

Deaths from Covid-19 among care home residents and staff in Derby

The Board asked Public Health for statistics relevant to the questions set out in the scope of the topic review. Not all statistics relevant to those questions can be provided, either because they were not collected locally or they were not collected at all early in the pandemic, or because no statistics relevant to a given category were collected. The following sets out the responses given:

1. How many care home residents and staff contracted COVID-19? How many care home residents and staff died from COVID=19?

At the beginning of the pandemic, testing was not available in the community, individuals were only tested on admission to hospital. This changed when whole home testing was introduced in June 2020, which was fully implemented over around 4 weeks. Cases were then identified to Public Health with a 'care home flag' on the data. The data quality did improve over time, but in the first few months the flag was not always added. However, the data that is available is summarised in the chart below. It is noteworthy that data information properly begins after the first wave.

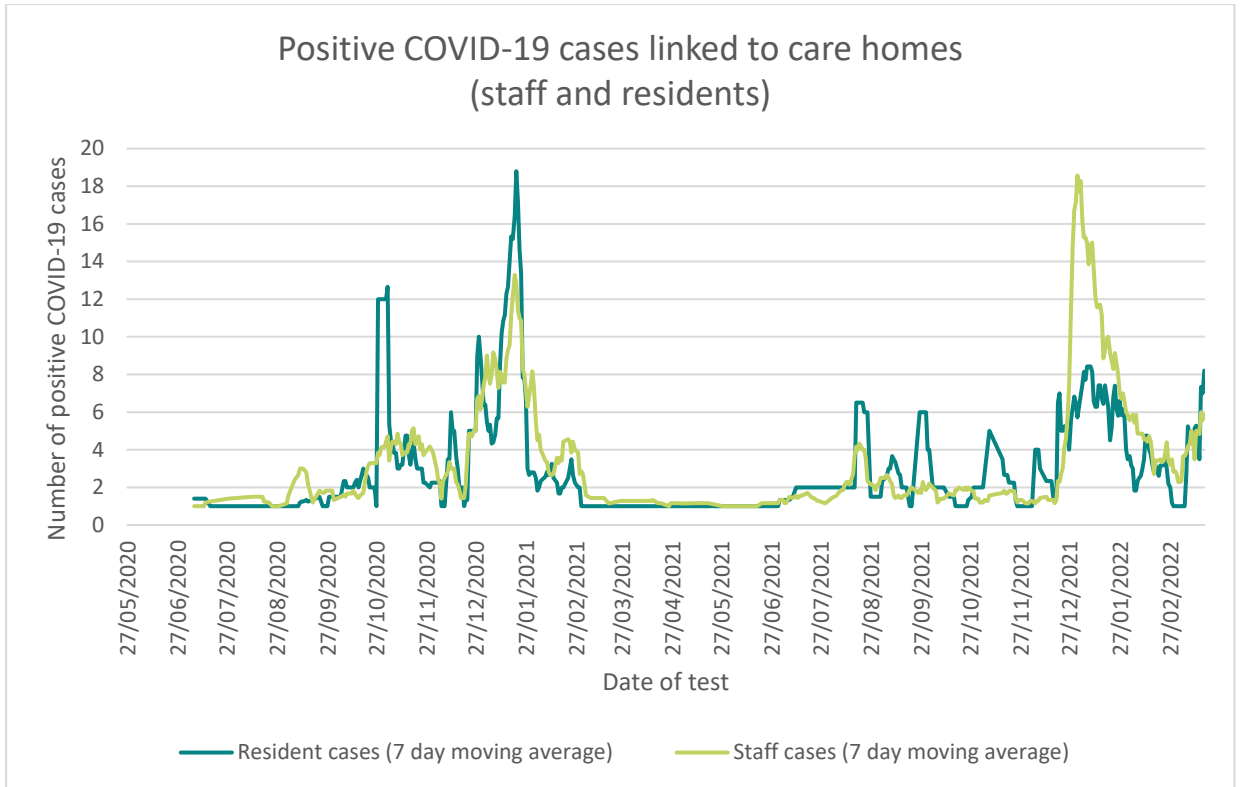
If staff tested separately from whole home testing and did not indicate their employer on the request these cases would not be linked to a care home. The figures shown are individuals, but they may appear more than once.

