



# PRESS RELEASE

## **Causes of Deaths in the Philippines (Preliminary): January to December 2020**

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### ***Explanatory Note***

*Data on causes of death presented in this press release were obtained from the timely and late registered deaths at the Office of the City/Municipal Registrars throughout the country and submitted to the Office of the Civil Registrar General through the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)-Provincial Offices (POs) for encoding. Information presented includes deaths that occurred from January 2020 until December 2020 (cut-off date is as of 26 February 2021 on the processed death certificates). Figures presented herein are still preliminary and may differ in the final counts. Moreover, the number of deaths by cause vary from the number released on 05 March 2021 (with similar cut-off date of 26 February 2021) as causes of death data are processed in a separate system. Deaths of Filipinos abroad are not yet included in the data, only those who died in the country but whose usual residence is abroad.*

*Figures in this release, specifically for deaths due to Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), may differ from the one released by the Department of Health (DOH). Data from PSA are based on the descriptions written on the medical certificate portion of all death certificates received which were certified by the Local Health Officers, while data from the DOH were collected through a surveillance system. Furthermore, COVID-19 deaths in this release refer to both confirmed and probable cases as of registration, whereas figures released by DOH were deaths from confirmed cases only. Coding of causes of death is based on the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems revision 10 (ICD-10), which is governed by the World Health Organization (WHO).*



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*In response to the emergence of COVID-19, the WHO issued two new emergency codes to be used when coding causes of death for statistical purposes. Code U07.1 refers to COVID-19-virus identified, which is used when COVID-19 is confirmed by a laboratory test, while code U07.2 refers to COVID-19-virus not identified, used for suspected or probable cases as well as clinically-epidemiologically diagnosed COVID-19 cases where testing was not completed or inconclusive<sup>1</sup>.*

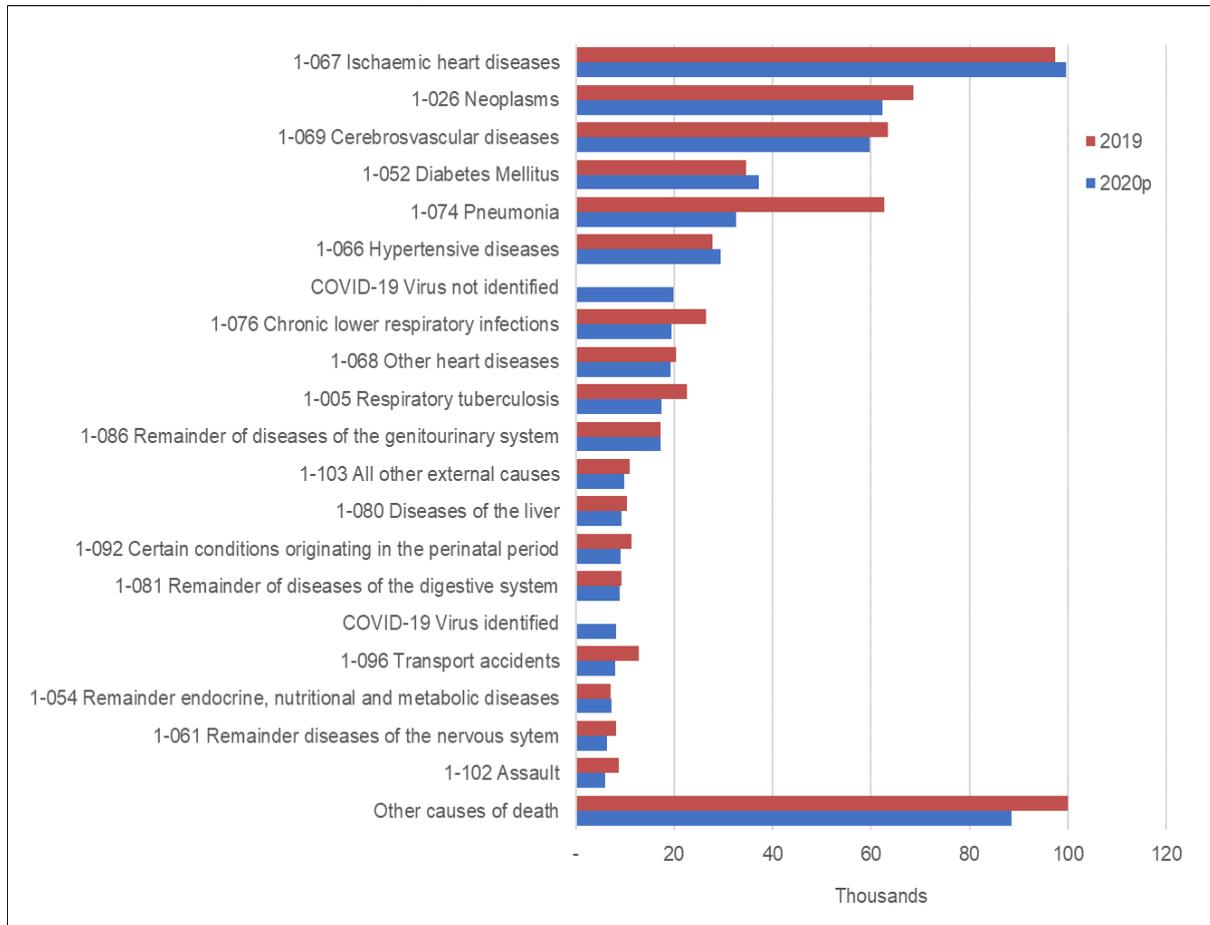
<sup>1</sup><https://www.who.int/classifications/icd/COVID-19-coding-icd10.pdf>

