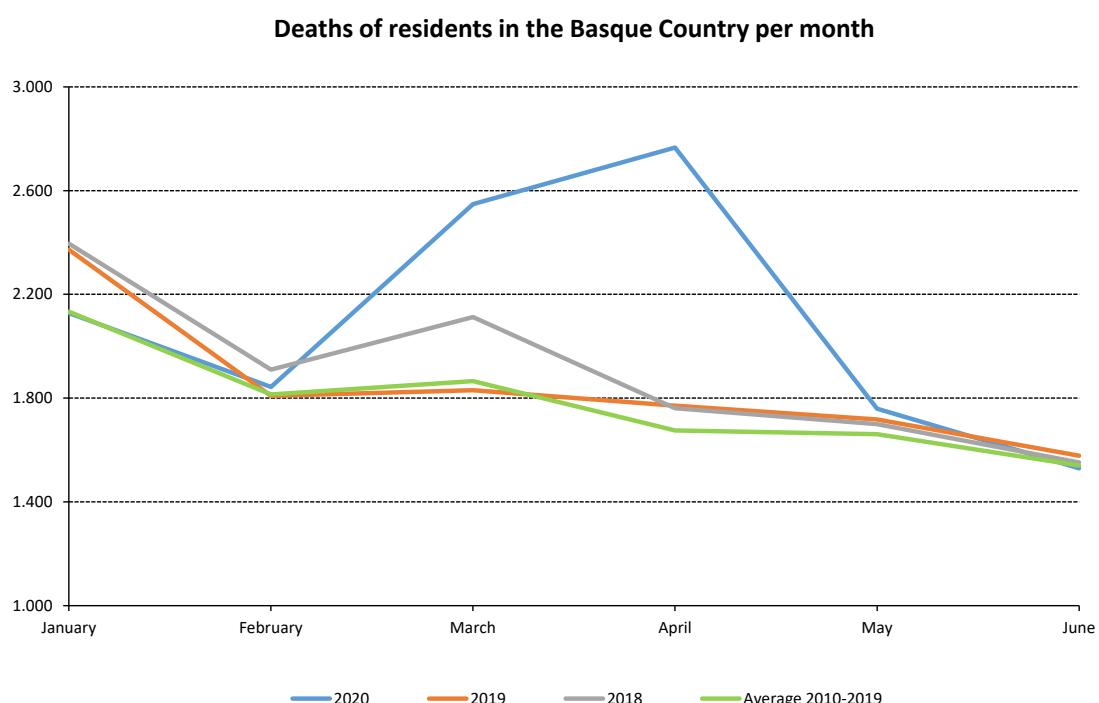


Deaths increased by 19.5% in the second quarter of 2020 in the Basque Country due to COVID-19

This was an increase of 24.2% compared to the average for the last 10 years

In the second quarter of 2020 the number of deaths in the Basque Country stood at 6,054, 19.5% more than the same period of the previous year, according to Eustat data. In the first quarter there were 987 more deaths compared to the same quarter of the previous year and 1,178 more than the average for the previous 10 years.



Source: Eustat. Death Statistics

In Bizkaia, the increase reached 20.9%, while it was 19.1% in Álava and 16.9% in Gipuzkoa. By sex, 2,910 men and 3,144 women died, which was an increase of 13.2% for men and 26% for women.

Amongst the deaths that occurred in this first quarter, 7 corresponded to children under 1 year of age and 90 to centenarians.

The main causes of death were tumours and circulatory system diseases, which caused the deaths of 1,457 and 1,284 individuals, respectively, which means that together they accounted for 45.3% of deaths. As a third cause of death was COVID-19, with 1,218 cases (20.1%).

Deaths caused by respiratory diseases fell by 35.9% compared to the same quarter of the previous year. Deaths due to diseases of the nervous system totalled 349, which was a drop of 1.7% compared to the same quarter of the previous year and of 11.9% compared to the fourth quarter of 2019. There were 227 deaths as a result of digestive diseases, 2.6% down on the same period of the previous year.

The causes of the deaths still varied according to gender: among men, tumours were the leading cause of death (29.5%) and, among women, it was diseases of the circulatory system (22.5%). The latter were the second cause (19.8%) for men, while for women it was COVID-19 (21%).

Population growth in the Basque Country in the first quarter of 2020 was negative, with a population decrease of 2,470. The population decreased in the three provinces: by 1,698 people in Bizkaia, 577 in Gipuzkoa and 195 in Álava.

There were 1,218 deaths as a result of COVID-19 in the second quarter of 2020

In the second quarter of 2020, 1,218 deaths were caused by COVID-19, equal to 20.1% of the total. They fall into 2 groups: 1,034 confirmed COVID-19 deaths and 184 probable COVID-19 deaths; there were a further 160 deaths in which COVID-19 was among the certified causes of death, but without being the main cause.

Deaths by COVID-19 according to province and municipality (>40,000 inhabitants) of residence

	Total	COVID-19 confirmed	COVID-19 likely
Basque country	1.218	1.034	184
Provinces of residence			
Araba/Álava	214	185	29
Bizkaia	741	625	116
Gipuzkoa	263	224	39
Municipality of residence (>40,000 inhabitants)			
Barakaldo	88	71	17
Basauri	46	40	6
Bilbao	287	249	38
Donostia / San Sebastián	55	46	9
Erreteria	11	8	3
Getxo	34	25	9
Irún	10	6	4
Portugalete	17	14	3
Santurtzi	23	20	3
Vitoria-Gasteiz	175	154	21

Source: Eustat. Death Statistics

By province, the highest figure corresponded to Bizkaia, with 741, followed by Gipuzkoa with 263 and Álava with 214. As regards the capitals, Bilbao stands out with 287 deaths caused by COVID-19, followed by Vitoria-Gasteiz with 175 and Donostia/San Sebastián with 55. Barakaldo also stood out, with 88 deaths.

