

Analysis of Mortality Trends and Multiple Causes-of-Death of COVID-19 in Japan: 2020

BEPPU Motomi and SHINOHARA Emiko

This study aimed to analyze the most recent mortality trends, such as monthly trends, of COVID-19 deaths, and to clarify the description of other causes of death as COVID-19 deaths on the death certificate in Japan. Therefore, we used the "Multiple Causes-of-Death" information for the data from 2020.

COVID-19 as the cause of death is typically recorded in column IA of the four-column cause of death section of the death certificate. In some cases, COVID-19 is listed in columns IB or II, in addition to column IA, which indicates the direct cause of death due to respiratory diseases.

The cause of death, COVID-19, tends to be recorded along with diseases such as diabetes, chronic kidney disease, and heart failure.

With respect to gender, when COVID-19 is described in Column IA, diabetes and chronic kidney disease are described in Column II for men in their 70s and 80s, whereas heart failure is described in Column II for women in their 80s and above.

Upon calculating the average time to death for COVID-19, the period described in column IA tended to be longer for both men and women in their 50s and 60s and shorter for those in the above age groups. The average duration of deaths attributed to COVID-19 was 19.7 days.

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