

Deaths in the Basque Country fell by 4.8% in 2021

In 2021, 1,682 deaths were caused by COVID-19, 45.7% less than the previous year

The number of deaths in the Basque Country was 23,073 in 2021, a decrease of 4.8% compared to 2020, according to Eustat data. By province, the sharpest drop was in Álava, with a 9.1% decrease, followed by Bizkaia at 5.7% and Gipuzkoa at 1.6%.

COVID-19 was the main cause of 7.3% of deaths in 2021 (1,682 deaths), 45.7% less than those recorded in 2020.

Deaths of the Basque Country by provinces, municipality (>40,000 hab.) of residence, sex and age. 2020-2021

	2020	2021	Increase (%)
Basque Country	24.247	23.073	-4,8
Historic Territories of Residence			
Araba/Álava	3.266	2.970	-9,1
Bizkaia	13.243	12.486	-5,7
Gipuzkoa	7.738	7.617	-1,6
Municipality of residence (>40,000 inhabitants)			
Barakaldo	1.272	1.183	-7,0
Basauri	552	478	-13,4
Bilbao	4.512	4.044	-10,4
Donostia / San Sebastian	2.174	2.067	-4,9
Getxo	791	780	-1,4
Irun	642	658	2,5
Portugalete	584	585	0,2
Santurtzi	549	533	-2,9
Vitoria-Gasteiz	2.439	2.182	-10,5
Sex			
Man			
Woman	12.056	11.565	-4,1
	12.191	11.508	-5,6
Age			
Aged under 40	247	223	-9,7
From 40 to 59 years	1.544	1.556	0,8
From 60 to 79 years	6.693	6.448	-3,7
80 or older	15.763	14.846	-5,8

Source: Eustat. Death statistics

The average age of people who died was 81 years old

Considering the total number of deaths in 2021, there were 11,565 male deaths and 11,508 female deaths. The average age of people who died in 2021 was 81 years of age, whereas ten years previously, in 2011, the figure stood at 78.2, meaning that the average age has risen by 2.8 years over the course of the last decade.

The average age at death amongst men in 2021 was 78, whilst the average age amongst women stood at 84. In 2011, the average ages were 74.8 and 81.8, respectively. Thus, over the course of the last 10 years, the average age at death of men has increased by 3.2 years, and that of women by 2.2 years.

As regards child mortality, there were 35 deaths of children under one year of age in the Basque Country. Mortality amongst newborns, occurring within the first 28 days of life, registered 22 deaths, 3 of which were during the first 24 hours and another 13 in the first week. Within deaths amongst children below the age of 1, boys accounted for 60% of the total.

In 2021, 421 people died at the age of 100 or over (born in 1921 or before), of which 83.1% were women. The number of deaths amongst centenarians has increased by 12 in relation to 2020.

27.1% of deaths were due to tumours

27.1% of deaths that occurred in 2021 (6,243 deaths) were due to tumours, followed by circulatory system diseases, at 25.6% (5,915 deaths), and lastly, mental and behavioural disorders, at 7.6% (1,763).

The cause of death continued to vary according to sex: amongst men, tumours caused more deaths than diseases of the circulatory system, whilst amongst women, the main cause of death was cardiovascular disease, followed by tumours. It is also worth noting that there was a higher percentage of women among deaths caused by mental and behavioural disorders, in contrast to that which occurred with those attributable to external causes, where there was a higher percentage of men.

Furthermore, the cause of death varied in accordance with age. Amongst those aged under one, the most frequent causes of death were illnesses originating in the perinatal period and congenital malformations; amongst those aged from 1 to 39, the majority of deaths were attributable to external causes, including accidents and suicides; amongst those aged between 40 and 79, tumours were the highest cause of death, whilst amongst those aged 80 years or over, it was diseases of the circulatory system.

Deaths of the Basque Country by cause of death and age. 2021

	Total	Under 1 years	1 - 19 years	20 - 39 years	From 40 to 59 years	From 60 to 79 years	80 or older
Total	23.073	35	44	144	1.556	6.448	14.846
I.Ciertas certain infectious and parasitic diseases	309	-	-	3	22	72	212
II.Tumors	6.243	2	12	39	718	2.899	2.573
III.Enfermedades Blood and hematopoietic organ diseases, and certain disorders that affect the immunity mechanism	117	1	2	-	3	18	93
IV.Enfermedades endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	710	1	2	1	30	157	519
V.Trastornos mental and behavioural disorders	1.763	-	1	-	15	197	1.550
VI.Enfermedades Illnesses of the nervous system	1.409	1	7	8	70	347	976
IX.Enfermedades Illnesses of the circulatory system	5.915	1	2	11	264	1.240	4.397
X.Enfermedades Illnesses of the respiratory system	1.348	3	-	1	43	291	1.010
XI.Enfermedades Diseases of the digestive system	1.078	-	-	5	98	271	704
XII.Enfermedades skin and subcutaneous tissue diseases	121	-	-	-	1	18	102
XIII.Enfermedades Diseases of the osteo-muscular system and the conjunctive tissue	297	-	-	-	3	28	266
XIV.Illnesses of the genitourinary system	723	-	-	-	10	111	602
Pregnancy, birth and puerperium	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
XVI.Certain affections originating in the perinatal period	17	16	1	-	-	-	-
XVII.Congenital malformations, deformities and chromosomic anomalies	53	8	5	6	16	12	6
XVIII.Symptoms, abnormal clinical signs and laboratory findings	590	1	-	1	12	50	526
XX.External mortality causes	698	1	12	63	169	172	281
COVID-19 confirmed	1650	-	-	6	81	559	1.004
COVID-19 probable	32	-	-	-	1	6	25

Date July 26, 2022

Source: Eustat. Death statistics

The COVID-19 virus was the cause of 7.3% of deaths

In 2021 overall, there were 1,682 deaths where COVID-19 was the main cause, 7.3% of the total. These deaths were classified into 2 groups: those due to COVID-19 confirmed by a specific analysis, of which there were 1,650, and deaths probably due to COVID-19, which were cases not confirmed by analysis but where COVID-19 was the main cause of death on the medical report, of which there were 32. Deaths resulting from this cause were down 45.7% on those recorded in 2020.

