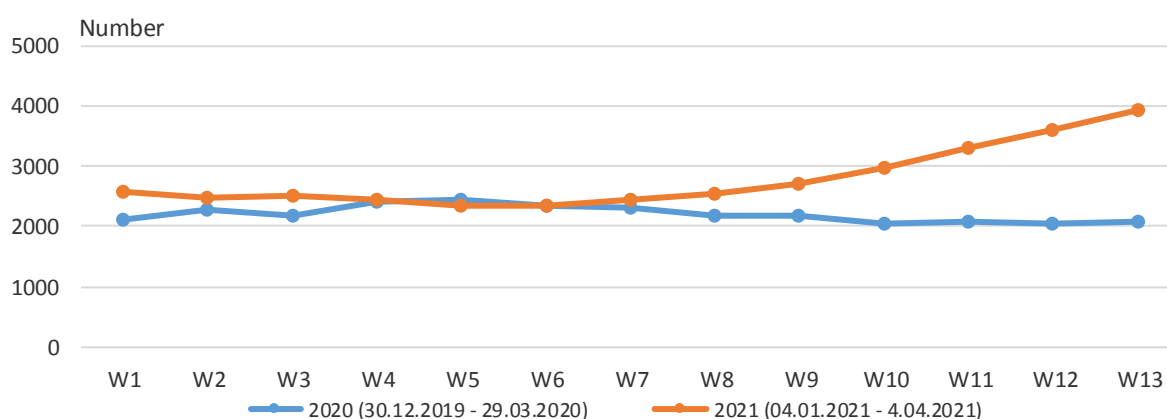


DEATHS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2021 (PRELIMINARY DATA)

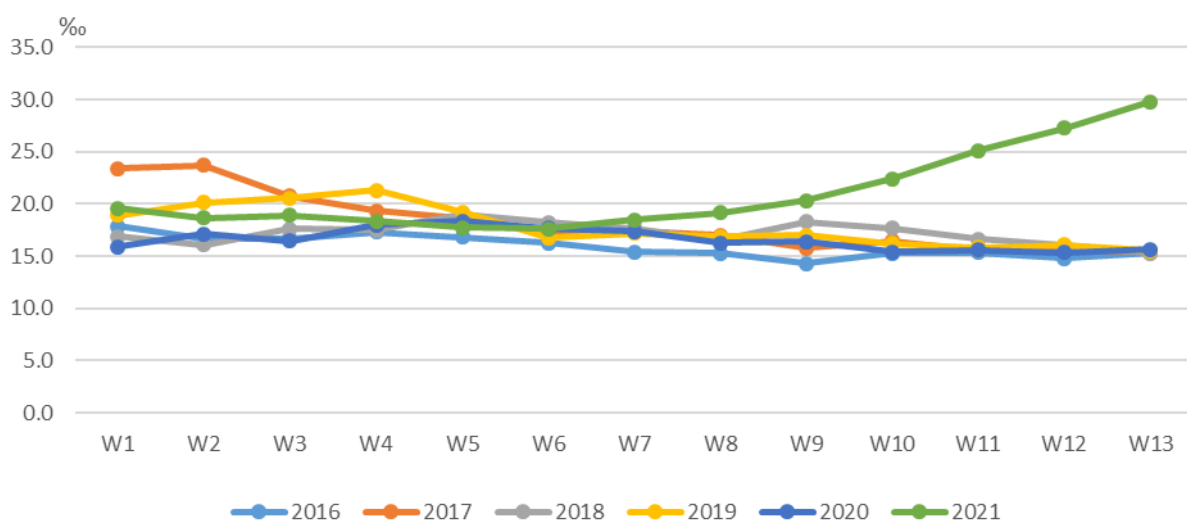
The number of deaths in the first quarter of 2021 (1st – 13th week) is 36 152 and the crude mortality rate - 21.1%. Compared to the same period in the previous year, the number of deaths has increased by 7 491 or 26.1%. Mortality among males (22.9‰) is higher than among females (19.3‰).