### ***Ischaemic heart diseases, neoplasms, and cerebrovascular diseases are still the three leading causes of death in the Philippines***

The top three causes of death in the country in 2020 were ischaemic heart diseases, neoplasms, and cerebrovascular diseases. Incidentally, these were also the leading causes of death in 2019. In 2020, deaths due to ischaemic heart diseases were the leading cause of death with 99.7 thousand cases or 17.3 percent of the total deaths in the country. This was an increase of about 2.3 percent from the 97.5 thousand deaths or 15.7% of the total deaths in 2019. On the other hand, neoplasms, commonly known as “cancer”, came in second with 62.3 thousand deaths or 10.8 percent. Cerebrovascular diseases were the third leading cause which accounted for 59.7 thousand deaths or 10.4 percent of the total. Neoplasms and cerebrovascular diseases both showed a decrease of -9.3 percent and -6.0 percent, respectively, from the previous year. Deaths due to diabetes mellitus (37.3 thousand or 6.5% share), which ranked fourth in 2020, had an annual increase of 7.8 percent. Meanwhile, deaths due to pneumonia, which recorded 32.6 thousand cases (5.7% share) in 2020, posted a -48.1 percent decrease from 62.7 thousand (10.1% share) in 2019, making it the fifth leading cause of death for the year. (Table 1 and Figure 1)

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Figure 1. All Cause Mortality (Top 20), Philippines: January to December, 2019 & 2020<sup>(p)</sup>



Note: Symptoms, signs, and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified (R00-R99) are not included in the analysis due to the unspecified nature of these causes.

<sup>(p)</sup> - Preliminary

### **Deaths due to ischaemic heart diseases and diabetes mellitus exceed their average in the last five years**

Among the ten leading causes of death, the number of registered deaths due to ischaemic heart diseases and diabetes mellitus already exceeded their averages in the last five years (2015-2019). Meanwhile, deaths due to pneumonia had the biggest decline, with -24.3 thousand less deaths in 2020 than its average in the past five years. The top three causes of death in 2020 retained their respective ranks in terms of their averages in the last five years. (Table A)

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**Table A. Average Number and Rank of Registered Deaths from  
2015-2019, Number and Rank of Registered Deaths,  
by Cause of Death, Philippines: 2020<sup>(p)</sup>  
(as of 26 February 2021)**

Cause of Death	2020 <sup>p</sup>	Rank	Average (2015-2019)	Rank	Difference
Total	575,875		586,630		
1-067 Ischaemic heart diseases	99,680	1	82,547	1	17,133
1-026 Neoplasms	62,289	2	65,503	2	-3,214
1-069 Cerebrovascular diseases	59,736	3	60,106	3	-370
1-052 Diabetes Mellitus	37,265	4	32,991	5	4,274
1-074 Pneumonia	32,574	5	56,830	4	-24,256
1-066 Hypertensive diseases	29,511	6	29,806	6	-295
COVID-19 Virus not identified	19,758	7			19,758
1-076 Chronic lower respiratory infections	19,463	8	24,868	7	-5,405
1-068 Other heart diseases	19,298	9	24,592	8	-5,294
1-005 Respiratory tuberculosis	17,433	10	23,260	9	-5,827
1-086 Remainder of diseases of the genitourinary system	17,241	11	17,356	10	-115
1-103 All other external causes	9,799	12	10,416	14	-617
1-080 Diseases of the liver	9,225	13	9,556	15	-331
1-092 Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	9,161	14	10,740	13	-1,579
1-081 Remainder of diseases of the digestive system	8,990	15	8,810	16	180
COVID-19 Virus identified	8,209	16			8,209
1-096 Transport accidents	8,017	17	11,612	11	-3,595
1-054 Remainder endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	7,206	18	6,603	18	603
1-061 Remainder diseases of the nervous system	6,327	19	6,790	17	-463
1-102 Assault	6,008	20	11,311	12	-5,303
Other Causes of Death	88,685		92,932		6,507