Deaths of the Basque Country by provinces, municipality (>40,000 hab.) of residence, sex and age according to causes of death related to COVID-19. 2021

	Total deaths	Total COVID-19	COVID-19 confirmed	COVID-19 probable
Basque Country	23.073	1.682	1.650	32
Historic Territories of Residence				
Araba/Álava	2.970	198	192	6
Bizkaia	12.486	942	921	21
Gipuzkoa	7.617	542	537	5
Municipality of residence (>40,000 inhabitants)				
Barakaldo	1.183	61	60	1
Basauri	478	22	22	0
Bilbao	4.044	379	366	13
Donostia / San Sebastian	2.067	129	128	1
Getxo	780	73	71	2
Irun	658	49	49	0
Portugalete	585	29	28	1
Santurtzi	533	37	37	0
Vitoria-Gasteiz	2.182	154	149	5
Sex				
Man				
Woman	11.565	925	910	15
	11.508	757	740	17
Age				
Aged under 40	223	6	6	0
From 40 to 59 years	1.556	82	81	1
From 60 to 79 years	6.448	565	559	6
80 or older	14.846	1.029	1.004	25

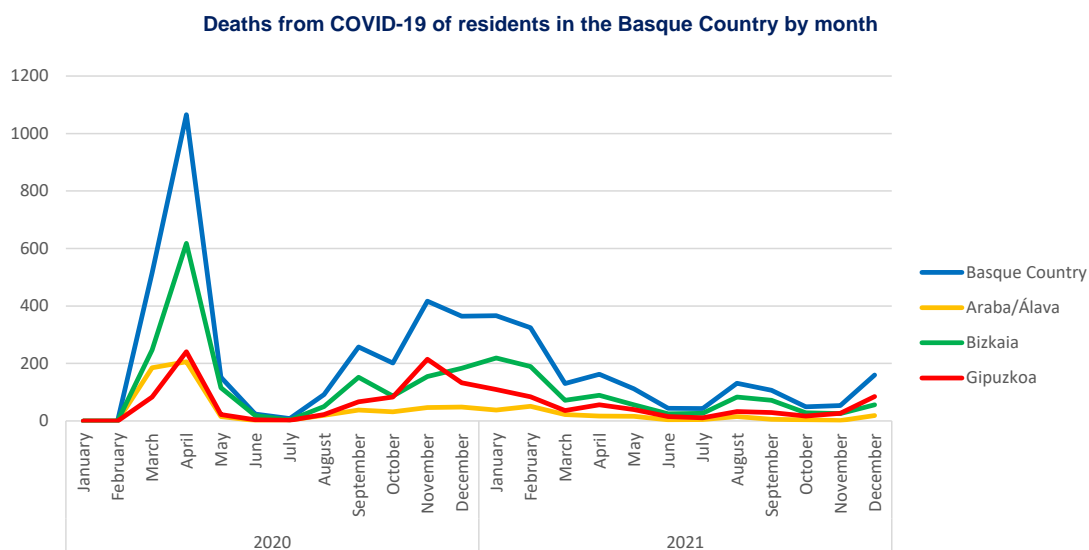
Source: Eustat. Death statistics

By province, Bizkaia had the highest number of deaths due to COVID-19 (942), followed by Gipuzkoa (542) and Álava (198). Considering these deaths in terms of percentages, in Bizkaia the percentage of deaths caused by COVID-19 amounts to 7.5% of the total, in Gipuzkoa, 7.1% and in Álava, 6.7%. As regards the capitals, Bilbao stood out with 379 deaths caused by COVID-19 (9.4%), followed by Vitoria-Gasteiz with 154 (7.1%) and San Sebastián with 129 (6.2%). Numbers were also notable in Getxo and Barakaldo, with 73 (9.4%) and 61 (5.2%) COVID-19 deaths, respectively.

The number of men who died due to COVID-19 was higher than that of women: 925 men compared to 757 women. In terms of age, 61.2% of deaths caused by COVID-19 corresponded to people over 80 years old.

By months, January was the month with the most COVID-19 deaths (366), followed by February (324), and an increase in deaths as a result of this cause can be observed in April, August and December.

There were a further 160 deaths in which COVID-19 was among the certified causes of death, but without being the main cause.



Source: Eustat. Death Statistics

Population growth was negative in the three provinces

Population growth was negative, as there were 8,816 more deaths than births. There were negative balances in the three provinces: in Bizkaia it was 5,529 people, in Gipuzkoa it was 2,685, and in Álava 602. Compared to last year, this negative balance was lower, standing at 7.3%, due to the decrease in deaths caused by COVID-19.

For further information:

Eustat - Euskal Estatistika Erakundea / Basque Statistics Institute
C/ Donostia-San Sebastián, 1 01010 Vitoria-Gasteiz
Press service: servicioprensa@eustat.es Tel.: 945 01 75 62