



# PRESS RELEASE

## **Causes of Deaths in the Philippines (Preliminary): January to December 2021**

Date of Release: 29 March 2022

Reference No. 2022-112

### ***Explanatory Note***

*Data on causes of death presented in this press release were obtained from the deaths registered, either timely or belatedly, at the appropriate Office of the City/Municipal Civil Registrar throughout the country and subsequently submitted for encoding to the Office of the Civil Registrar General through the Provincial Statistical Offices (PSOs) of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). The information presented includes deaths that occurred from January to December 2021 based on data files received by the PSA - Civil Registration Service (CRS) from the PSOs as of 31 January 2022. Thus, the figures presented herein are still preliminary and may differ from the final count. Deaths of Filipinos abroad are not yet included in this release, but Filipinos whose usual residence is abroad and foreign nationals with deaths occurring in the country during the reference period were included in this report.*

*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) because the figures in this release were obtained from the certificates of death particularly the descriptions written on the medical certificate portion therein as reviewed by the health officer of the local government unit concerned. On the other hand, the figures released by the DOH were obtained through a surveillance system.*

*Furthermore, figures in this release for deaths due to COVID-19 refer to both confirmed and probable cases as of registration. The coding of causes of death is based on the World Health Organization's (WHO) International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems revision 10 (ICD-10). With the emergence of COVID-19, the WHO issued two new emergency codes (Code U07.1 and Code U07.2) to be used when coding causes of death for statistical purposes.*



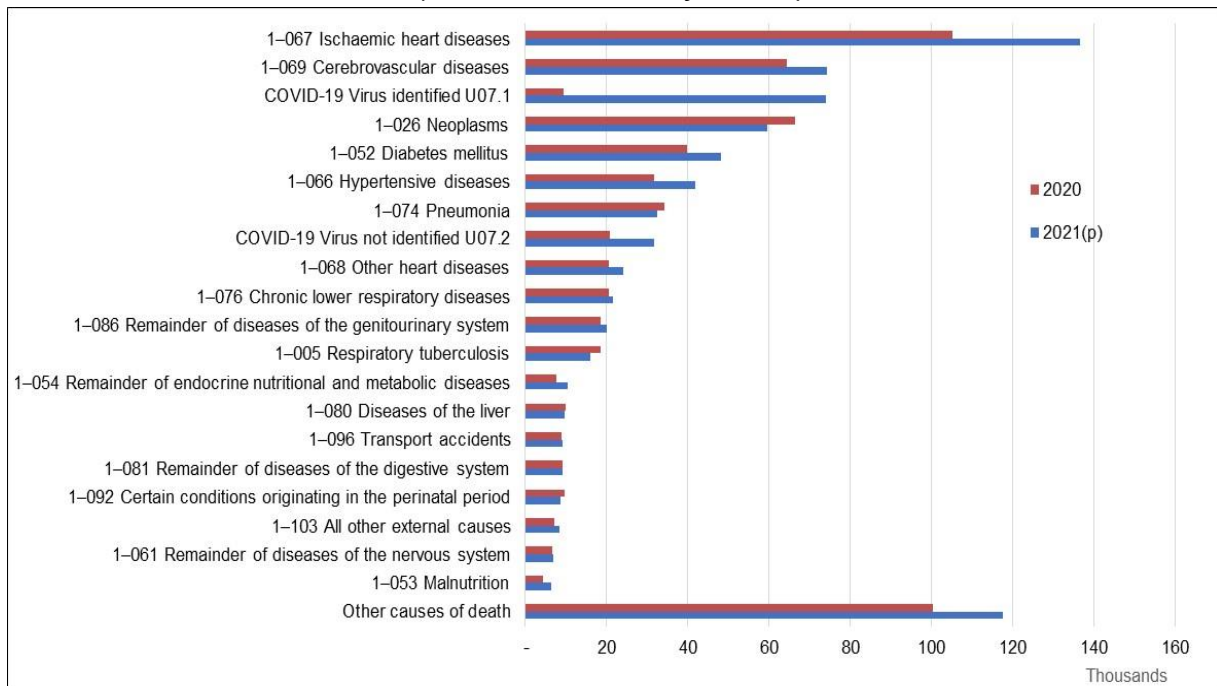
*Code U07.1 or COVID-19-virus identified is used when COVID-19 is confirmed by a laboratory test. Code U07.2 or COVID-19-virus not identified is used for suspected or probable cases as well as clinically-epidemiologically diagnosed COVID-19 cases where testing was not completed or inconclusive.<sup>1</sup> Thus, the figures in this release for deaths due to COVID-19 include both Code U07.1 and Code U07.2 while the figures released by the DOH, on the other hand, include deaths from confirmed cases only or Code U07.1.*