<sup>(p)</sup> - Preliminary

***Deaths due to transport accidents and assault decrease from the previous year***

Registered deaths attributed to transport accidents decreased by 37.4 percent, from 12.8 thousand (2.1% share) in 2019 to 8.0 thousand (1.4% share) in 2020, pushing its rank from 11th to 17th. Similarly, deaths due to assault decreased by 32.0 percent in 2020 (from 8.8 thousand in 2019 to 6.0 thousand in 2020), moving down its rank from 16th to 20th. (Table 1 and Figure 1)

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### ***Intentional self-harm increases by about 26 percent***

Deaths due to intentional self-harm recorded a 25.7 percent increase from the previous year, making it the 27th leading cause of death in 2020, from rank 31 in 2019. From the 2,808 registered deaths due to intentional self-harm in 2019, this spiked to 3,529 in 2020.

### ***Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) ranks among the leading causes of death***

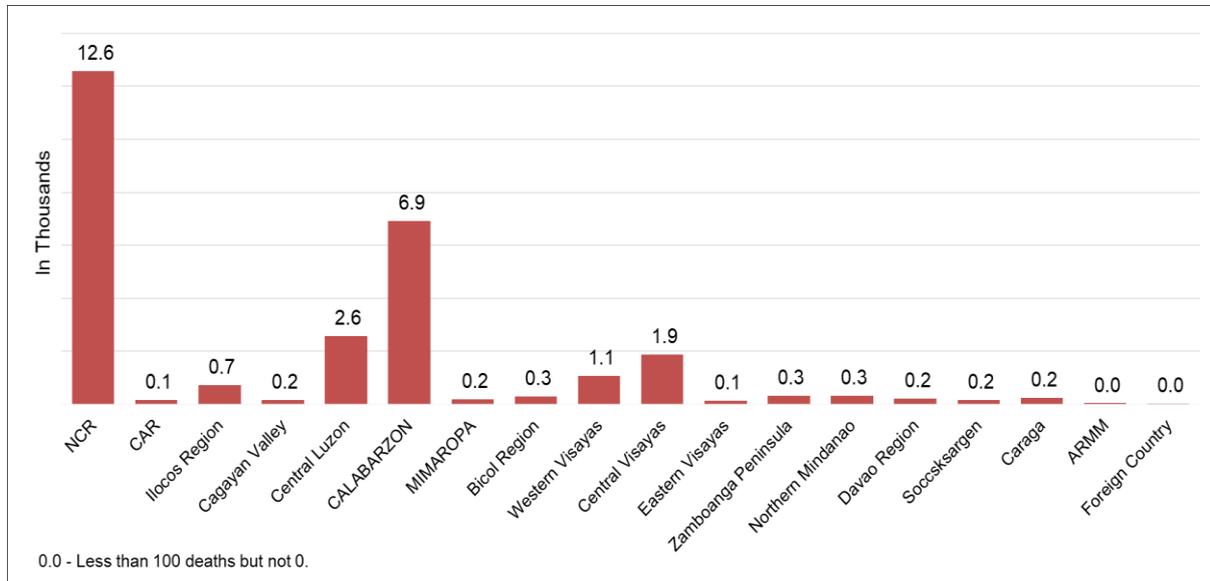
Registered deaths due to COVID-19 accounted for a total of 27,967 deaths or 4.9 percent of the total registered deaths in 2020. By classification, COVID-19 with virus not identified was the seventh leading cause of death in the country with 19.8 thousand cases or 3.4 percent of the total deaths in 2020. Meanwhile, registered deaths due to COVID-19 with virus identified accounted for 8.2 thousand or 1.4 percent of the total deaths in 2020, pushing its rank to number 16. *(Table 1 and Figure 1)*

