

COVID-19 Poster

In Wuhan, China, there have been several unexplained cases of pneumonia reported since December 2019. Research was done on the epidemic's etiology by the Chinese government and researchers. This new virus, tentatively known as 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), was named by the World Health Organization (WHO) on January 12, 2020. A public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) has been declared for the 2019-nCoV virus as of January 30, 2020. CoronaVirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) was named by the WHO on February 11, 2020, as a consequence of 2019-nCoV. 2019-nCoV was renamed Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) by the Coronavirus Study Group (CSG) of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses the same day.¹

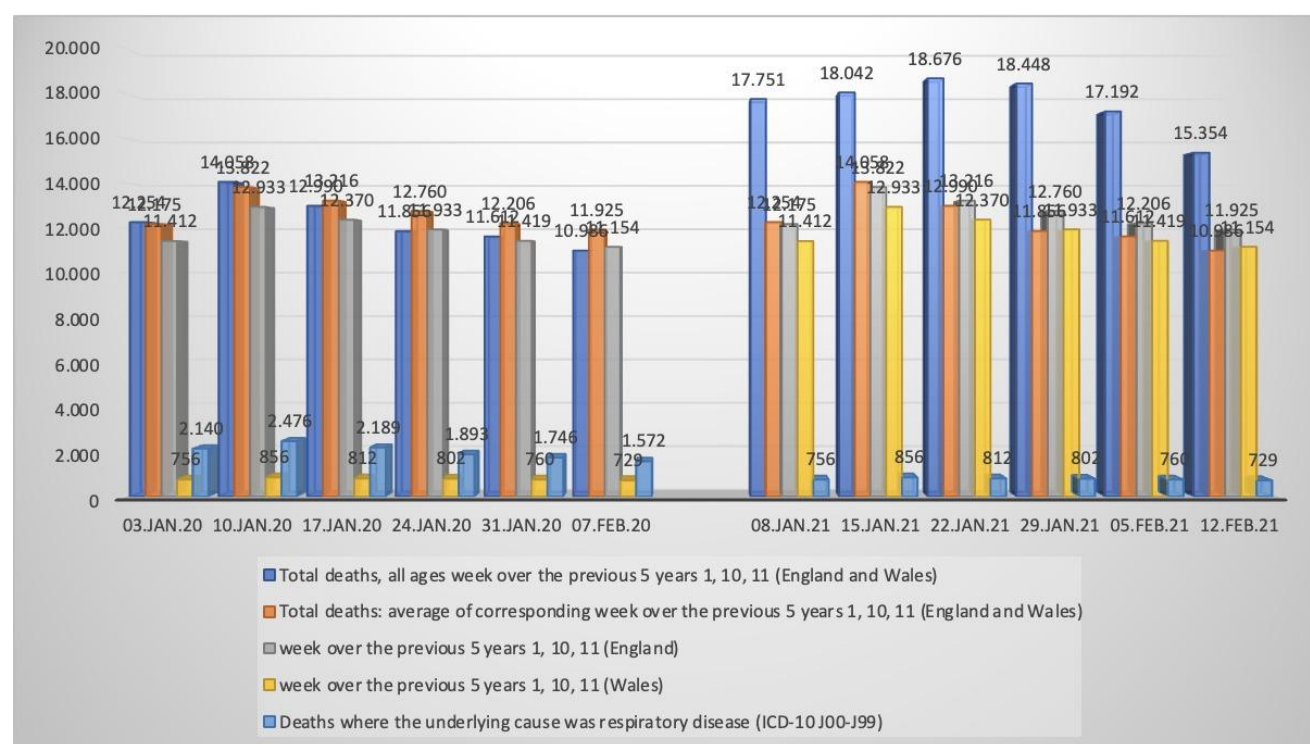


Fig 1. Number of deaths in the years following the year 2020 as compared to the year 2021.

