



PRESS RELEASE

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

Date of Release: 05 July 2021
Reference No. 2021-264

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 Statistical Offices (PSOs) for encoding. Information presented includes deaths that occurred from January 2020 until December 2020 (cut-off date is as of 17 June 2021 on the processed death certificates). Figures presented herein are still preliminary and may differ in the final counts. 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).

COG



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 inconclusive¹.

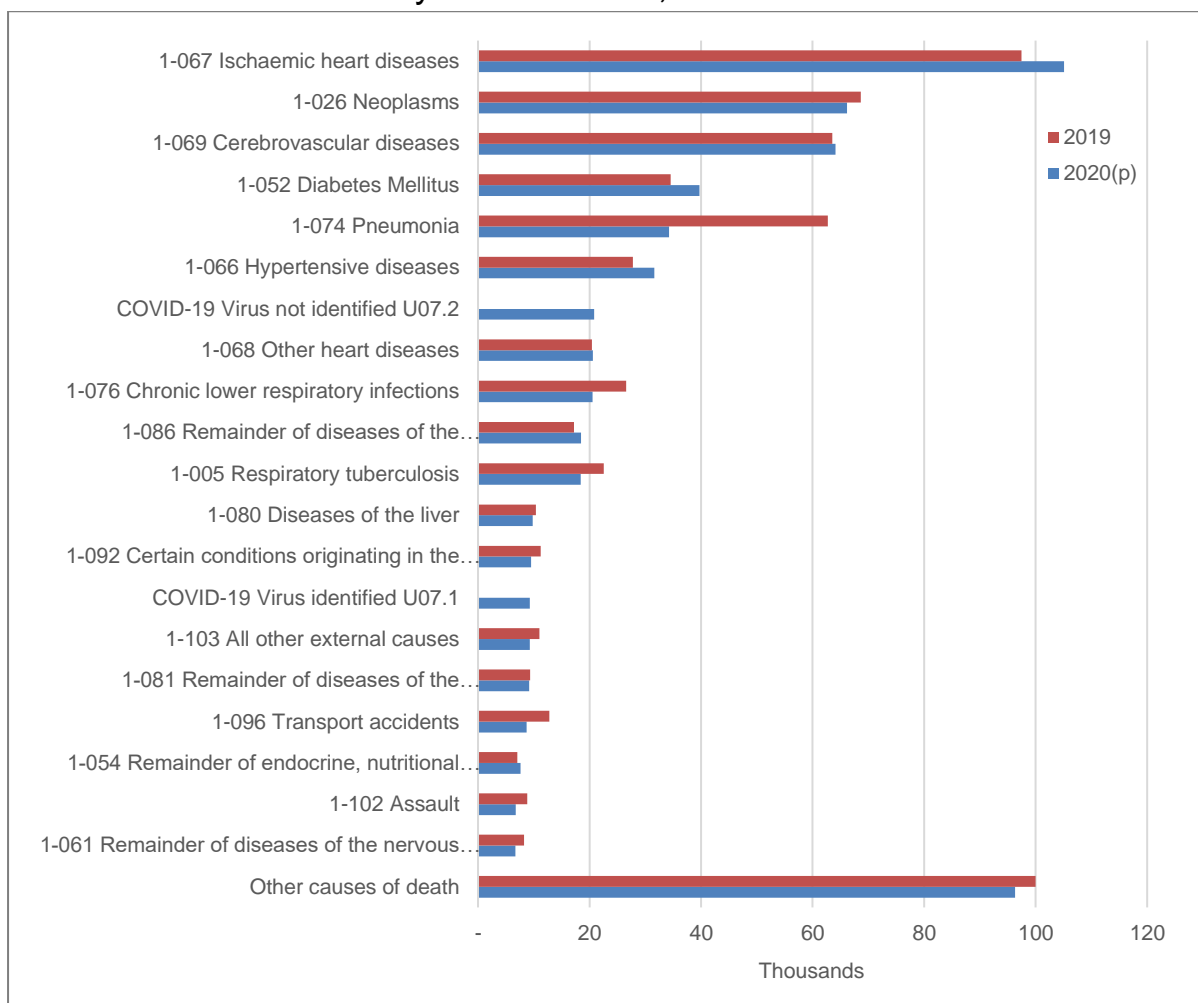
¹<https://www.who.int/classifications/icd/COVID-19-coding-icd10.pdf>

