

# COVID-19 Deaths Across Time

Comparison of US Deaths in 2022 with  
Previous Years, by Age and Race Cohort

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**The Menges Group**

Strategic Health Policy & Care Coordination Consulting

# Overview

This edition analyzes COVID death trends from the onset of the pandemic through September 2022. Key findings include:

- Monthly COVID deaths averaged approximately 42,000 during 2020, 39,000 during 2021, and a much lower (but still concerning) 23,000 during 2022.
- Across the entirety of the pandemic, the USA has experienced 1.36 million “excess deaths” (beyond those expected if the 2019 death rate had continued to occur). We continue to experience an unusually high volume of overall deaths during 2022. During each year of the pandemic, COVID-attributed deaths have not fully accounted for all excess deaths.
- The age distribution of COVID deaths has fluctuated. Persons 65+ accounted for 81% of COVID deaths during 2020, 69% during 2021, and 78% during 2022.
- A person age 85+ is **740 times** more likely to die from COVID during 2022 than a person below age 30.
- During 2020, the Black death rate (COVID deaths per population) was 17% above the White rate. This has since reversed – during 2022 the White death rate is 32% above the Black death rate.

# Monthly COVID Deaths by Year

- Monthly COVID-19 deaths in the USA averaged approximately 42,000 during 2020 and 39,000 during 2021. These deaths have fallen to approximately 23,000 per month thus far during 2022.
- While the large drop-off is encouraging, this year's COVID death rate is still more than half of the death rate the US experienced during 2020 and 2021.
- COVID attributed deaths represent approximately 12% of all USA deaths since the beginning of the pandemic, with this percentage being lowest (8.7%) during the first 9 months of 2022.

Timeframe	Average Monthly COVID Deaths	Average Monthly Total Deaths	COVID Deaths as % of All Deaths
2019 (pre-COVID reference year)	-	237,903	0.0%
2020 (April - December)	42,051	290,067	14.5%
2021 (January - December)	38,601	289,316	13.3%
2022 (January - September)	23,250	268,308	8.7%
<b>COVID Total (30 Months)</b>	<b>35,031</b>	<b>283,239</b>	<b>12.4%</b>

# COVID's Direct Role in Country's Excess Deaths in Recent Years

- During 2019, the USA averaged 237,903 overall deaths per month. This figure increased to approximately 290,000 from April 2020 through December 2021. The monthly figure thus far during 2022, 268,308, is still well above the pre-COVID monthly death rate.

Timeframe	Overall Excess Deaths	COVID Deaths	Excess Deaths Above COVID Deaths	COVID Deaths as % of All Excess Deaths
2020 (April - December)	469,476	378,461	91,015	81%
2021 (January - December)	616,952	463,206	153,746	75%
2022 (January - September)	273,644	209,250	64,394	76%
<b>COVID Total (30 Months)</b>	<b>1,360,071</b>	<b>1,050,917</b>	<b>309,154</b>	<b>77%</b>

- Based on the above figures, across the COVID era, more than 1.3 million “excess deaths” have occurred in the USA. This figure is larger, by approximately 300,000, than the number of COVID-attributed deaths.

- The cause of the additional, non-COVID deaths will be important to ascertain. COVID could have indirectly contributed to many of these deaths, such as through persons avoiding or delaying needed health care services.

# Age Mix of COVID Deaths Trended Younger from 2020-2021, Then Trended Older Again This Year

- Less than 1% of all COVID deaths have occurred in the 0-29 age cohort throughout the pandemic.
- Persons in the 30-64 age group represented 19% of COVID deaths during 2020, 30% during 2021, and 21% during 2022.
- Persons 85+ represented 32% of COVID deaths during 2020, 21% during 2021, and 28% during 2022.

Percentage Distribution of COVID Deaths by Age Cohort			
Age Cohort	2020 (Apr-Dec)	CY2021	2022 (Jan-Sep)
0-29	0.4%	1.0%	0.8%
30-64	18.6%	30.4%	21.3%
65-84	48.9%	48.0%	49.5%
85+	32.0%	20.6%	28.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

# Additional Age Cohort Analyses of COVID Deaths

- A person age 85+ is **740 times** more likely to die from COVID during 2022 than a person below age 30.
- COVID death rates during 2022 within each age cohort are approximately one-third the 2021 rate – with the exception of the 85+ cohort where the death rate has dropped considerably but “only” by 38% (versus 63% to 68% decreases in all the younger age cohorts).

Timeframe	Nationwide Annualized COVID Deaths per 100,000 Population			
	Ages 0-29	Ages 30-64	Ages 65-84	Age 85+
2020 (April - December)	1.3	47	382	2,013
2021 (January - December)	3.6	94	446	1,594
2022 (January - September)	1.3	30	156	993

Timeframe	COVID Deaths as Percentage of All Deaths by Age Cohort and Year			
	Ages 0-29	Ages 30-64	Ages 65-84	Age 85+
2020 (April - December)	2.2%	11.7%	16.0%	15.6%
2021 (January - December)	4.4%	16.2%	14.3%	10.1%
2022 (January - September)	2.4%	8.0%	9.4%	8.7%

- COVID deaths have represented less than 10% of all deaths in every age cohort thus far during CY2022.

# Black Persons Had Highest COVID Death Rates During 2020; White Persons Had Highest Death Rates During 2021 and 2022

- Black persons died from COVID at an annualized rate of 180 per 100,000 residents during April – December of 2020, 17% above the White death rate.
- So far this year, the annualized White death rate, 102 COVID deaths per 100,000 persons, is 32% above the Black death rate and more than double the Hispanic death rate.
- White persons represented 61% of COVID deaths during 2020, closely similar to this group’s 60% share of the overall US population. During 2022, White persons have accounted for a much larger share (73%) of COVID deaths.
- Among the three largest race/ethnicity groups, Hispanic persons have the lowest COVID death rate during 2022. The Hispanic COVID death rate during 2022 is one-third the Hispanic subgroup’s 2020 death rate.

Race/Ethnicity Group	Annualized Deaths Per 100,000 Population		
	CY2020 (April-December)	CY2021 (January-December)	CY2022 (January-September)
Black (non-Hispanic)	180	141	77
Hispanic	151	122	50
White (non-Hispanic)	153	153	102
Other/Unknown	102	83	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>84</b>

Shading denotes cohort with highest death rate in that year.

Percentage of COVID Deaths	CY2020	CY2021	CY2022	% of US Population
Black (non-Hispanic)	15.7%	13.4%	12.2%	13.3%
Hispanic	18.1%	15.9%	10.8%	18.2%
White (non-Hispanic)	60.7%	65.8%	72.6%	60.2%
Other/Unknown	5.6%	4.9%	4.5%	8.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

# Data Sources

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, COVID-19 Response. United States COVID-19 Cases and Deaths by State over Time - ARCHIVED (version date: October 19, 2022)
- U.S. Census Bureau (2021) Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin for the United States: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2021. Retrieved from:

<https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-national-detail.html>



# 5 Slide Series Overview

- Our 5 Slide Series is typically a monthly publication whereby we briefly discuss/address a selected topic outside the confines of our client engagements. The Menges Group has developed a variety of datasets that we use to support our 5 Slide Series and client projects.
- To be added to our list to receive these as they are published, please email us at [pcall@themengesgroup.com](mailto:pcall@themengesgroup.com). If you have questions about the content or data sources we have available, please email us at [jmenges@themengesgroup.com](mailto:jmenges@themengesgroup.com).
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