¹ Sun P, Lu X, Xu C, Sun W, Pan B. Understanding of COVID-19 based on current evidence. *J Med Virol.* 2020;92(6):548-551. doi:10.1002/jmv.25722

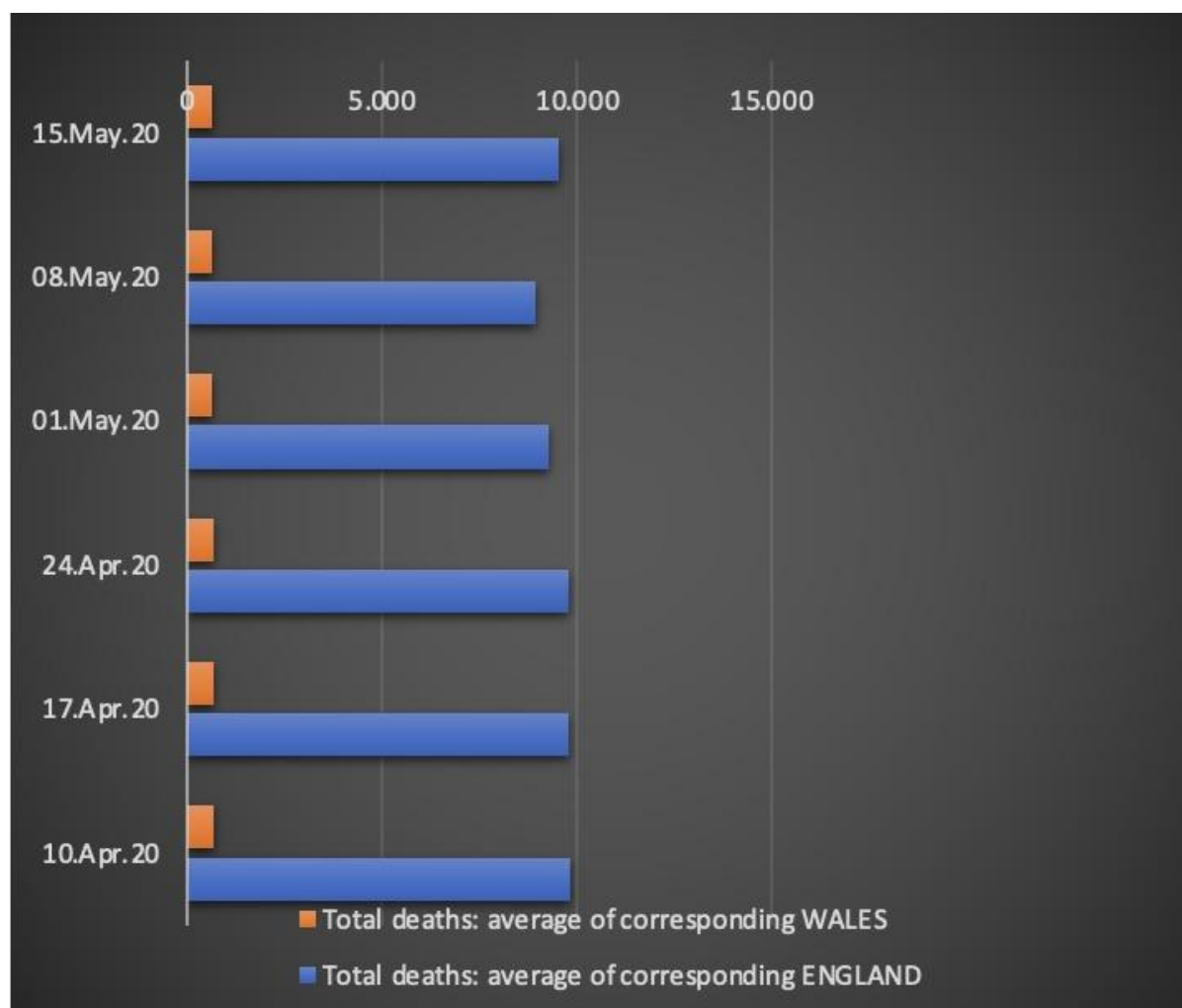


Fig. 2 Differences of total average deaths, 15>20week in the year 2020.

