2021. Of these, 2,604 died from the disease.

Demographics

Age

Most deaths occurred among those aged 60 and older (2,064; 79.3%). As the percent of cases in the 0-29 and 30-59 age groups increased between 2020 and 2021, the percent of deaths also increased among these age groups [Figure 1].

Sex

The death rate was higher among males than females [Figure 2], with a higher number and rate of deaths among males in all age groups [data not shown].

Race/Ethnicity

The highest death rate was among Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders (NHPI) (452.8 per 100,000), over two times higher than among Blacks with the next highest rate (197.5 per 100,000) and three times higher than among Hispanics with the lowest rate (143 per 100,000) [Figure 3].

Hospitalizations

Of the 1,929 (74.0%) deaths with information on hospitalization, 1,683 (87.2%) were hospitalized [Figure 4]. Of these, 774 (73.7%) were admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU).

Figure 1. Percent of COVID-19 Deaths by Age Group, 2020 vs 2021

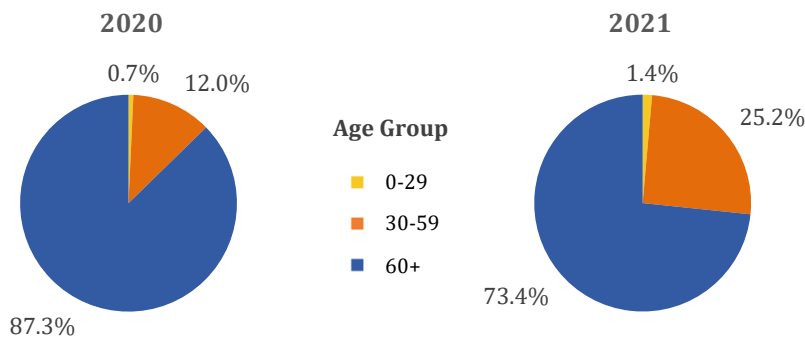


Figure 2. COVID-19 Death Rates by Sex, 2020-2021

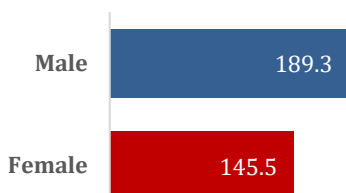


Figure 3. COVID-19 Death Rates by Race/Ethnicity, 2020-2021

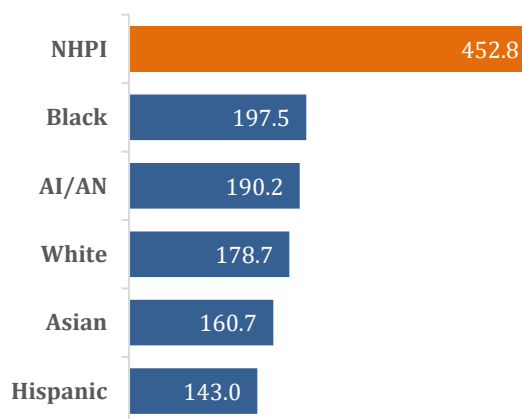
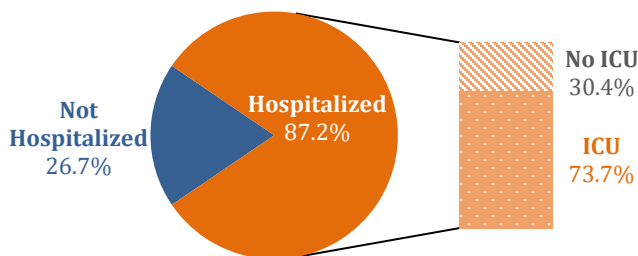


Figure 2 and 3. Rates per 100,000 population
Figure 3.
NHPI = Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
AI/AN = American Indian/Alaskan

Figure 4. Percent of COVID-19 Deaths by Hospitalization and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Admission, 2020-2021



Comorbidities

Of the 1,710 (65.7%) deaths with information on comorbidities, 1,662 (97.2%) had at least one comorbidity and 54.3% had three or more comorbidities [Figure 5]. Over 70% had hypertension, 48.5% had diabetes, and 39.1% had some form of cardiac disease [Figure 6]. Males accounted for a higher percent among these top three comorbidities.