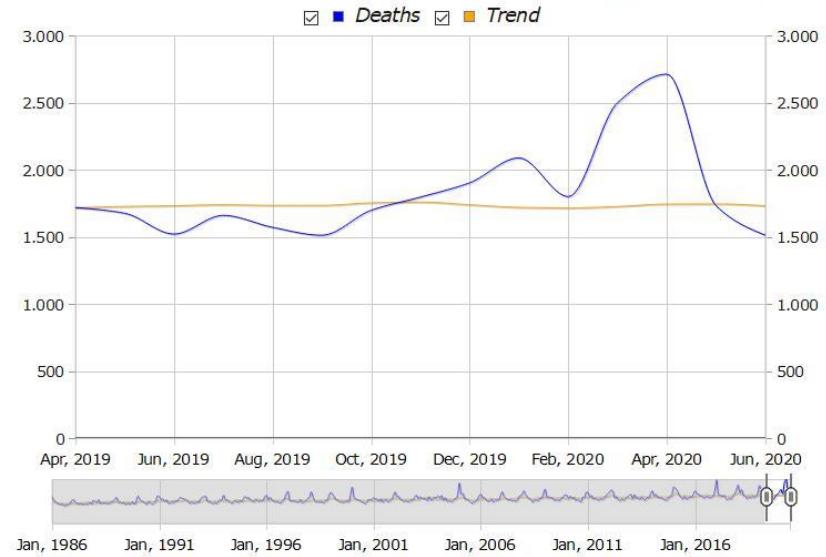
The number deaths of women (662) exceeded that of men (556), while in terms of age, it is worth noting that 75.4% of the deaths caused by COVID-19 occurred among those over 80 years of age and 22.3% among people aged between 60 and 80.

The majority of these deaths occurred in Basque hospitals (55.1%), followed by residential care homes (38.9%), at home (4.2%) or other locations (1.8%).

In the first six months of 2020 overall, there were a total of 1,720 deaths due to COVID-19. Of these, 1,463 were confirmed by a specific analysis, while 257 were diagnosed as likely cases of COVID-19. Most of these deaths occurred in the months of March (502) and April (1,048), falling to 147 in May and almost disappearing in June (23).

It should be pointed out that COVID-19 was present in a further 206 individuals who died in these same months, but it was not the main cause of death according to the death certificates and applying the World Health Organisation criteria for coding causes of death.

Deaths of residents in the Basque Country. Monthly data



Deaths by sex and cause of death (1)

	Trimestre actual II/2020		Previous quarter (I/2020)		Same quarter of the previous year (II/2019)	
	N.	%	N.	%	N.	%
DEATHS	6.054	100,0	6.519	100,0	5.067	100,0
Araba / Álava	803	13,3	967	14,8	674	13,3
Bizkaia	3.449	57,0	3.580	54,9	2.852	56,3
Gipuzkoa	1.802	29,8	1.972	30,3	1.541	30,4
Males	2.910	48,1	3.242	49,7	2.571	50,7
<1 year	4	0,1	7	0,1	6	0,1
1-19 year	5	0,1	4	0,1	7	0,1
20-39 year	28	0,5	34	0,5	35	0,7
40-59 year	219	3,6	246	3,8	216	4,3
60-79 year	1.054	17,4	1.134	17,4	918	18,1
80-99 year	1.589	26,2	1.808	27,7	1.379	27,2
≥ 100 year	11	0,2	9	0,1	10	0,2
Females	3.144	51,9	3.277	50,3	2.496	49,3
<1 year	3	0,0	6	0,1	6	0,1
1-19 year	3	0,0	3	0,0	5	0,1
20-39 year	11	0,2	19	0,3	6	0,1
40-59 year	138	2,3	150	2,3	128	2,5
60-79 year	558	9,2	628	9,6	462	9,1
80-99 year	2.352	38,9	2.402	36,8	1.845	36,4
≥ 100 year	79	1,3	69	1,1	44	0,9
CAUSE OF DEATH						
TOTAL	6.054	100	6.519	100	5.067	100
Tumours	1.457	24,1	1.667	25,6	1.529	30,2
Circulatory system	1.284	21,2	1.517	23,3	1.330	26,2
Respiratory system	275	4,5	699	10,7	429	8,5
Nervous system	349	5,8	396	6,1	355	7,0
Digestive system	227	3,7	252	3,9	233	4,6
Other causes (*)	2.462	41	1.988	30	1.191	24
MALES	2.910	100	3.242	100	2.571	100
Tumours	859	29,5	1.003	30,9	928	36,1
Circulatory system	577	19,8	691	21,3	656	25,5
Respiratory system	132	4,5	366	11,3	227	8,8
Nervous system	122	4,2	159	4,9	132	5,1
Digestive system	111	3,8	134	4,1	132	5,1
Other causes (*)	1.109	38,1	889	27,4	496	19,3
FEMALES	3.144	100	3.277	100	2.496	100
Tumours	598	19,0	664	20,3	601	24,1
Circulatory system	707	22,5	826	25,2	674	27,0
Respiratory system	143	4,5	333	10,2	202	8,1
Nervous system	227	7,2	237	7,2	223	8,9
Digestive system	116	3,7	118	3,6	101	4,0
Other causes(*)	1.353	43,0	1.099	33,5	695	27,8

(1) For the current quarter and the previous data are provisional

(*) Includes COVID-19 deaths

Source: Eustat. Death Statistics

Methodological note: Death records of residents included in the civil registers of the Basque Country and elsewhere were used, provided that they were residents.

For further information:

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