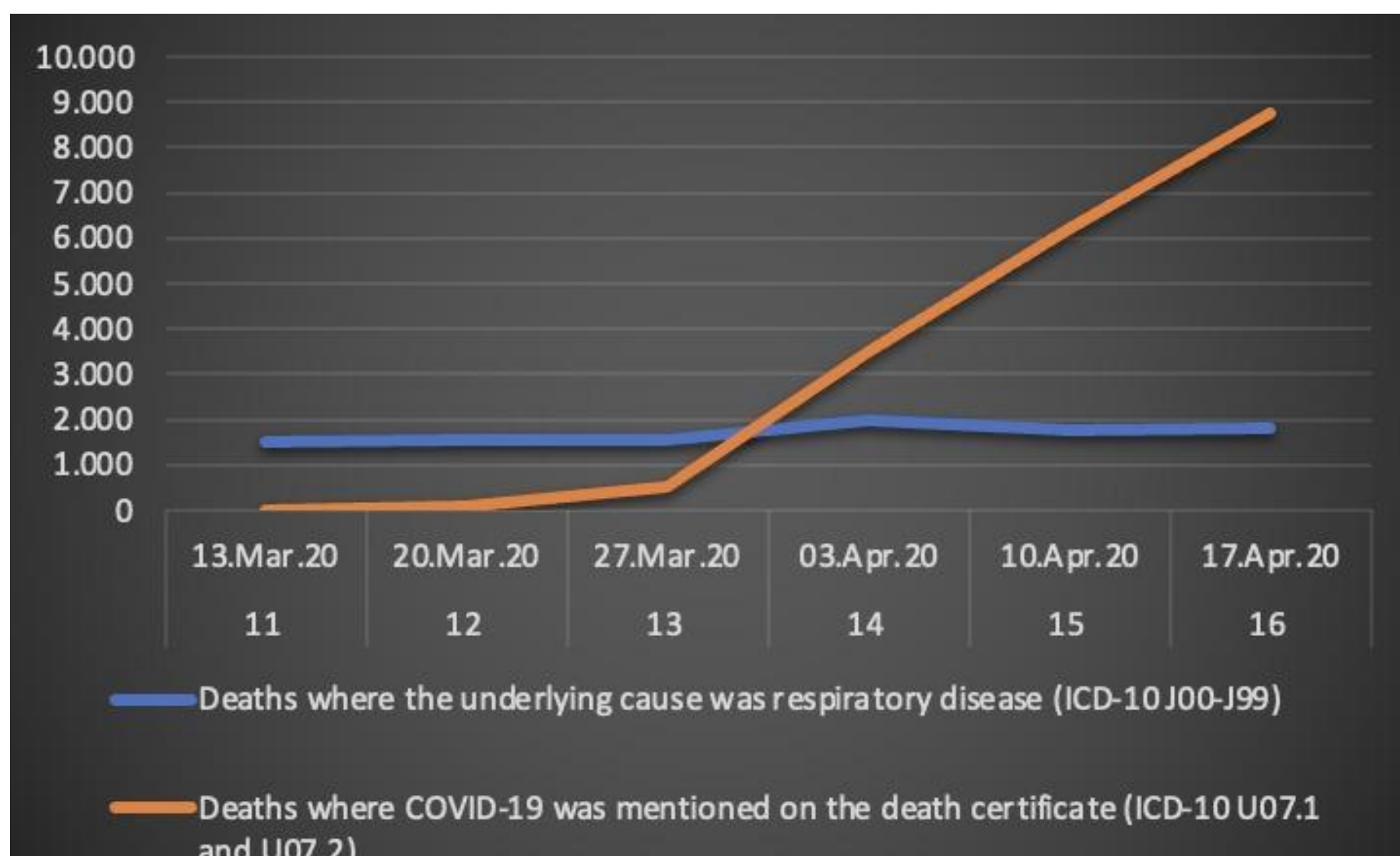


Fig 3. Differences of deaths between respiratory disease and covid-19, week 11> 16 2020.