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 105.11 thousand cases or 17.1 percent of the total deaths in the country. This was an increase of about 7.8 percent from the 97.48 thousand deaths or 15.7 percent of the total deaths in 2019. On the other hand, neoplasms, commonly known as “cancer”, came in second with 66.18 thousand deaths (10.8% share). This showed a decrease of -3.6 percent from the previous year’s 68.66 thousand cases (11.1 %). Cerebrovascular diseases were the third leading cause which accounted for 64.10 thousand deaths (10.5% share) of the total. Deaths due to diabetes mellitus (39.72 thousand or 6.5% share), which ranked fourth in 2020, had an annual increase of 14.9 percent. Meanwhile, deaths due to pneumonia, which recorded 34.25 thousand cases (5.6% share) in 2020, posted a -45.4 percent decrease from 62.72 thousand cases (10.1% share) in 2019, making it the fifth leading cause of death for the year. (Table 1 and Figure 1)

CSG

Figure 1. All Causes of Mortality (Top 20), Philippines: January to December, 2019 & 2020^(p)



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.

^(p) - Preliminary

Deaths due to most of the ten leading causes exceed their average in the last five years

Most of the ten leading causes of death already exceeded their averages in the last five years (2015-2019). Meanwhile, deaths due to pneumonia had the biggest decline, with -22.58 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)

COG

**Table A. Average Number and Rank of Registered Deaths from
2015-2019, Number and Rank of Registered Deaths,
by Cause of Death, Philippines: 2020^(p)
(as of 17 June 2021)**

Cause of Death	2020 ^p	Rank	Average (2015-2019)	Rank	Difference
Total	613,035		586,630		
1-067 Ischaemic heart diseases	105,114	1	82,547	1	22,567
1-026 Neoplasms	66,179	2	65,503	2	676
1-069 Cerebrovascular diseases	64,104	3	60,106	3	3,998
1-052 Diabetes Mellitus	39,723	4	32,991	5	6,732
1-074 Pneumonia	34,251	5	56,830	4	-22,579
1-066 Hypertensive diseases	31,610	6	29,806	6	1,804
COVID-19 Virus not identified U07.2	20,840	7			20,840
1-068 Other heart diseases	20,575	8	24,592	8	-4,017
1-076 Chronic lower respiratory infections	20,553	9	24,868	7	-4,315
1-086 Remainder of diseases of the genitourinary system	18,483	10	17,356	10	1,127
1-005 Respiratory tuberculosis	18,410	11	23,260	9	-4,850
1-080 Diseases of the liver	9,810	12	9,556	15	254
1-092 Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	9,535	13	10,740	13	-1,205
COVID-19 Virus identified U07.1	9,300	14			9,300
1-103 All other external causes	9,276	15	10,416	14	-1,140
1-081 Remainder of diseases of the digestive system	9,186	16	8,810	16	376
1-096 Transport accidents	8,699	17	11,612	11	-2,913
1-054 Remainder of endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	7,626	18	6,603	18	1,023
1-102 Assault	6,775	19	11,311	12	-4,536
1-061 Remainder of diseases of the nervous system	6,703	20	6,790	17	-87
Other causes of death	96,283		92,932		3,351

(p) - Preliminary

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

Registered deaths attributed to transport accidents decreased by -32.0 percent, from 12.80 thousand (2.1% share) in 2019 to 8.70 thousand (1.4% share) in 2020, pushing its rank from 11th to 17th. Similarly, deaths due to assault decreased by -23.3 percent in 2020 (from 8.83 thousand in 2019 to 6.78 thousand in 2020), moving down its rank from 16th to 19th. *(Table 1 and Figure 1)*

COF

Intentional self-harm increases by more than half

Deaths due to intentional self-harm recorded a 57.3 percent increase from the previous year, making it the 25th leading cause of death in 2020, from rank 31 in 2019. From the 2.81 thousand registered deaths due to intentional self-harm in 2019, it spiked to 4.42 thousand deaths in 2020.