Figure 1. Deaths in Bulgaria by weeks in the first quarter of 2020 and 2021 (1st-13th week)



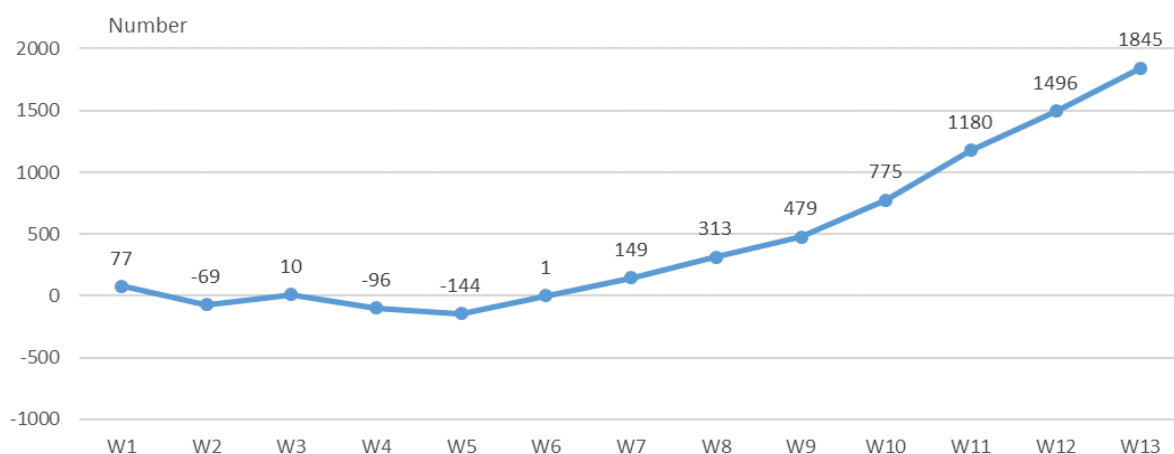
The highest mortality in the first quarter of 2021 was registered in the 13th week (March 29 - April 4) - 3 945, or 29.8 per 1,000 people of the average annual population. This is the highest rate for the first quarter in the period 2016 - 2021. The lowest number of deaths in the first quarter of 2021 was in the 6th week - 2 329 people or 17.6 ‰.

Figure 1. Weekly crude mortality rates in the first quarter of the period 2016 - 2021



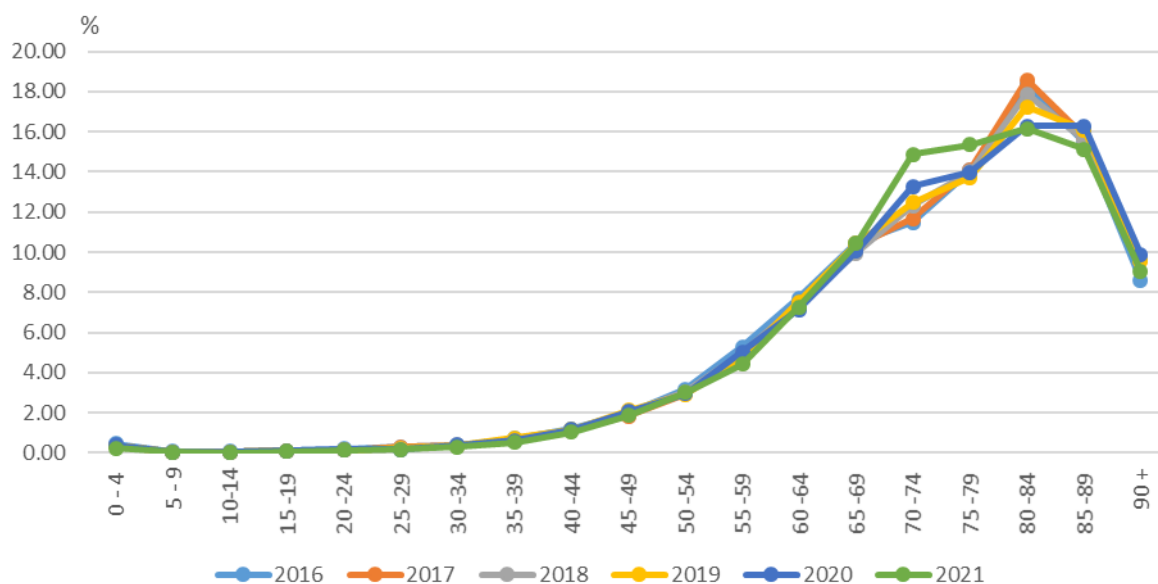
The highest positive number of deaths in the first quarter of 2021 compared to the average for the period 2016 - 2020 is 1 845 cases in 13 weeks, or mortality increased by 88.5% compared to the base period.