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

### ***Ischaemic heart diseases, cerebrovascular diseases, and COVID-19 virus identified lead the causes of death in the Philippines***

The top three causes of death in the country from January to December of 2021 were ischaemic heart diseases, cerebrovascular diseases, and COVID-19 virus identified. In the same period of 2020, the leading causes of death were ischaemic heart diseases, neoplasms, and cerebrovascular diseases. From January to December of 2021, ischaemic heart diseases were the leading cause of death with 136,575 cases or 17.8 percent of the total deaths in the country. This indicated an increase of 29.7 percent from the 105,281 deaths or 17.1 percent of the total deaths in the same period of 2020. On the other hand, cerebrovascular diseases, came in second with 74,262 deaths (9.7% share) from being third in the previous year's ranking. It showed an increase of 15.3 percent from the 64,381 cases (10.5% share) in the same period in 2020. Deaths due to COVID-19 virus identified were the third leading cause which accounted for 74,008 deaths (9.7% share), rising from rank 14 with 9,316 deaths (1.5% share) in the same period of 2020. Neoplasms, commonly known as "cancer" ranked as the fourth leading cause of death with 59,503 recorded cases (7.8% share) from January to December 2021. It dropped from being the second leading cause of death with 66,342 deaths (10.8% share) from the previous year's ranking. Meanwhile, deaths due to diabetes mellitus (48,267 or 6.3% share), which ranked fifth in 2021, had an increase of 21.0 percent. (Table 1 and Figure 1)

Figure 1. All Causes of Mortality (Top 20), Philippines:  
January to December, 2020 and 2021<sup>(p)</sup>  
(as of 31 January 2022)



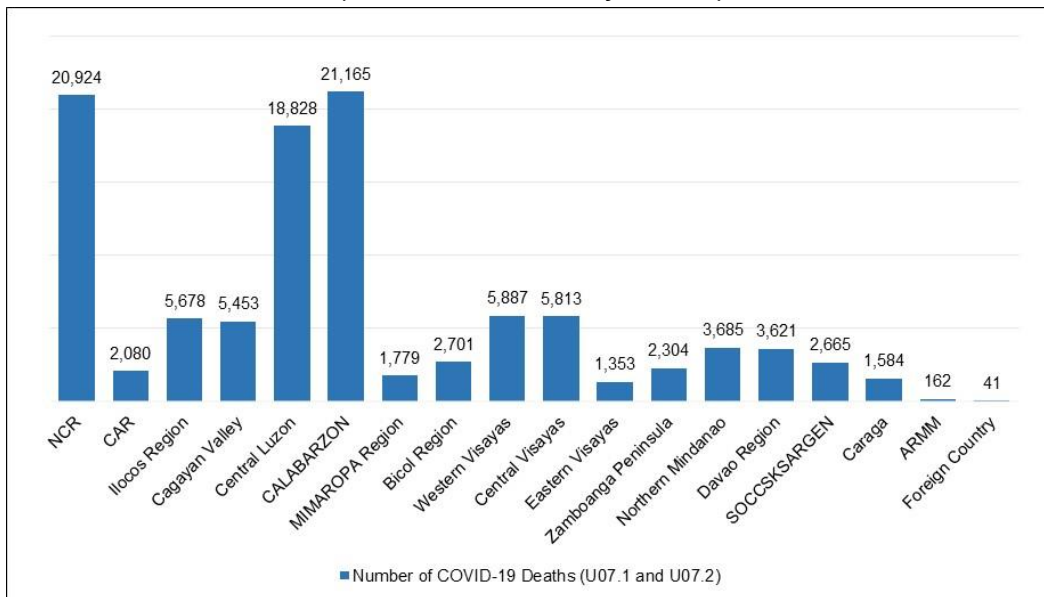
Note: Symptoms, signs, and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified (R00-R99) are not included in the analysis due to the unspecified nature of these causes.

