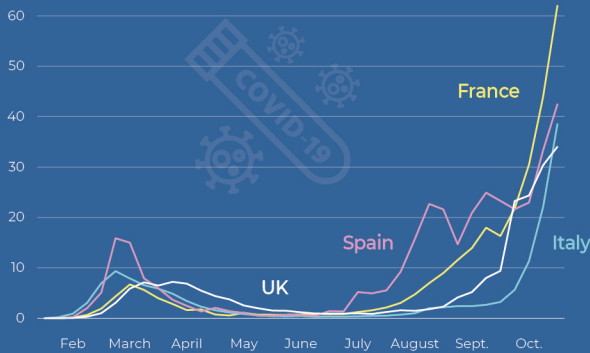


The two waves of COVID-19

First wave in Spring 2020 followed by second wave in Autumn 2020

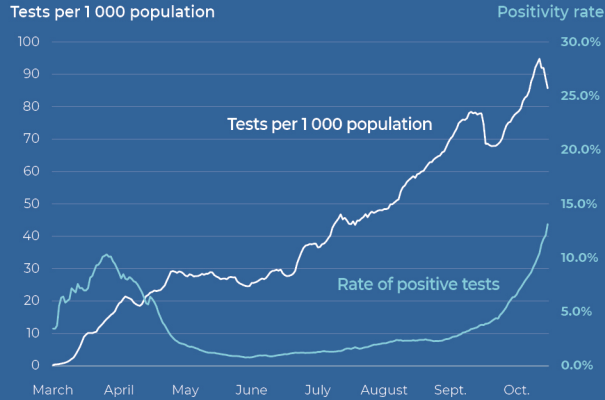
Reported daily cases per 100 000 population



Source: ECDC (data up to end October 2020).

More tests and more positive cases

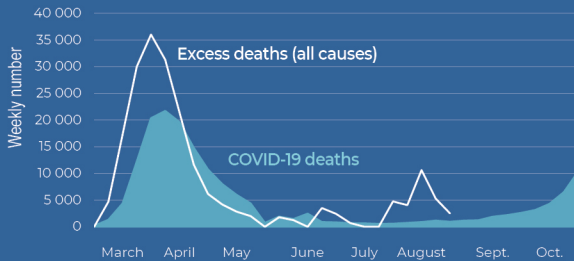
Tests per 1 000 population (left-hand axis) and rate of positive tests (right-hand axis), EU average



Source: ECDC (data up to end October 2020).

High and resurging fatalities from COVID-19

COVID-19 and excess deaths peaked in the spring and are on the rise again, (EU average)



Note: Data on excess deaths only available until end of August at time of writing.
Source: ECDC (for COVID-19 deaths), OECD based on Eurostat data (for excess deaths).

COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted vulnerable groups



Across EU countries, around 90% of reported COVID-19 deaths have been among people over 60 years old. In many countries, approximately half of all deaths have been among people in nursing homes.

The poor, those living in deprived areas and ethnic minorities have also been disproportionately affected.



Source: ECDC.

Too many people are still exposed to high levels of air pollution

Air pollution emissions (fine particles, $PM_{2.5}$) have reduced by 25% since 2005 in the EU.



Still, about 75% of people in European capitals were exposed to $PM_{2.5}$ levels above the WHO guideline between 2016-2018.



Across EU countries, between 168 000 and 346 000 deaths each year can be attributed to air pollution ($PM_{2.5}$).

Source: European Environment Agency, IHME.

Massive welfare & economic losses from air pollution

In terms of premature death, loss of productivity & higher health spending

Worth €600 billion or 4.9% of EU GDP in 2017



Source: OECD