

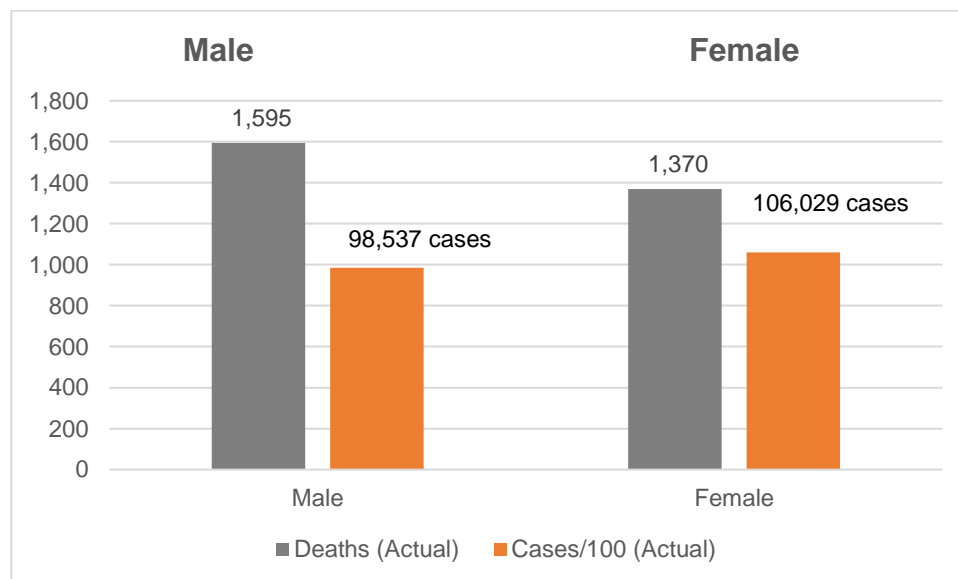
Media Statement

8th June 2021

Higher risk of death among male Covid-19 cases

Recent research carried out by the Society of Actuaries in Ireland (SAI) has shown that Covid-19 affects men far more severely than women.

Working from statistics provided by the CSO for the first quarter of 2021, actuaries have established that, once a person had tested positive for Covid-19, they were at least 25% more likely to die if they were male.



As can be seen from the above figures, 1,595 male deaths resulted from 98,537 cases (1.62%) while 1,370 female deaths came from 106,029 cases (1.29%). That's a death rate around 25% higher for males.

These findings are consistent with experience in most other countries where data is available. Based on the latest data¹ from Global Health 50/50, the median male to female ratio of deaths in confirmed cases across 95 countries that report data recorded separately by gender is 1.35.

Commenting on the figures, the SAI said “It is important to remember that these are not just figures, they are people, and each death is a trauma for a family. As the vast majority of deaths have to date occurred in older age groups, the success of the vaccination rollout may substantially alter the age profile of those who die with a Covid-19 infection and it will be interesting to see if the gender bias persists into the future.”

The SAI runs a [Covid-19 Action Group \(CAG\) Blog](#). Its June 2021 post (Blog #14) provides additional details on the research showing how Covid-19 affects men far more severely than women.

Ends

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Society of Actuaries in Ireland

The Society of Actuaries in Ireland is the professional body for actuaries practising in Ireland. Actuaries provide advice on and relevant solutions for financial, business and societal issues involving uncertain future events. Most of the Society's members work in the financial services industry, and members of the profession hold statutory or regulated roles relating to the financial management of pension schemes and insurance companies.

The Society seeks to make an impartial contribution to public debate on social policy and public interest matters where an actuarial perspective can add value.

¹ Deaths Among Confirmed Cases as at 24 May 2021 from <https://globalhealth5050.org/the-sex-gender-and-covid-19-project/dataset/>

Covid-19 Action Group (CAG)

The objectives of the Covid-19 Action Group (CAG) are:

Consider what actions the Society can take to contribute to the response to COVID-19 including:

- *Analysis of data, modelling of mortality and morbidity.*
- *Offer assistance and expertise to public bodies to help the national response to the pandemic.*
- *Consider the medium and longer term impacts of the pandemic on society, the economy, healthcare, mortality and morbidity, insurance, pensions and investment.*
- *Direct action in terms of charitable donations.*