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

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

Registered deaths due to COVID-19 accounted for a total of 105,723 deaths or 13.8 percent of the total registered deaths from January to December 2021. By classification, COVID-19 with virus identified and COVID-19 virus not identified were both included in the 10 leading causes of death. COVID-19 with virus identified was the 3rd leading cause of death in the country with 74,008 cases or 9.7 percent of the total deaths in the same period in 2021. Meanwhile, registered deaths due to COVID-19 with virus not identified accounted for 31,715 or 4.1 percent of the total deaths from January to December 2021, making it the 8th leading cause of death. (Table 1 and Figure 1)

Figure 2. Number of Registered Deaths Due to COVID-19 by Region of Usual Residence, Philippines: January to December 2021<sup>(p)</sup> (as of 31 January 2022)



(p) - Preliminary

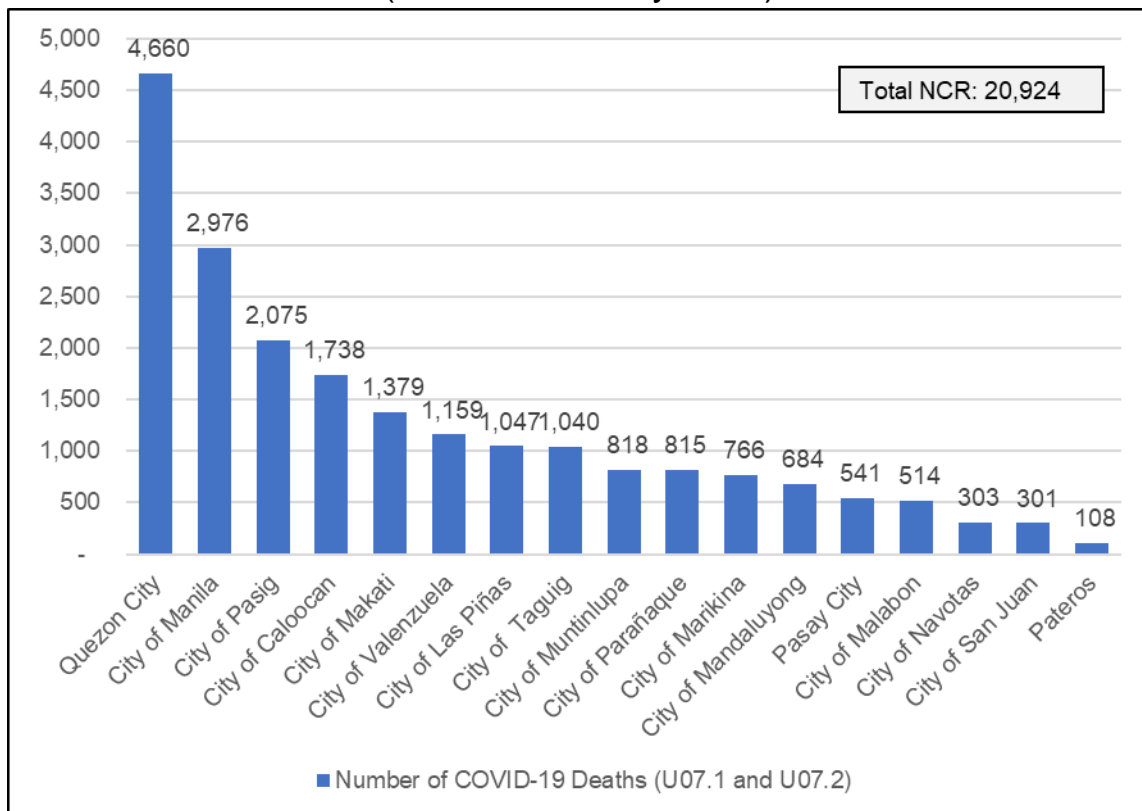
### **Three regions report over ten thousand COVID-19 deaths**

Among the 17 regions, CALABARZON registered the highest number of deaths due to COVID-19 with 21,165 or 20.0 percent of the total COVID-19 deaths from January to December 2021. The National Capital Region (NCR) ranked second with 20,924 deaths (19.8%), while Central Luzon came in third with 18,828 deaths (17.8%). On the other hand, ARMM reported the least number of registered COVID-19 deaths with only 162 cases. (Table 2 and Figure 2)

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

In NCR, Quezon City reported the highest number of deaths due to COVID-19, with 4,660 deaths or 22.3 percent of the total COVID-19 deaths in the region from January to December 2021. This was followed by the City of Manila and City of Pasig with 2,976 (14.2%) and 2,075 (9.9%) COVID-19 deaths, respectively. (Table 3 and Figure 3)