### ***Five regions report over one thousand COVID-19 deaths***

Among the 17 regions, the National Capital Region (NCR) registered the most number of deaths due to COVID-19 with 12,582 or 45.0 percent of the total COVID-19 deaths. CALABARZON ranked second with 6,914 deaths (24.7% share), while Central Luzon came in third with 2,576 deaths (9.2% share). Other regions that registered over a thousand COVID-19 deaths were Central Visayas and Western Visayas, with 1,863 (6.7% share) and 1,080 (3.9% share) deaths, respectively. On the other hand, ARMM reported the least number of registered COVID-19 deaths with only 37 or 0.1 percent of the total. *(Table 2 and Figure 2)*

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Figure 2. Number of Registered Deaths Due to COVID-19 by Region of Usual Residence, Philippines: 2020<sup>(P)</sup>  
(as of 26 February 2021)



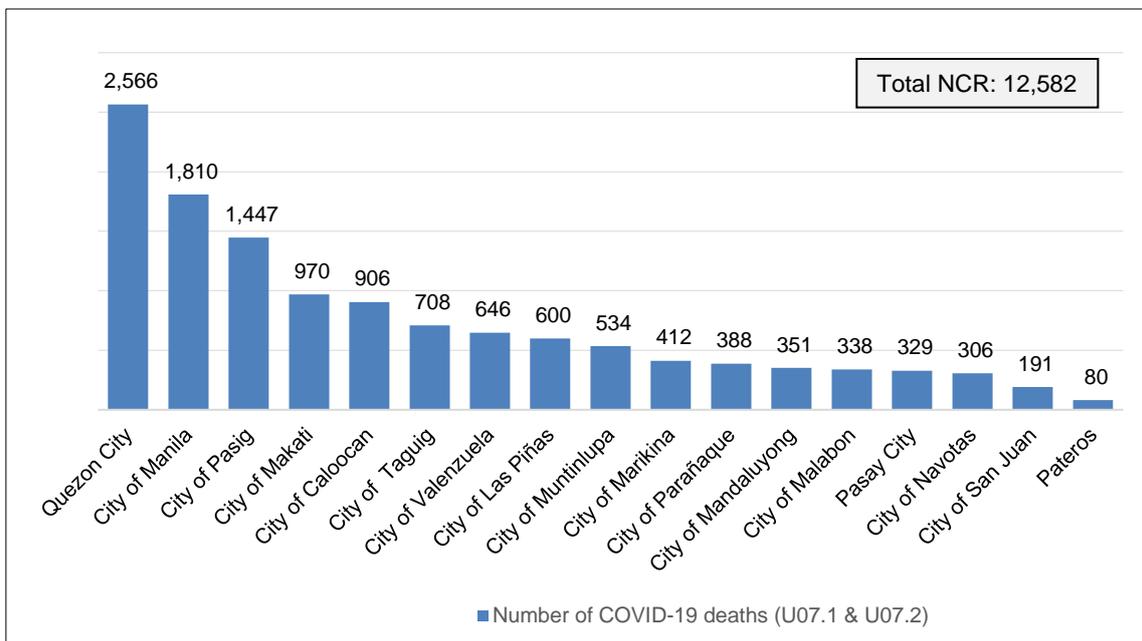
(P) - Preliminary

### **Quezon City registers most COVID-19 deaths in NCR**

In NCR, most number of deaths due to COVID-19 was reported in Quezon City, with 2,566 deaths or 20.4 percent of the total COVID-19 deaths in the region. This was followed by the City of Manila and City of Pasig with 1,810 (14.4% share) and 1,447 (11.5%) COVID-19 deaths, respectively. (Table 3 and Figure 3)

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Figure 3. COVID-19 Deaths in NCR, Jan to Dec 2020<sup>(P)</sup>  
(as of 26 Feb 2021)



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**Attachments:**

1. Table 1. Number of Registered Deaths, Percent Share, and Ranks by 50 Leading Cause of Death, Philippines: 2019-2020<sup>(P)</sup> (as of 26 February 2021)
2. Table 2. Number of Registered Deaths Due to Covid-19 by Region of Usual Place of Residence: 2020<sup>(P)</sup> (Preliminary, as of 26 February 2021)
3. Table 3. Number of Registered Deaths Due to COVID-19 in NCR, by City/Municipality of Usual Residence: 2020<sup>(P)</sup> (Preliminary, as of 26 February 2021)
4. Table 4. Average Number of Registered Deaths from 2015-2019 and Number of Registered Deaths by Causes, Philippines: 2015-2020<sup>(P)</sup> (as of 26 February 2021)

