

THE COVID-19 SEX-DISAGGREGATED DATA TRACKER

FEBRUARY UPDATE REPORT

Findings of the February Update

At the time of this upload, we are tracking the availability of data for **192 countries** - which together account for **99.9% of all COVID-19 confirmed cases and reported deaths globally**.

Slightly more than half of the countries we track reported any sex-disaggregated data on their COVID-19 epidemics over the past month. In October, we found that 54% of countries reported some form of sex-disaggregated data, compared to 50% in December, and 51% in January.

Global availability of sex-disaggregated data

Between November and January, there were over 15 million cases and over 230,000 deaths reported where the sex is not known. However, by mid-February there was a marked decline in both the number of cases and deaths without sex data. The proportion of total cases and deaths where sex is known has increased to roughly **7 out of 10 cases and 8 out of 10 deaths by mid-February**, from 6 out of 10 and 7 out of 10 respectively.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE LATEST DATA UPLOAD

- 1** The number of deaths and cases with unknown sex declined globally in the past month, possibly due to slowing rates of increase in cases and deaths since the global surge seen in December-January. As of mid-February, the Tracker had data on the sex of roughly **7 out of 10 cases and 8 out of 10 deaths globally**.
- 2** Just **half of the 192 countries tracked reported some form of sex-disaggregated data in the past month**. Along the clinical pathway cases are most commonly reported by sex (98), followed by deaths (78), with 70 countries reporting data on both cases and deaths at the same time point.
- 3** Globally the **gender disparities along the clinical pathway remain stable**. More women are being tested (57%) than men and account for slightly more than half of all global confirmed cases (51%). However, men make up a higher share of reported hospitalisations (53%), intensive care admissions (68%) and deaths (57%) globally.
- 4** Currently the global data show that for every 10 women with COVID-19 who die, there are 15 deaths among men.

These improvements may reflect sex-disaggregated data availability catching up to reported totals as global increases in cases and deaths have declined since early 2021. (Figures 1 and 2). These gaps can continue to be filled if countries continue to report this data, and those who have not been reporting consistently or at all begin or resume reporting this data.

There remains a gap in the availability of data on non-binary and transgender populations. We have not located any national-level COVID-19 surveillance data on non-binary or transgender populations. Two states in India (Tamil Nadu and Haryana) are reporting data on cases and deaths among non-binary populations.

Fig 1. Number of Global COVID-19 Cases where the Sex is Known, November 2020 - February 2021

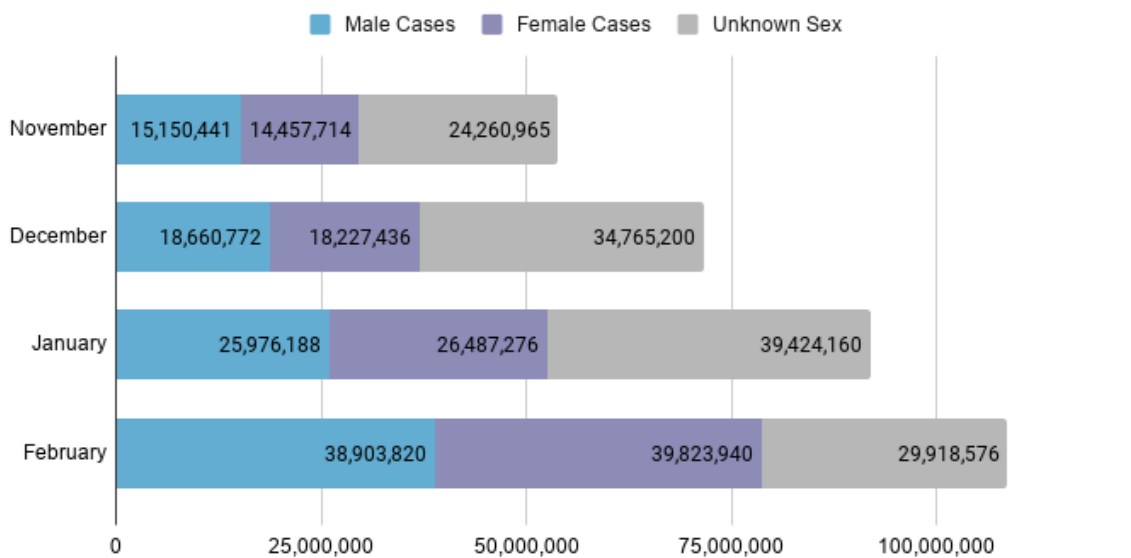
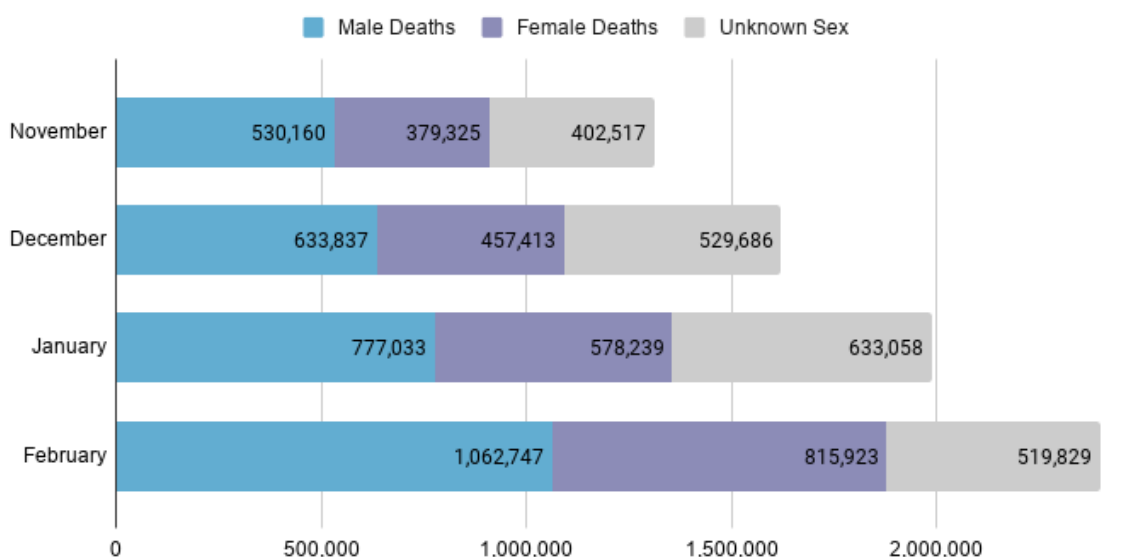