Figure 3. COVID-19 Deaths in NCR, January to December 2021<sup>(p)</sup>  
(as of 31 January 2022)



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

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**Table 1. Number of Registered Deaths, Percent Shares, and Ranks  
by Cause of Death (Top 50), Philippines: January to December, 2020 and 2021<sup>(p)</sup>  
(as of 31 January 2022)**

Cause of Death	Jan-Dec 2021 <sup>(p)</sup>			Jan-Dec 2020			Percent Change
	Number	Share (%)	Rank	Number	Share (%)	Rank	
Total	766,126	100.0		613,936	100.0		24.8
1-067 Ischaemic heart diseases I20-I25	136,575	17.8	1	105,281	17.1	1	29.7
1-069 Cerebrovascular diseases I60-I69	74,262	9.7	2	64,381	10.5	3	15.3
COVID-19 Virus identified U07.1	74,008	9.7	3	9,316	1.5	14	694.4
1-026 Neoplasms C00-D48	59,503	7.8	4	66,342	10.8	2	-10.3
1-052 Diabetes mellitus E10-E14	48,267	6.3	5	39,884	6.5	4	21.0
1-066 Hypertensive diseases I10-I13	41,719	5.4	6	31,727	5.2	6	31.5
1-074 Pneumonia J12-J18	32,477	4.2	7	34,305	5.6	5	-5.3
COVID-19 Virus not identified U07.2	31,715	4.1	8	20,872	3.4	7	51.9
1-068 Other heart diseases I26-I51	24,119	3.1	9	20,617	3.4	8	17.0
1-076 Chronic lower respiratory diseases J40-J47	21,523	2.8	10	20,599	3.4	9	4.5
1-086 Remainder of diseases of the genitourinary system N17-N98	19,975	2.6	11	18,545	3.0	10	7.7
1-005 Respiratory tuberculosis A15-A16	16,026	2.1	12	18,457	3.0	11	-13.2
1-054 Remainder of endocrine nutritional and metabolic diseases E00-E07 E15-E34 E50-E88	10,436	1.4	13	7,651	1.2	17	36.4
1-080 Diseases of the liver K70-K76	9,523	1.2	14	9,846	1.6	12	-3.3
1-096 Transport accidents V01-V99	9,126	1.2	15	8,787	1.4	16	3.9
1-081 Remainder of diseases of the digestive system K00-K22 K28-K66 K80-K92	9,014	1.2	16	9,227	1.5	15	-2.3
1-092 Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period P00-P96	8,687	1.1	17	9,609	1.6	13	-9.6
1-103 All other external causes W20-W64 W75-W99 X10-X39 X50-X59 Y10-Y89	8,464	1.1	18	7,225	1.2	19	17.1
1-061 Remainder of diseases of the nervous system G04-G25 G31-G98	6,967	0.9	19	6,724	1.1	20	3.6
1-053 Malnutrition E40-E46	6,263	0.8	20	4,261	0.7	27	47.0
1-079 Gastric and duodenal ulcer K25-K27	6,071	0.8	21	5,572	0.9	21	9.0
1-102 Assault X85-Y09	5,468	0.7	22	7,373	1.2	18	-25.8
1-083 Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue M00-M99	5,441	0.7	23	4,556	0.7	26	19.4
1-077 Remainder of diseases of the respiratory system J00-J06 J30-J39 J60-J98	5,164	0.7	24	5,239	0.9	22	-1.4
1-097 Falls W00-W19	5,048	0.7	25	3,464	0.6	29	45.7
1-093 Congenital malformations deformations and chromosomal abnormalities Q00-Q99	4,810	0.6	26	4,731	0.8	25	1.7
1-012 Sepsis A40-A41	4,440	0.6	27	4,773	0.8	24	-7.0
1-101 Intentional self-harm X60-X84	3,883	0.5	28	4,892	0.8	23	-20.6
1-082 Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue L00-L98	3,575	0.5	29	3,744	0.6	28	-4.5
1-049 Anaemias D50-D64	3,332	0.4	30	3,284	0.5	30	1.5
1-003 Diarrhoea and gastroenteritis of presumed infectious origin A09	3,218	0.4	31	2,709	0.4	33	18.8
1-098 Accidental drowning and submersion W65-W74	2,938	0.4	32	2,758	0.4	32	6.5
1-085 Glomerular and renal tubulo-interstitial diseases N00-N15	2,881	0.4	33	3,126	0.5	31	-7.8
1-065 Acute rheumatic fever and chronic rheumatic heart diseases I00-I09	1,738	0.2	34	1,807	0.3	34	-3.8
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	1,554	0.2	35	1,558	0.3	36	-0.3
1-071 Remainder of diseases of the circulatory system I71-I99	1,484	0.2	36	1,664	0.3	35	-10.8
1-057 Remainder of mental and behavioural disorders F01-F09 F20-F99	1,409	0.2	37	972	0.2	40	45.0
1-060 Alzheimer disease G30	1,263	0.2	38	893	0.1	43	41.4
1-089 Other direct obstetric deaths O10-O92	1,055	0.1	39	1,519	0.2	37	-30.5
1-017 Other arthropod-borne viral fevers and viral haemorrhagic fevers A92-A94 A96-A99	1,019	0.1	40	1,017	0.2	39	0.2
1-006 Other tuberculosis A17-A19	970	0.1	41	1,033	0.2	38	-6.1
1-020 Human immunodeficiency virus [HIV] disease B20-B24	865	0.1	42	955	0.2	41	-9.4
1-050 Remainder of diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism D65-D89	786	0.1	43	860	0.1	44	-8.6
1-019 Viral hepatitis B15-B19	732	0.1	44	902	0.1	42	-18.8
1-100 Accidental poisoning by and exposure to noxious substances X40-X49	698	0.1	45	498	0.1	46	40.2
1-059 Meningitis G00 G03	643	0.1	46	688	0.1	45	-6.5
1-090 Indirect obstetric deaths O98-O99	504	0.1	47	258	0.0	54	95.3
1-070 Atherosclerosis I70	498	0.1	48	341	0.1	51	46.0
1-008 Tetanus A33-A35	479	0.1	49	498	0.1	46	-3.8
1-056 Mental and behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance use F10-F19	458	0.1	50	351	0.1	50	30.5
Other causes of death	45,053	5.9		28,245	4.6		