Table 1. Number of Registered Deaths, Percent Share, and Ranks by 50 Leading Cause of Death, Philippines: 2019-2020<sup>(p)</sup> (as of 26 February 2021)

Cause of Death (Mortality Tabulation List 1)	2020			2019			Percent Change
	2020	Share (%)	Rank	2019	Share (%)	Rank	
Total	575,875			620,414			-7.2
1-067 Ischaemic heart diseases I20-I25	99,680	17.3	1	97,475	15.7	1	2.3
1-026 Neoplasms C00-D48	62,289	10.8	2	68,657	11.1	2	-9.3
1-069 Cerebrovascular diseases I60-I69	59,736	10.4	3	63,548	10.2	3	-6.0
1-052 Diabetes mellitus E10-E14	37,265	6.5	4	34,570	5.6	5	7.8
1-074 Pneumonia J12-J18	32,574	5.7	5	62,719	10.1	4	-48.1
1-066 Hypertensive diseases I10-I13	29,511	5.1	6	27,764	4.5	6	6.3
COVID-19 Virus not identified U07.2	19,758	3.4	7				
1-076 Chronic lower respiratory diseases J40-J47	19,463	3.4	8	26,576	4.3	7	-26.8
1-068 Other heart diseases I26-I51	19,298	3.4	9	20,416	3.3	9	-5.5
1-005 Respiratory tuberculosis A15-A16	17,433	3.0	10	22,568	3.6	8	-22.8
1-086 Remainder of diseases of the genitourinary system N17-N98	17,241	3.0	11	17,215	2.8	10	0.2
1-103 All other external causes W20-W64 W75-W99 X10-X39 X50-X59 Y10-Y89	9,799	1.7	12	10,997	1.8	13	-10.9
1-080 Diseases of the liver K70-K76	9,225	1.6	13	10,359	1.7	14	-10.9
1-092 Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period P00-P96	9,161	1.6	14	11,260	1.8	12	-18.6
1-081 Remainder of diseases of the digestive system K00-K22 K28-K66 K80-K92	8,990	1.6	15	9,369	1.5	15	-4.0
COVID-19 Virus identified U07.1	8,209	1.4	16				
1-096 Transport accidents V01-V99	8,017	1.4	17	12,799	2.1	11	-37.4
1-054 Remainder of endocrine nutritional and metabolic diseases E00-E07 E15-E34 E50-E88	7,206	1.3	18	7,052	1.1	18	2.2
1-061 Remainder of diseases of the nervous system G04-G25 G31-G98	6,327	1.1	19	8,232	1.3	17	-23.1
1-102 Assault X85-Y09	6,008	1.0	20	8,831	1.4	16	-32.0
1-079 Gastric and duodenal ulcer K25-K27	5,098	0.9	21	5,437	0.9	22	-6.2
1-077 Remainder of diseases of the respiratory system J00-J06 J30-J39 J60-J98	4,947	0.9	22	6,459	1.0	19	-23.4
1-012 Sepsis A40-A41	4,472	0.8	23	6,173	1.0	20	-27.6
1-093 Congenital malformations deformations and chromosomal abnormalities Q00-Q99	4,421	0.8	24	5,912	1.0	21	-25.2
1-083 Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue M00-M99	4,073	0.7	25	4,358	0.7	23	-6.5
1-053 Malnutrition E40-E46	3,962	0.7	26	3,827	0.6	24	3.5
1-101 Intentional self-harm X60-X84	3,529	0.6	27	2,808	0.5	31	25.7
1-082 Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue L00-L98	3,374	0.6	28	3,718	0.6	25	-9.3
1-097 Falls W00-W19	3,164	0.5	29	3,144	0.5	30	0.6
1-049 Anaemias D50-D64	3,104	0.5	30	3,344	0.5	27	-7.2
1-085 Glomerular and renal tubulo-interstitial diseases N00-N15	2,930	0.5	31	3,388	0.5	26	-13.5
1-098 Accidental drowning and submersion W65-W74	2,500	0.4	32	3,295	0.5	29	-24.1
1-003 Diarrhoea and gastroenteritis of presumed infectious origin A09	2,496	0.4	33	3,335	0.5	28	-25.2
1-065 Acute rheumatic fever and chronic rheumatic heart diseases I00-I09	1,730	0.3	34	2,272	0.4	33	-23.9
1-050 Remainder of diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism D65-D89	1,655	0.3	35	995	0.2	40	66.3
1-071 Remainder of diseases of the circulatory system I71-I99	1,576	0.3	36	1,904	0.3	35	-17.2
1-025 Remainder of certain infectious and parasitic diseases A21-A32 A38 A42-A49 A65-A79 A81 A83-A89 B00-B04 B06-B09 B25-B49 B58-B64 B66-B94 B99	1,482	0.3	37	2,049	0.3	34	-27.7
1-089 Other direct obstetric deaths O10-O92	1,072	0.2	38	1,122	0.2	37	-4.5
1-006 Other tuberculosis A17-A19	958	0.2	39	1,309	0.2	36	-26.8
1-017 Other arthropod-borne viral fevers and viral haemorrhagic fevers A92-A94 A96-A99	958	0.2	39	2,778	0.4	32	-65.5
1-057 Remainder of mental and behavioural disorders F01-F09 F20-F99	915	0.2	41	719	0.1	44	27.3
1-060 Alzheimer disease G30	866	0.2	42	855	0.1	42	1.3
1-019 Viral hepatitis B15-B19	821	0.1	43	1,061	0.2	39	-22.6
1-059 Meningitis G00 G03	640	0.1	44	1,094	0.2	38	-41.5
1-100 Accidental poisoning by and exposure to noxious substances X40-X49	624	0.1	45	640	0.1	45	-2.5
1-008 Tetanus A33-A35	459	0.1	46	516	0.1	46	-11.0
1-020 Human immunodeficiency virus [HIV] disease B20-B24	449	0.1	47	878	0.1	41	-48.9
1-004 Other intestinal infectious diseases A01-A08	374	0.1	48	432	0.1	48	-13.4
1-056 Mental and behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance use F10-F19	329	0.1	49	367	0.1	50	-10.4
1-070 Atherosclerosis I70	329	0.1	49	246	0.0	52	33.7
Other Causes of Death	25,378	4.4		25,572	4.1		-0.8