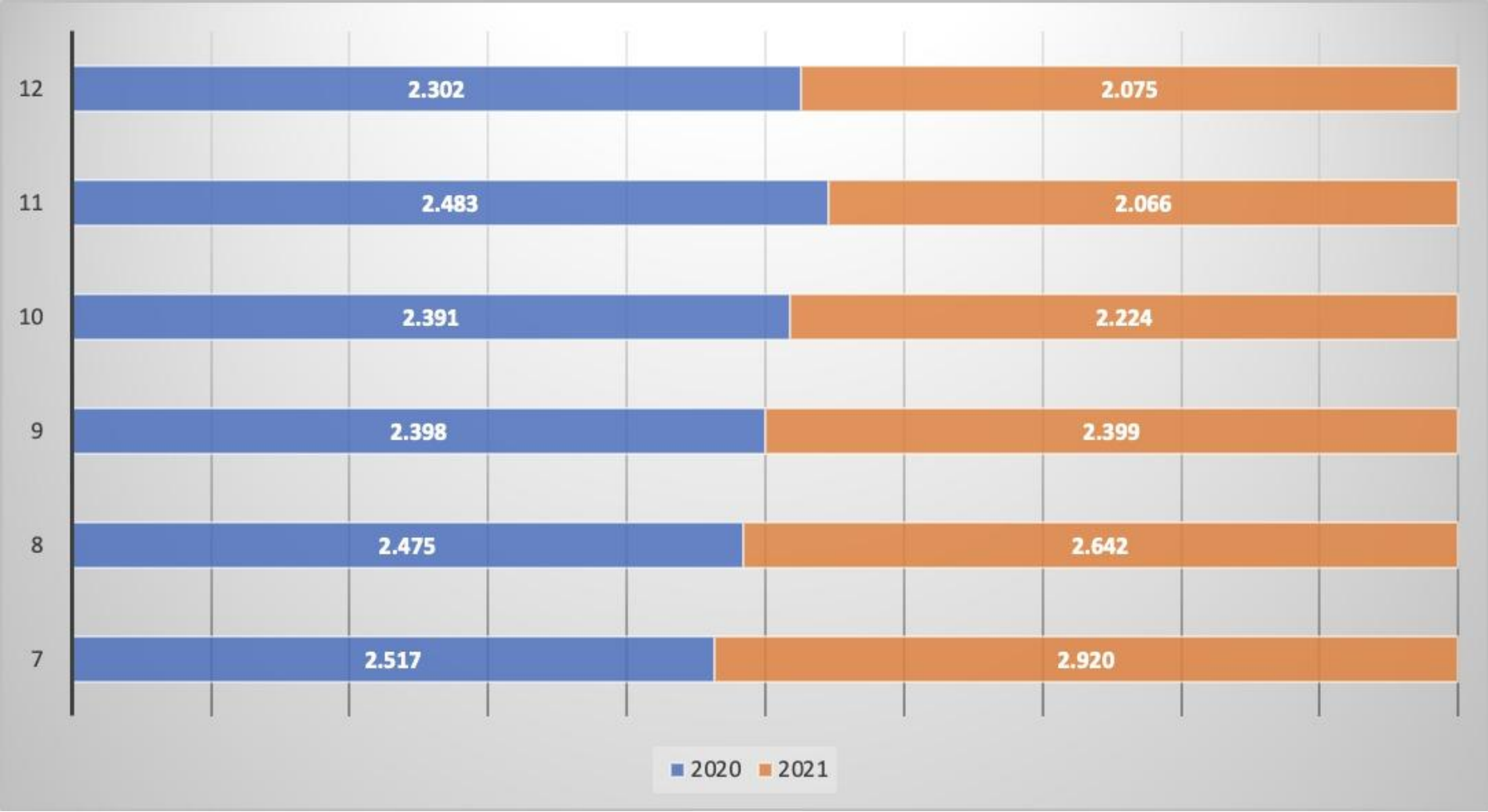


Fig 4. Differences of deaths age 90+, 7> 12week 2020 202.

