

## 2,600 excess deaths in July 2022, 16% more than predicted: Actuaries Institute

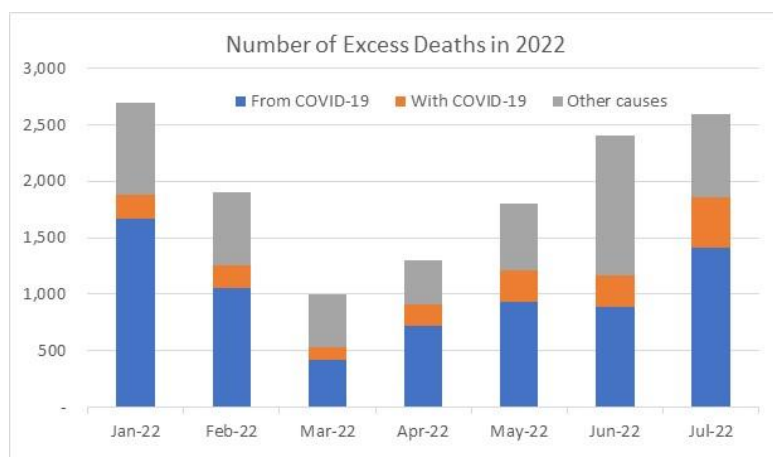
3 November 2022

- **Excess mortality for July 2022 was 16% (+2,600 deaths).**
- **Excess mortality for the first seven months of 2022 was 14% (+13,700 deaths), more than half (+7,100) due to COVID-19.**
- **COVID-19 expected to be the third leading cause of death in 2022, behind dementia and ischaemic heart disease.**
- **October 2022 has the lowest COVID-19 surveillance deaths of any month in 2022.**

Excess deaths for the first seven months of 2022 were +13,700, or 14% more than predicted, according to the Actuaries Institute. In the month of July, excess deaths were 16% more than predicted.

Applying their model to Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data released last Thursday (27 October), the Institute's COVID-19 Mortality Working Group estimates that around half of the 'excess deaths' during those seven months were due to COVID-19 ('from COVID-19'). A further 1,700 deaths were in people who had COVID-19 listed as a contributory cause of death ('with COVID-19').

The graph below shows the breakdown of excess deaths in the first seven months of 2022 into those from COVID-19, with COVID-19, and where COVID-19 does not appear on the death certificate.



There are multiple factors potentially causing the 'non-COVID-19' excess deaths over this period including: post-COVID-19 sequelae (conditions arising from COVID); delayed deaths from other causes; delays in emergency care; delays in routine care; and increased use of drugs and alcohol.

"Different factors may be more or less pronounced at various times," said Karen Cutter, spokesperson for the Actuaries Institute's COVID-19 Mortality Working Group. "It isn't possible to identify from the data whether any or all of these issues are causing the non-COVID-19 excess deaths."

The 'excess deaths' due to causes other than COVID-19 for the first seven months of 2022 include:

- ischaemic heart disease (1,200 more deaths than expected);
- cerebrovascular disease (450 more);
- diabetes (400 more);
- dementia (800 more);
- doctor-certified deaths due to causes not specified by the ABS (2,800 more); and
- coroner-referred deaths (800 more).



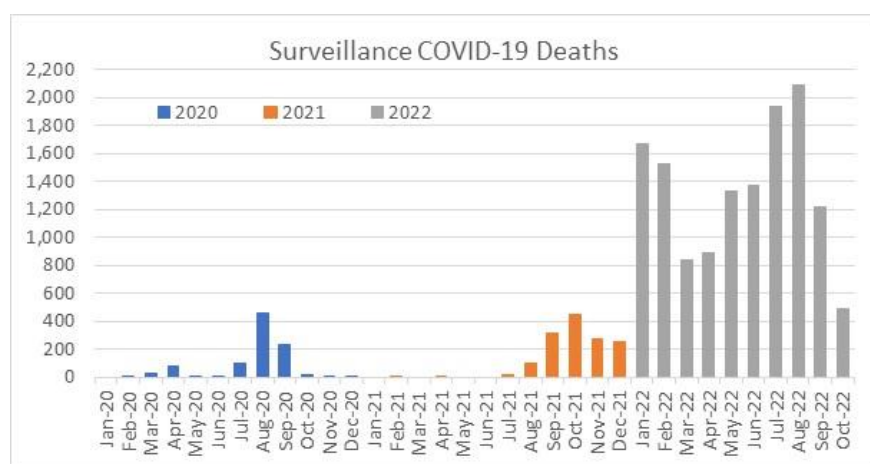
At an estimated 9,800 deaths to the end of October 2022, COVID-19 is predicted to be the third leading cause of death for 2022.

The COVID-19 Mortality Working Group releases detailed modelling each month, covering:

1. 'Excess deaths' from all causes, based on the latest release of comprehensive mortality data from the ABS. The latest release covered the period to July 2022. Excess deaths are the deaths above what would have been expected without the pandemic; and
2. The most up-to-date figures from State and Territory health department daily surveillance reports, but which are less comprehensive than the ABS data.

According to daily surveillance reports from State and Territory health departments, there were around 13,350 COVID-19 deaths in the first ten months of 2022. Reported deaths in the month of October were the lowest for 2022.

Adjusting the surveillance deaths to remove deaths 'with' COVID, the Actuaries Institute estimates that around 9,800 of these deaths were 'from' COVID-19.



The latest [Actuaries Digital](#) article on COVID-19 mortality can be found [here](#).

Karen Cutter is available for interview.

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