The death data is compiled by ONS and summarised below. Death by place of residence is not something public health are able to report locally, although the total number of COVID deaths is reported by the ONS for the city. From the data available, there is no mechanism for assessing how many care home staff died from COVID; this is something that has been reported nationally. Again, it should be noted that community testing was not available in the first wave, so many deaths will not have been recorded with COVID on the death certificate.

Care home COVID-19 cases and deaths

Cases

There was a total of 2,404 COVID-10 cases linked to care homes in Derby between 27/05/20 and 20/03/22. Prior to these dates there was limited COVID testing, outside of a hospital setting. There were 867 positive covid cases recorded among care home residents and 1,537 cases among care home staff.



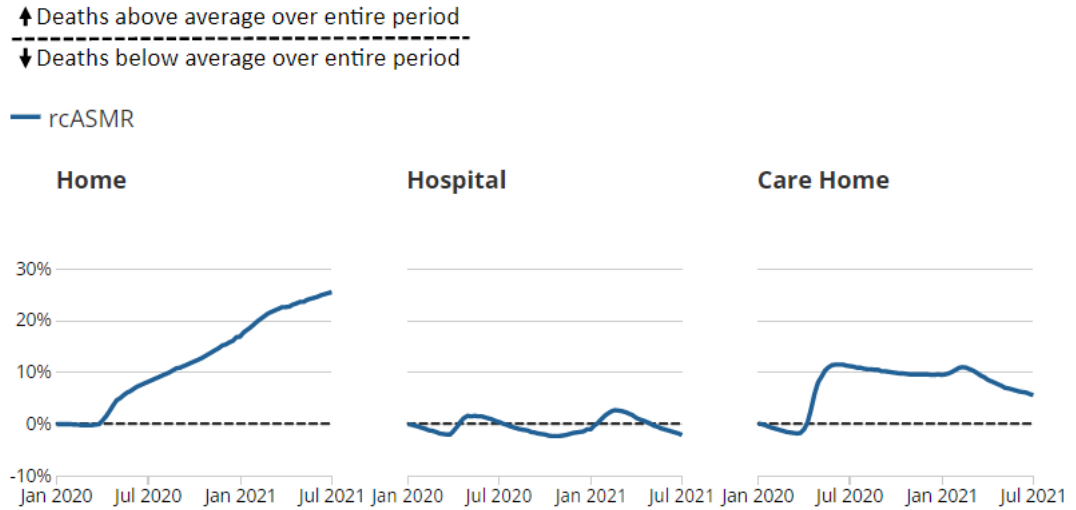
Deaths

Public health does not have access to specific COVID death data; however, this is publicly available from ONSⁱ which shows that since 01/01/2020 there have been 213 deaths in care homes with COVID - 19 on the death certificate. Of these, 116 occurred in 2020, 82 in 2021 and 15 in 2022 (to date).

2. What was the number of 'excess deaths' in care homes?

It is not possible to make this calculation from a Derby perspective as the numbers are too small and the variation too large. This has been looked at nationally and the ONS charts summarise below:

**Relative cumulative age-standardised mortality rates (rcASMRs)
by place of death and week, 28 December 2019 to 2 July 2021,
England and Wales**



Immediately pre-pandemic, the care home deaths were below average, there was then a rise from early April which was maintained until a decline after the Jan/ Feb 2021 peak coinciding with the vaccination campaign.

For all deaths we have seen nationally that significant excess deaths coincided with the peaks of infections, with fewer deaths than expected during periods of lower infection rates. This link was only reduced following the vaccination roll out. However, this still resulted in the significant number of excess deaths we see reported nationally. For 2020 in total Derby had around 390 excess deaths, but we cannot relate these to place of death.

ⁱ [Death registrations and occurrences by local authority and health board - Office for National Statistics](#)