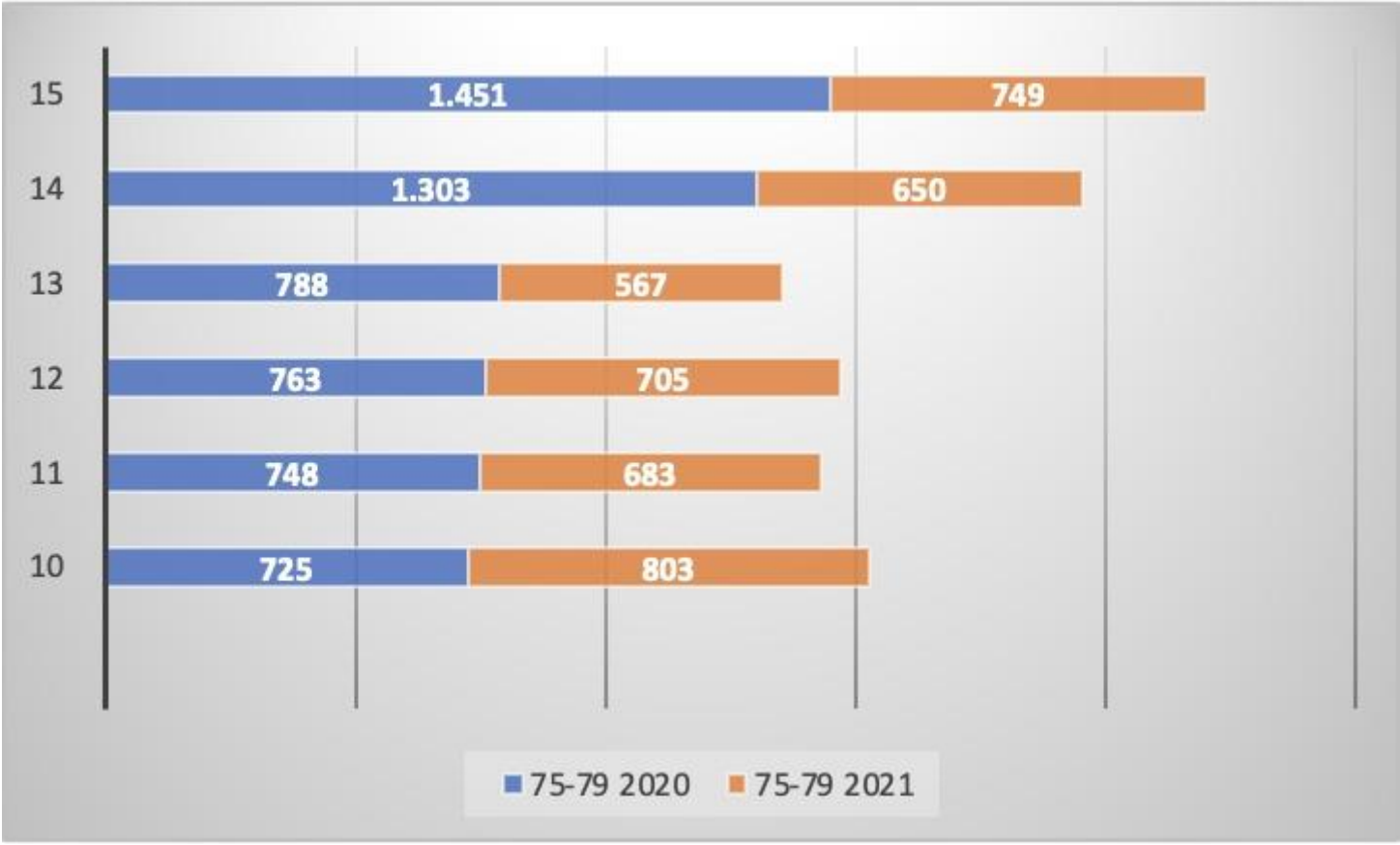


Fig 5. Differences of males deaths, week 10>15 2020-2021 (age 75-79).

