

Upcoming UNESCAP Stats Café Series on "Excess mortality and the importance of data in the fight against COVID-19"

Wednesday, 20 April 2022 from 13:00-14:30 hours, Bangkok time (UTC +7), verify your time [here](#).

Please register at [this link](#) and when it's time, [click here to join the meeting](#).

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OPENING REMARKS
Ms. Rachael Joanne Beaven
Director,
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MODERATOR
Ms. Chloe Harvey
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SPEAKERS



Mr. Steve MacFeely
Director
Data and Analytics
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Organization



Mr. Thomas Moultrie
Professor of Demography
and Director of the Centre
for Actuarial Research
(CARE), University of
Cape Town, South Africa



Ms. Helen He
Design Analyst
Population Insights
Stats New Zealand



Dr. Shubash Shander
Head, Survey Research
Centre and Centre for
Burden of Disease
Research, Ministry of
Health Malaysia



Ms. Rukmini Shrinivasan
Independent Data
Journalist and Host of
podcast: "The
Moving Curve"

BACKGROUND

This Stats Café builds on an earlier session on COVID-19 and death registration, which featured towards the beginning of the pandemic in mid-2020. Since then, over five million COVID-19 deaths have been reported, however, estimates predict that the global excess deaths may be two to four times higher than those officially recorded. Being able to ascertain the true impact of COVID-19 on human lives is critical for informing resource allocation and assessing the effectiveness of public health interventions as the pandemic evolves. However, many countries still lack functioning civil registration and vital statistics systems to provide accurate, complete and timely data on deaths and causes of death. This, coupled with the differences in how countries test and report COVID-19 deaths, makes it challenging to measure the true loss of life from the pandemic. The COVID-19 mortality rate has also sparked heated discussions among the general public, with false claims circulating online that the number of COVID-19 deaths have been inflated in order to justify lockdowns and other restrictions.

"More than two years into the pandemic, several vaccines and new treatments have been developed, but are we any closer to estimating the true death toll of COVID-19?"

Demographers, data scientists, and epidemiologists have turned to the estimation of excess mortality to try to understand just how many people died as a result of COVID-19. Excess mortality estimates measure the gap between the number of deaths in an average year under normal conditions and the number of deaths during a crisis, adjusting for relevant demographic changes as far as possible. This Stats Café aims to share a snapshot of some of the varied approaches taken by countries and organizations to produce estimates of excess mortality, as well as providing a journalistic insight of best practices in reporting on it.

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ASIA-PACIFIC STATS CAFE SERIES

Excess mortality and the importance of data in the fight against

COVID-19

**20 April 2022,
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