



COVID-19 Alert No. 4

April 29, 2020

On Wednesday (April 29), NCHS will be releasing estimates of excess deaths related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Excess deaths are calculated by comparing observed counts of deaths from all causes with historical trends to determine whether the number of deaths is significantly higher than expected. These estimates will be released under the Vital Statistics Rapid Release (VSRR) program as an interactive data visualization, as part of the ongoing COVID-19 surveillance activities. On Wednesday, the visualization will be available from the [VSRR Provisional Death Counts for Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\)](#) page and directly at https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/covid19/excess_deaths.htm. It is anticipated that estimates will be updated on a weekly basis. Future releases will include additional information on excess deaths by select causes of death.

Predicted counts of excess deaths are provided for the US and for all 50 states, District of Columbia and New York City. We plan to add Puerto Rico with next week's update. Provisional counts of deaths are weighted to account for reporting delays, and this release includes both predicted (weighted) and reported (unweighted) estimates. Deaths in this report are classified by the reporting jurisdiction in which the death occurred, and include foreign residents. Numbers of deaths in this report may not match final reported data, which are reported by the jurisdiction of residence and are limited to US residents. Numbers may also not match other sources of data on COVID-19 related excess mortality due to differences in completeness, COVID-19 definitions used, data processing, and imputation of missing dates.

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