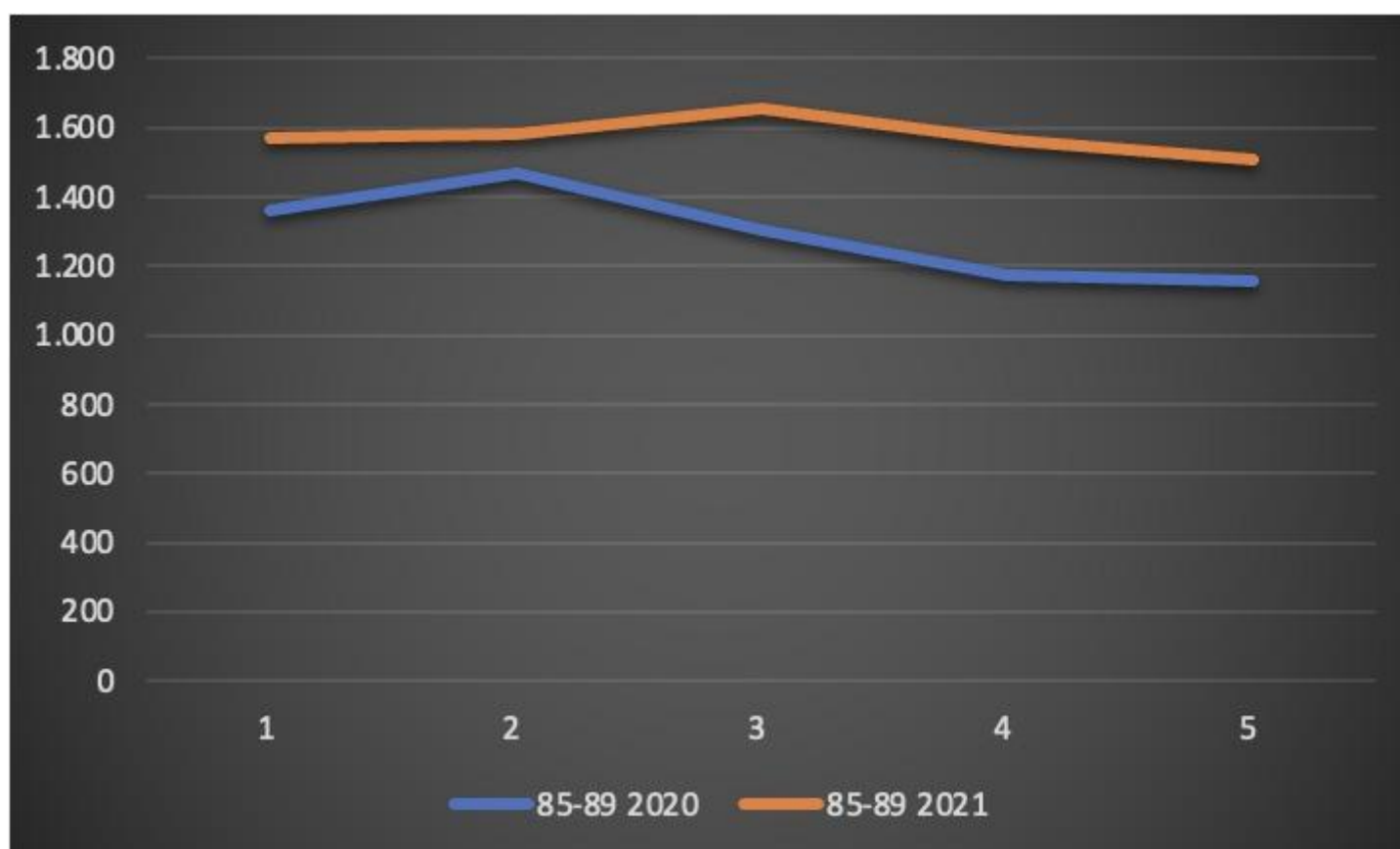


Fig 6. Differences of female deaths, week 1>5 2020-2021 (age 85-89).