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority (Data on deaths are those registered at the Office of the City/Municipal Registrars throughout the country and submitted to the Office of the Civil Registrar General; Certificate of Death- Municipal Form 103)

(P) - Preliminary

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Table 2. Number of Registered Deaths Due to Covid-19 by Region of Usual Place of Residence: 2020<sup>(P)</sup> (as of 26 February 2021)

Region	Usual Residence	
	Number	Share (%)
TOTAL	27,967	100.0
National Capital Region (NCR)	12,582	45.0
Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)	147	0.5
Region I- Ilocos Region	726	2.6
Region II- Cagayan Valley	167	0.6
Region III- Central Luzon	2,576	9.2
CALABARZON	6,914	24.7
MIMAROPA	175	0.6
Region V- Bicol Region	286	1.0
Region VI- Western Visayas	1,080	3.9
Region VII- Central Visayas	1,863	6.7
Region VIII- Eastern Visayas	142	0.5
Region IX- Zamboanga Peninsula	326	1.2
Region X- Northern Mindanao	313	1.1
Region XI- Davao Region	208	0.7
Region XII- SOCCSKSARGEN	163	0.6
Caraga	243	0.9
ARMM	37	0.1
Foreign Country	19	0.1

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority (Data on deaths are those registered at the Office of the City/Municipal Registrars throughout the country and submitted to the Office of the Civil Registrar General; Certificate of Death- Municipal Form 103)

<sup>(P)</sup> - Preliminary

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Table 3. Number of Registered Deaths Due to COVID-19 in NCR,  
by City/Municipality of Usual Residence: 2020<sup>(P)</sup>  
(as of 26 February 2021)

Region/City/Municipality	Number	Share (%)
PHILIPPINES	27,967	
National Capital Region	12,582	
Quezon City	2,566	20.4
City of Manila	1,810	14.4
City of Pasig	1,447	11.5
City of Makati	970	7.7
City of Caloocan	906	7.2
City of Taguig	708	5.6
City of Valenzuela	646	5.1
City of Las Piñas	600	4.8
City of Muntinlupa	534	4.2
City of Marikina	412	3.3
City of Parañaque	388	3.1
City of Mandaluyong	351	2.8
City of Malabon	338	2.7
Pasay City	329	2.6
City of Navotas	306	2.4
City of San Juan	191	1.5
Pateros	80	0.6

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority (Data on deaths are those registered at the Office of the City/Municipal Registrars throughout the country and submitted to the Office of the Civil Registrar General; Certificate of Death- Municipal Form 103)

<sup>(P)</sup> - Preliminary

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