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

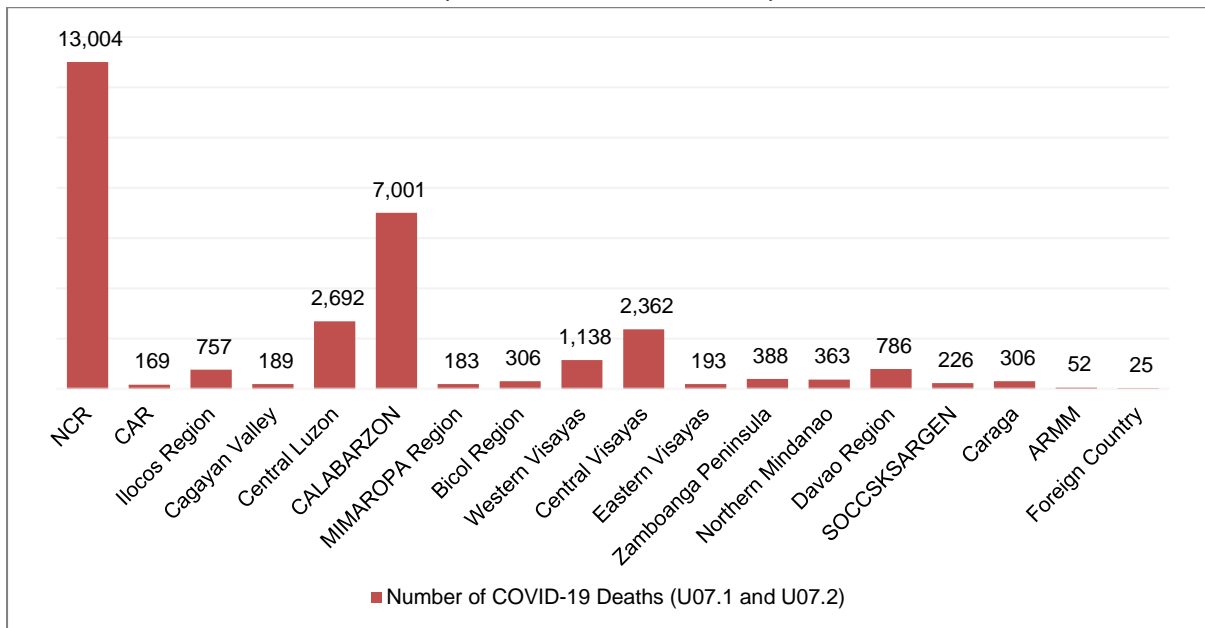
Registered deaths due to COVID-19 accounted for a total of 30.14 deaths or 4.9 percent of the total registered deaths in 2020. By classification, COVID-19 with virus not identified was the seventh leading cause of death in the country with 20.84 thousand cases or 3.4 percent of the total deaths in 2020. Meanwhile, registered deaths due to COVID-19 with virus identified accounted for 9.30 thousand or 1.5 percent of the total deaths in 2020, making it the top 14 cause of death during the year. (*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 highest number of deaths due to COVID-19 with 13.00 thousand or 43.1 percent of the total COVID-19 deaths. CALABARZON ranked second with 7.00 thousand deaths (23.2% share), while Central Luzon came in third with 2.69 thousand deaths (8.9% share). Other regions that registered over a thousand COVID-19 deaths were Central Visayas and Western Visayas, with 2.36 thousand (7.8% share) and 1.14 thousand (3.8% share) deaths, respectively. On the other hand, ARMM reported the least number of registered COVID-19 deaths with only 52 or 0.2 percent of the total. (*Table 2 and Figure 2*)