Figure 3. Change of the deaths by weeks in 2021 compared to the average deaths for the period 2016 - 2020



In the first quarter of the period 2016 - 2021, the age distribution of the deaths remains the same in the age groups up to 69 years of age. There is an increase in the first thirteen weeks of 2021 in the share of deaths in the age groups from 70 to 79 years and a decrease in the age group over 80 years.

Figure 3. Share of deaths by age in the first quarter of the period 2016 - 2021



There is an increase in the absolute number of deaths in the first quarter of 2021 compared to the same period in 2020 in all districts of the country. The highest growth are in the districts of Kyustendil (41.0%), Pleven (39.7%), Pazardzhik (38.2%), Vratsa (38.0%) and Burgas (37.4%). With the lowest - Targovishte (4.5%), Razgrad (7.5%), Yambol (8.8%) and Gabrovo (9.4%).

Table 1 Deaths in the first quarter of 2020 and 2021 by districts

Districts	2020 (number)	2021 (number)	Deaths growth (number)	Deaths growth %
Total	28661	36152	7491	26.1
Blagoevgrad	1142	1340	198	17.3
Burgas	1445	1985	540	37.4
Varna	1588	2016	428	27.0
Veliko Tarnovo	1035	1319	284	27.4
Vidin	523	583	60	11.5
Vratsa	832	1148	316	38.0
Gabrovo	606	663	57	9.4
Dobrich	759	928	169	22.3
Kardzhali	539	693	154	28.6
Kyustendil	634	894	260	41.0
Lovech	693	774	81	11.7
Montana	735	874	139	18.9
Pazardzhik	1005	1389	384	38.2
Pernik	640	833	193	30.2
Pleven	1188	1660	472	39.7
Plovdiv	2554	3177	623	24.4
Razgrad	547	588	41	7.5
Ruse	1005	1215	210	20.9
Silistra	513	675	162	31.6
Sliven	758	942	184	24.3
Smolyan	478	577	99	20.7
Sofia-grad	4031	5295	1264	31.4
Sofia	1141	1450	309	27.1
Stara Zagora	1361	1705	344	25.3
Targovishte	511	534	23	4.5
Haskovo	1092	1299	207	19.0
Shumen	713	951	238	33.4
Yambol	593	645	52	8.8

Methodological notes

Coverage

The total number of deaths includes all people whose usual place of residence (current address) is in the Republic of Bulgaria, regardless of their place of death.

Definition

Death means a termination of all vital functions without a possibility to be recovered.

Geographical scope (territory)

Data on deaths are distributed in regional aspect (settlements, municipalities, districts and statistical regions) in accordance with the administrative-territorial division of the country as of 31.12. of the respective year by persons' current address.

Data source

The source of data on deaths is the Unified System for Civil Registration and Administrative Services (ESGRAON). Deaths are registered through a common USCRASP-CDS "Death notification". Based on it and not later than 48 hours after the death, the Death Act is created. Electronic death certificates are sent monthly (from April 2020 - weekly) by DG GRAO at the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works of the NSI. The data are processed, edited and validated through the Information System Demography in accordance with the rules set in the system for validation and control in the processing of demographic events. This ensures full coverage of death events for Bulgaria in one calendar year in accordance with the definitions and requirements of Regulation (EU) № 1260/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European demographic statistics.

Main indicators

Crude mortality rate (‰)

Represents the ratio of the number of deaths during the year to the average annual population in that year expressed per 1000 inhabitants.

Total mortality rate for parts of the year (‰)

Represents the ratio of the number of deaths during the respective period (weeks, months, quarters) to the average annual population multiplied by 365 and divided by the number of days during the same period.

Change of the death (Excess mortality)

Change in the number of deaths in the reporting year compared to the average number of deaths for the previous 5 years is calculated as an absolute difference between the number of deaths in a given week of the reporting year and the average number of deaths for the corresponding week of the 5-year period before the reporting year.