Fig 2. Number of Global COVID-19 Deaths where the Sex is Known, November 2020 - February 2021



Gaps in the availability of nationally-reported sex-disaggregated data on COVID-19

At the time of this upload, across the 10 countries with the highest number of confirmed cases globally, there are **three countries with notable gaps in the availability of sex-disaggregated data** (Table 1). Russia has never reported any sex disaggregated data on cases or deaths. We have not been able to locate sex disaggregated data in India for cases since early September and deaths since May and for either cases and deaths for Turkey since October. These three countries account for 48% of cases with unknown sex and 48% of deaths with unknown sex.

Table 1: Availability of Sex-Disaggregated Data within the Past Month amongst Countries with the Highest COVID-19 Caseload as of this Update¹

| Country | Cases | Deaths |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| USA | Reporting | Reporting |
| India | Sept 2020 | May 2020 |
| Brazil | Dec 2020 | Reporting |
| Russia | Never | Never |
| United Kingdom ² | Reporting | Reporting |
| France | Reporting | Reporting |
| Spain | Reporting | Reporting |
| Italy | Reporting | Reporting |
| Turkey | Oct 2020 | Oct 2020 |
| Germany | Reporting | Reporting |

Countries report sex-disaggregated data inconsistently and incompletely across all key indicators. A notably smaller proportion of countries reported sex-disaggregated data in the past month than have ever reported such data over the course of the pandemic (Figure 3).

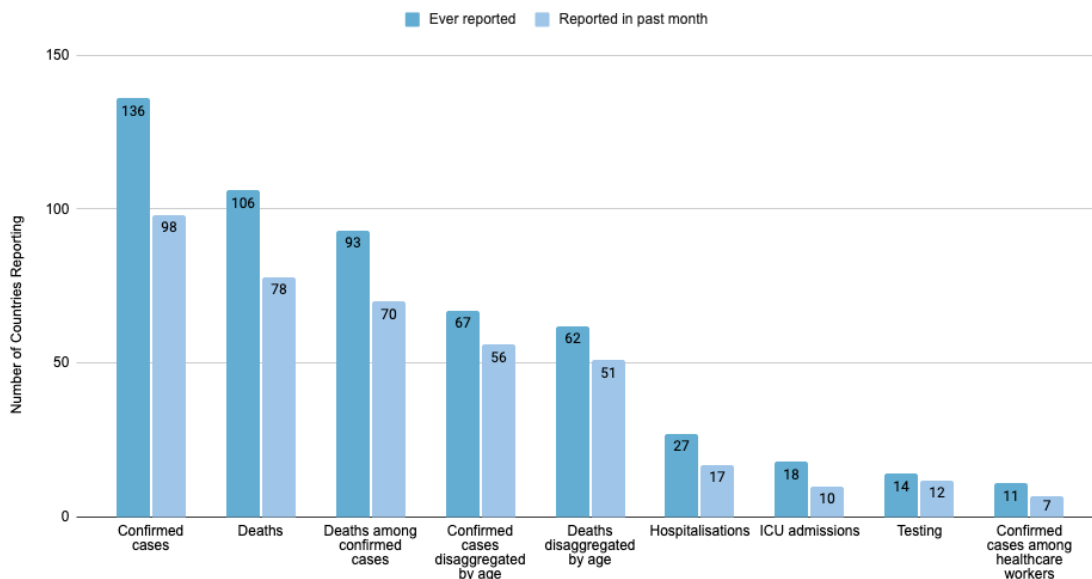
In the past month, 51% (98) of the 192 countries being tracked reported sex-disaggregated case data and 41% (78) reported sex-disaggregated death data, which was consistent with the proportion reporting in January.