COF

Figure 2. Number of Registered Deaths Due to COVID-19 by Region of Usual Residence, Philippines: 2020^(P)
(as of 17 June 2021)



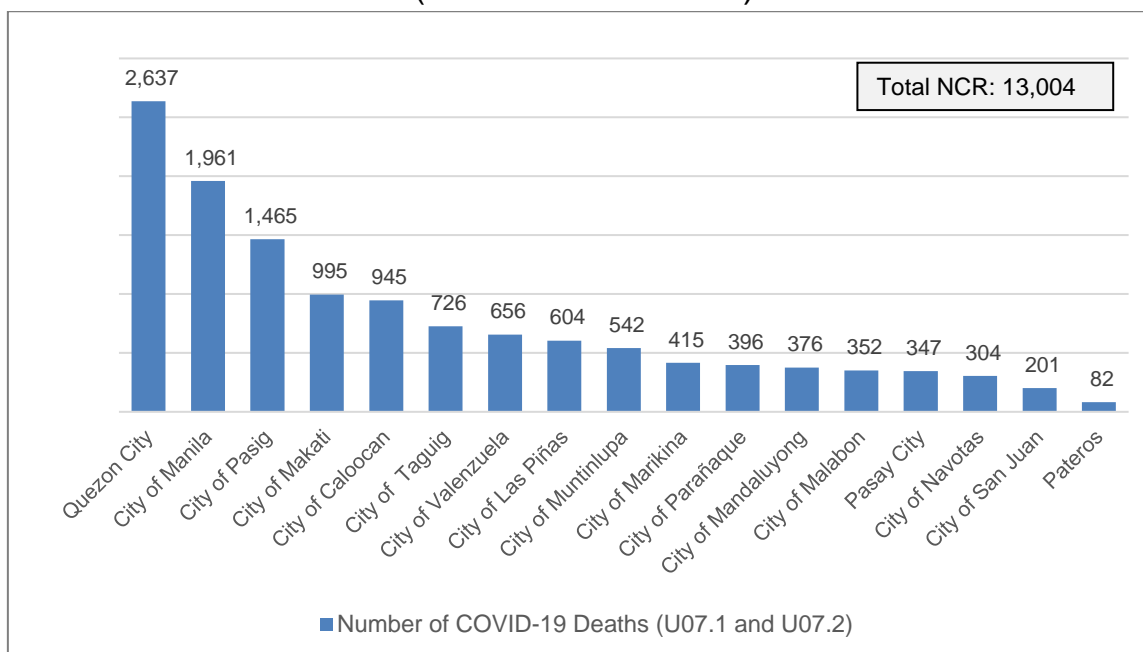
(P) - Preliminary

Quezon City registers most COVID-19 deaths in NCR

In NCR, Quezon City reported the highest number of deaths due to COVID-19, with 2.64 thousand deaths or 20.3 percent of the total COVID-19 deaths in the region. This was followed by the City of Manila and City of Pasig with 1.96 thousand (15.1% share) and 1.47 thousand (11.3%) COVID-19 deaths, respectively. (Table 3 and Figure 3)

CSM

Figure 3. COVID-19 Deaths in NCR, Jan to Dec 2020^(P)
(as of 17 June 2021)



DSM

DENNIS S. MAPA, Ph.D.