Care Facilities

In total, 762 (29.3%) deaths were among residents of long-term care or treatment facilities. In 2020, this accounted for 48.3% of deaths that year compared to 15.3% of deaths in 2021 [Figure 7].

Vaccination

COVID-19 vaccinations were first offered to the elderly and those working in high risk settings in the beginning of 2021. A person is considered fully vaccinated if they received two doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or one dose of Jansen vaccine. Of the deaths that occurred on March 1, 2021 and after (901; 34.8%), 778 (86.3%) were among persons not fully vaccinated [Figure 8].

COVID-19 deaths case definition

Deaths include confirmed and probable COVID-19 deaths as follows:

Confirmed: Meets CSTE confirmatory laboratory evidence for SARS CoV-2 AND meets CSTE vital records criteria for COVID-19;

Probable: Meets CSTE vital records criteria with no CSTE confirmatory laboratory evidence for SARS CoV-2 OR meets CSTE confirmatory laboratory evidence for SARS CoV-2 within 60 days of date of death OR meets CSTE presumptive laboratory evidence for SARS CoV-2 within 60 days of date of death, death certificate pending >8 days after date of death, meets either CSTE clinical epidemiological criteria, and no more likely alternative diagnosis.

Figure 5. Percent of COVID-19 Deaths by Number of Comorbidities, 2020-2021

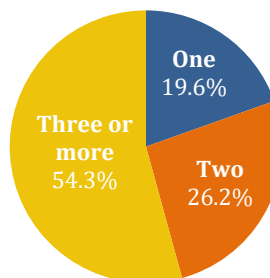


Figure 6. Number of COVID-19 Deaths by Comorbidity (Top 10) and Sex, 2020-2021

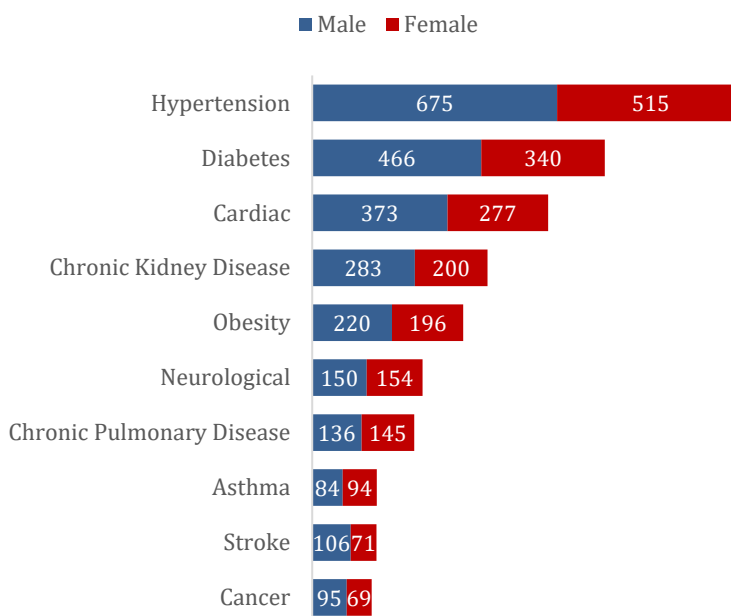


Figure 7. COVID-19 Deaths by Care Facility Status – 2020 vs. 2021

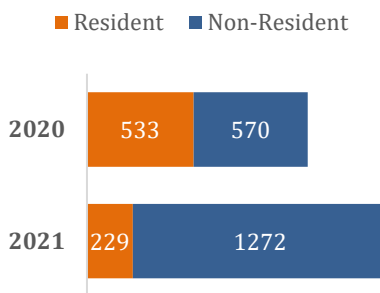


Figure 8. Percent of COVID-19 Deaths by Vaccination Status – post March 1, 2021