Thirty-eight countries who had previously reported case data by sex and 28 who had previously reported death data by sex were no longer reporting.

¹ According to the World Health Organization, <https://covid19.who.int/>

² Data for the United Kingdom is reported separately for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales in the COVID-19 Sex-Disaggregated Data Tracker. All are currently reporting sex-disaggregated data on cases and deaths.

Fig 3. Number of Countries Reporting Sex-Disaggregated Data by Indicator, Ever and in the Past Month, across 192 Countries as of February 2021

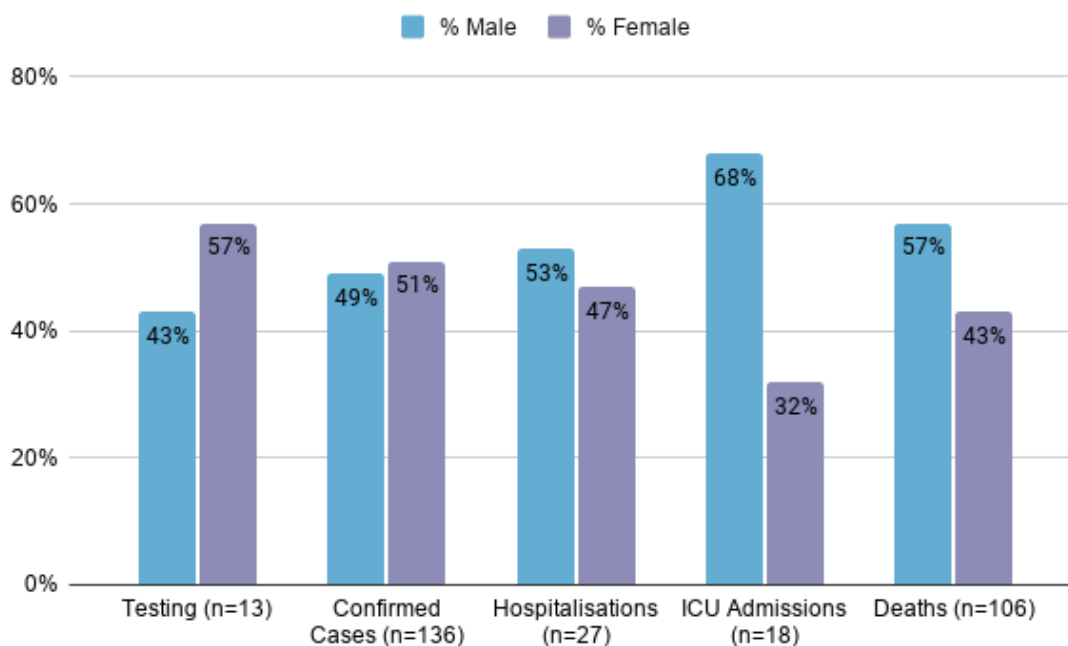


The full list of countries reporting on each variable and the corresponding data can be found [here](#).

Global gender differences along the COVID-19 clinical pathway

Figure 4 shows the distribution of testing, confirmed cases, hospitalisations, ICU admissions and deaths in men and women across all available global data. This distribution varies along the pathway, with more women than men getting tested for COVID-19, and men and women accounting for similar numbers of confirmed cases. The gender gap grows further along the pathway, with men accounting for a higher proportion of hospitalisations (53%), ICU admissions (68%) and deaths (57%) (Figure 4). Globally, these proportions have been quite stable. These proportions vary widely by country. Country-data on each of these variables can be explored [here](#).

Fig 4. Global COVID-19 Clinical Pathway, % male / % female



About the COVID-19 Sex-Disaggregated Data Tracker

The COVID-19 Sex-Disaggregated Data Tracker is the world's largest database of sex-disaggregated data on COVID-19 health outcomes. The tracker currently collects data on testing, confirmed cases (including among health workers), hospitalisations, ICU admissions and deaths among women and men. It is also tracking the availability of data disaggregated by other social and demographic characteristics as well as data on pre-existing comorbidities. Data is collected directly from official national sources, including ministry of health websites, national statistics sites, death registers and government social media accounts. The Tracker is updated every two weeks.

About the Sex, Gender and COVID-19 Project

The Sex, Gender and COVID-19 Project is a partnership of Global Health 50/50, the International Center for Research on Women and the African Population and Health Research Center. Together, these partners are investigating the roles sex and gender are playing in the outbreak, building the evidence base of what works to tackle gender disparities in COVID-19 health outcomes, and advocating for effective gender-responsive approaches to COVID-19.

Learn more about sex, gender and COVID-19 and explore the Sex-Disaggregated Data Tracker here: <https://globalhealth5050.org/the-sex-gender-and-covid-19-project/>

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If you are aware of countries that are reporting data that we have not been able to locate or collect, we would be grateful if you could make us aware by emailing us at info@globalhealth5050.org and sharing a link to where the data can be found.

Engage with us: [@GlobalHlth5050](https://twitter.com/GlobalHlth5050) [@APHRC](https://twitter.com/APHRC) [@ICRW](https://twitter.com/ICRW)