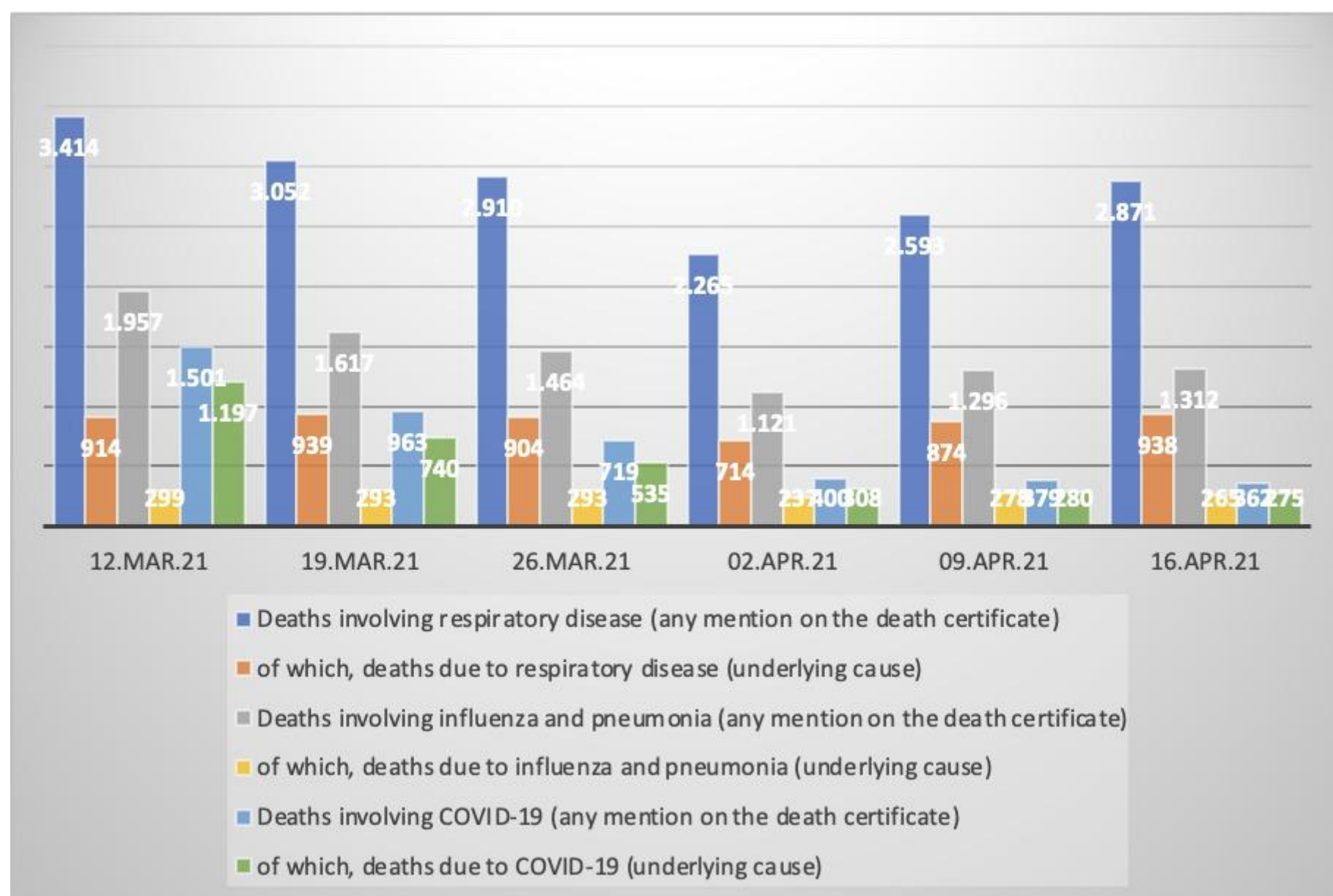


Fig 7. Differences between Covid-19 deaths and underlying cause, week 10>15 2021.

In this section, we can elaborate on the question asked: **What conclusion can you draw?**

Deaths on 12 March 2021 are seen as having the highest number, with an unequal impact on the graph. Many of the recommendations are governed by the Coronavirus Act 2020, enacted on 25 March 2020 with multiparty consent. Several important processes for registering deaths are temporarily altered to reflect limitations posed by lockdowns and pressures on the medical profession. The measures include shifting the period of time within which a doctor should have "attended" the deceased from 14 to 28 days, allowing video consultation to satisfy that requirement, 1 and accepting a non-attending doctor as signatory, provided they have access to the deceased's relevant clinical records. Funeral

directors can act as registrar informants, provided the families agree to this, while also simplifying the process for authorizing cremations. The registrar general of England and Wales explains that covid-19 is acceptable to be listed as a cause of death on a death certificate.² It also specifies that, although it is a notifiable disease, not every case should be reported to the coroner.

The chief coroner for England and Wales elaborates on many of these changes to death certification in his guidance. It is likely that some coroners will have to delay investigations due to the lack of pathology services for timely postmortem examinations, as well as doctors' heavy clinical workload during the pandemic. Additionally, in his normal annual report to parliament, the chief coroner is required to justify the jurisdiction's response to the pandemic, including any delays in launching inquiries.²