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

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

<sup>(p)</sup> – Preliminary

Table 2. Number of Registered Deaths Due to COVID-19 by Region of Usual Residence, Philippines: January to December 2021<sup>(p)</sup>  
(as of 31 January 2022)

Region	Usual Residence		Rank
	Number	Share (%)	
TOTAL	105,723	100.0	
National Capital Region (NCR)	20,924	19.8	2
Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)	2,080	2.0	13
Region I - Ilocos Region	5,678	5.4	6
Region II - Cagayan Valley	5,453	5.2	7
Region III - Central Luzon	18,828	17.8	3
Region IV-A - CALABARZON	21,165	20.0	1
MIMAROPA Region	1,779	1.7	14
Region V - Bicol	2,701	2.6	10
Region VI - Western Visayas	5,887	5.6	4
Region VII - Central Visayas	5,813	5.5	5
Region VIII - Eastern Visayas	1,353	1.3	16
Region IX - Zamboanga Peninsula	2,304	2.2	12
Region X - Northern Mindanao	3,685	3.5	8
Region XI - Davao	3,621	3.4	9
Region XII - SOCCSKSARGEN	2,665	2.5	11
Region XIII - Caraga	1,584	1.5	15
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)	162	0.2	17
Foreign Countries	41	0.0	18

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

<sup>(p)</sup> – Preliminary

Table 3. Number of Registered Deaths Due to COVID-19 in NCR by City/Municipality of Usual Residence: January to December 2021<sup>(p)</sup> (as of 31 January 2022)

Region/City/Municipality	Number	Share (%)	Rank
TOTAL Philippines	105,723		
National Capital Region (NCR)	20,924	19.8	
City of Manila	2,976	14.2	2
City of Mandaluyong	684	3.3	12
City of Marikina	766	3.7	11
City of Pasig	2,075	9.9	3
Quezon City	4,660	22.3	1
City of San Juan	301	1.4	16
City of Caloocan	1,738	8.3	4
City of Malabon	514	2.5	14
City of Navotas	303	1.4	15
City of Valenzuela	1,159	5.5	6
City of Las Piñas	1,047	5.0	7
City of Makati	1,379	6.6	5
City of Muntinlupa	818	3.9	9
City of Parañaque	815	3.9	10
Pasay City	541	2.6	13
Pateros	108	0.5	17
City of Taguig	1,040	5.0	8

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

<sup>(p)</sup> – Preliminary