Undersecretary

National Statistician and Civil Registrar General

DNSLM/MBG/ATR

Attachments:

1. Table 1. Number of Registered Deaths, Percent Share, and Ranks by 50 Leading Cause of Death, Philippines: 2019-2020^(P) (as of 17 June 2021)
2. Table 2. Number of Registered Deaths Due to COVID-19 by Region of Usual Place of Residence: 2020^(P) (Preliminary, as of 17 June 2021)
3. Table 3. Number of Registered Deaths Due to COVID-19 in NCR, by City/Municipality of Usual Residence: 2020^(P) (Preliminary, as of 17 June 2021)
4. Table 4. Average Number of Registered Deaths from 2015-2019 and Number of Registered Deaths by Causes, Philippines: 2015-2020^(P) (as of 17 June 2021)

Table 1. Number of Registered Deaths, Percent Share, and Ranks
by 50 Leading Cause of Death, Philippines: 2019-2020^(P)
(as of 17 June 2021)

Cause of Death (Mortality Tabulation List 1)	2020 ^P			2019			Percent Change
	Number	Share (%)	Rank	Number	Share (%)	Rank	
Total	613,035	100.0		620,414	100.0		1.2
1-067 Ischaemic heart diseases	105,114	17.1	1	97,475	15.7	1	7.8
1-026 Neoplasms	66,179	10.8	2	68,657	11.1	2	-3.6
1-069 Cerebrovascular diseases	64,104	10.5	3	63,548	10.2	3	0.9
1-052 Diabetes Mellitus	39,723	6.5	4	34,570	5.6	5	14.9
1-074 Pneumonia	34,251	5.6	5	62,719	10.1	4	-45.4
1-066 Hypertensive diseases	31,610	5.2	6	27,764	4.5	6	13.9
COVID-19 Virus not identified U07.2	20,840	3.4	7				
1-068 Other heart diseases	20,575	3.4	8	20,416	3.3	9	0.8
1-076 Chronic lower respiratory infections	20,553	3.4	9	26,576	4.3	7	-22.7
1-086 Remainder of diseases of the genitourinary system	18,483	3.0	10	17,215	2.8	10	7.4
1-005 Respiratory tuberculosis	18,410	3.0	11	22,568	3.6	8	-18.4
1-080 Diseases of the liver	9,810	1.6	12	10,359	1.7	14	-5.3
1-092 Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	9,535	1.6	13	11,260	1.8	12	-15.3
COVID-19 Virus identified U07.1	9,300	1.5	14				
1-103 All other external causes	9,276	1.5	15	10,997	1.8	13	-15.6
1-081 Remainder of diseases of the digestive system	9,186	1.5	16	9,369	1.5	15	-2.0
1-096 Transport accidents	8,699	1.4	17	12,799	2.1	11	-32.0
1-054 Remainder of endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	7,626	1.2	18	7,052	1.1	18	8.1
1-102 Assault	6,775	1.1	19	8,831	1.4	16	-23.3
1-061 Remainder of diseases of the nervous system	6,703	1.1	20	8,232	1.3	17	-18.6
1-079 Gastric and duodenal ulcer	5,537	0.9	21	5,437	0.9	22	1.8
1-077 Remainder of diseases of the respiratory system	5,214	0.9	22	6,459	1.0	19	-19.3
1-012 Septicaemia	4,761	0.8	23	6,173	1.0	20	-22.9
1-093 Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	4,718	0.8	24	5,912	1.0	21	-20.2
1-101 Intentional self-harm	4,418	0.7	25	2,808	0.5	31	57.3
1-083 Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	4,398	0.7	26	4,358	0.7	23	0.9
1-053 Malnutrition	4,213	0.7	27	3,827	0.6	24	10.1
1-082 Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	3,625	0.6	28	3,718	0.6	25	-2.5
1-097 Falls	3,473	0.6	29	3,144	0.5	30	10.5
1-049 Anaemias	3,277	0.5	30	3,344	0.5	27	-2.0
1-085 Glomerular and renal tubulo-interstitial diseases	3,101	0.5	31	3,388	0.5	26	-8.5
1-098 Accidental drowning and submersion	2,753	0.4	32	3,295	0.5	29	-16.4
1-003 Diarrhea and gastroenteritis of presumed infectious origin	2,699	0.4	33	3,335	0.5	28	-19.1
1-065 Acute rheumatic fever and chronic rheumatic heart diseases	1,802	0.3	34	2,272	0.4	33	-20.7
1-071 Remainder of diseases of the circulatory system	1,652	0.3	35	1,904	0.3	35	-13.2
1-025 Remainder of certain infectious and parasitic diseases	1,558	0.3	36	2,049	0.3	34	-24.0
1-089 Other direct obstetric deaths	1,501	0.2	37	1,122	0.2	37	33.8
1-006 Other tuberculosis	1,020	0.2	38	1,309	0.2	36	-22.1
1-017 Other arthropod-borne viral fevers and viral haemorrhagic fevers	1,016	0.2	39	2,778	0.4	32	-63.4
1-057 Remainder of mental and behavioral disorders	960	0.2	40	719	0.1	44	33.5
1-020 Human immunodeficiency virus [HIV]	916	0.1	41	878	0.1	41	4.3
1-050 Remainder of diseases of the blood and blood forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism	907	0.1	42	995	0.2	40	-8.8
1-019 Viral hepatitis	898	0.1	43	1,061	0.2	39	-15.4
1-060 Alzheimer's disease	893	0.1	44	855	0.1	42	4.4
1-059 Meningitis	686	0.1	45	1,094	0.2	38	-37.3
1-100 Accidental poisoning by and exposure to noxious substances	622	0.1	46	640	0.1	45	-2.8
1-008 Tetanus	495	0.1	47	516	0.1	46	-4.1
1-004 Other intestinal infectious diseases	413	0.1	48	432	0.1	48	-4.4
1-056 Mental and behavioral disorder due to psychoactive substance use	352	0.1	49	367	0.1	50	-4.1
1-070 Atherosclerosis	339	0.1	50	246	0.0	52	37.8
Other causes of death	28,066	4.6		25,572	4.1		9.8