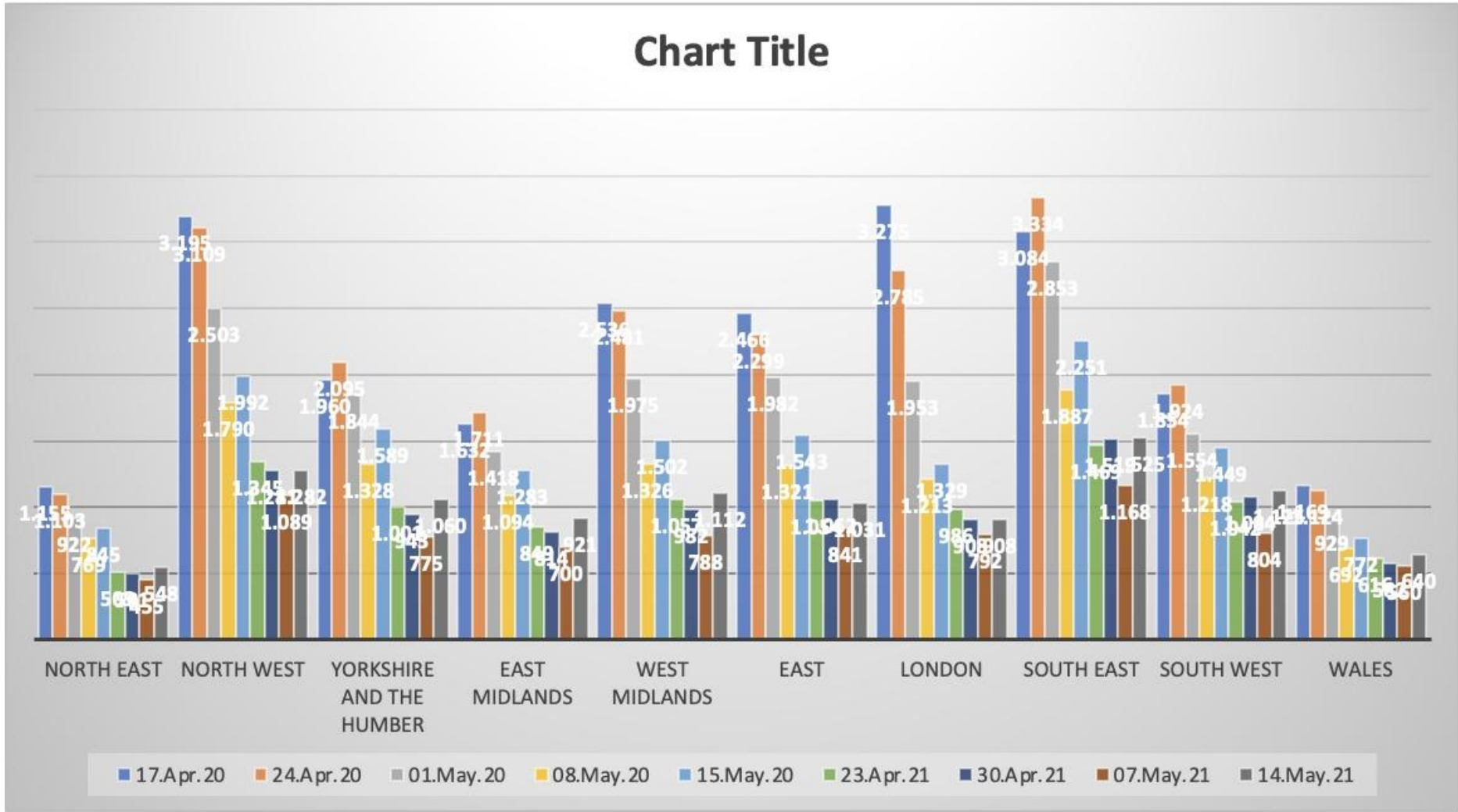


Fig 8. Chart showing deaths by region for week 16 and week 20 of 2020 and 2021.

² Luce T. Covid 19: death certification in England and Wales. *BMJ*. 2020;m1571. doi:10.1136/bmj.m1571

References

1. Sun P, Lu X, Xu C, Sun W, Pan B. Understanding of COVID-19 based on current evidence. *J Med Virol*. 2020;92(6):548-551. doi:10.1002/jmv.25722
2. Luce T. Covid 19: death certification in England and Wales. *BMJ*. 2020:m1571. doi:10.1136/bmj.m1571
3. NHS England, NHS Improvement. Coronavirus act—excess deaths provisions: information and guidance for medical practitioners, 31 March 2020, <https://improvement.nhs.uk/documents/6590/COVID-19-act-excess-death-provisions-info-and-guidance-31-march.pdf>
4. Office for National Statistics, HM Passport Office. Guidance for doctors completing medical certificates of cause of death in England and Wales: for use during the emergency period only. 2020 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877302/guidance-for-doctors-completing-medical-certificates-of-cause-of-death-covid-19.pdf
5. Chief Coroner's guidance on covid-19, 26 Mar 2020. https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Chief-Coroner-Guidance-No.-34-COVID-19_26_March_2020-.pdf