

WHO-UNDESA Technical Advisory Group on COVID-19 Mortality Assessment

Working Group 4: Summary metrics of the toll in lives lost

Background

In the context of the work of Technical Advisory Group on COVID-19 Mortality Assessment, jointly established by WHO and UN DESA, Working Group 4 on summary metrics of the toll in lives lost will focus on metrics that could or should be used to summarize the impact of COVID-19 on mortality, for purposes of both contemporary and historical comparison.

Objectives

The Working Group will aim to summarize the impact of COVID-19 on mortality through metrics such as death counts, years of life lost, or the decrease in life expectancy at birth. The Working Group will provide advice and recommendations on appropriate interpretations and possible applications of different summary metrics to assess the death toll from COVID-19. The metrics will be illustrated and compared using real-world data from the current and historical pandemics, such as the Spanish flu pandemic of 1918-19.

The Working Group will propose a succinct text for possible endorsement by the full TAG, summarizing the main conclusions of its work and proposing recommendations on the use of summary metrics to assess the impact of COVID-19 on mortality.

Members:

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