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

Table 2. Number of Registered Deaths Due to COVID-19 by Region
of Usual Place of Residence: 2020^(P)
(as of 17 June 2021)

Region	Usual Residence	
	Number	Share (%)
TOTAL	30,140	100.0
National Capital Region (NCR)	13,004	43.1
Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)	169	0.6
Region I - Ilocos Region	757	2.5
Region II - Cagayan Valley	189	0.6
Region III - Central Luzon	2,692	8.9
Region IV-A - CALABARZON	7,001	23.2
MIMAROPA Region	183	0.6
Region V - Bicol	306	1.0
Region VI - Western Visayas	1,138	3.8
Region VII - Central Visayas	2,362	7.8
Region VIII - Eastern Visayas	193	0.6
Region IX - Zamboanga Peninsula	388	1.3
Region X - Northern Mindanao	363	1.2
Region XI - Davao	786	2.6
Region XII - SOCCSKSARGEN	226	0.7
Region XIII - Caraga	306	1.0
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)	52	0.2
Foreign Countries	25	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)

^(P) - Preliminary

Table 3. Number of Registered Deaths Due to COVID-19 in NCR,
by City/Municipality of Usual Residence: 2020^(p)
(as of 17 June 2021)

Region/City/Municipality	Number	Share (%)
PHILIPPINES	30,140	
National Capital Region (NCR)	13,004	43.1
City of Manila	1,961	15.1
City of Mandaluyong	376	2.9
City of Marikina	415	3.2
City of Pasig	1,465	11.3
Quezon City	2,637	20.3
City of San Juan	201	1.5
City of Caloocan	945	7.3
City of Malabon	352	2.7
City of Navotas	304	2.3
City of Valenzuela	656	5.0
City of Las Piñas	604	4.6
City of Makati	995	7.7
City of Muntinlupa	542	4.2
City of Parañaque	396	3.0
Pasay City	347	2.7
City of Taguig	726	5.6
Pateros	82	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)

^(p) - Preliminary

CSF