

Results:

Between 2020 and 2022, 3413013 cases of COVID-19 were reported in Portugal, of which 21342 (0.6%) eventually died of the disease. The number of deaths by sex was similar globally or by age group. Globally, the YLLs estimated for COVID-19 in Portugal were 309383,8. YLLs were higher for males than for females for most age groups except of age groups 10-19 yrs (76.56 vs 153.11) and > 80 yrs (58710.88 vs 68491.44). YLLs age-standardized also showed a steady increase as we progressed in the age group [from 3.25 (0-9 yrs) to 885.54 (>80 yrs)], in which from the 50-59 yrs age group onwards we observed a steeper slope of increase in YLLs.

Conclusions:

COVID-19 has had a major impact on mortality rates in Portugal, with this impact being greater in the older population, especially in people aged over 70 years. Also, males presented higher YLLs than females, with this difference increasing substantially as age increases. These insights can be useful in terms of public health as the disease progresses to an endemic phase.

Key messages:

- COVID-19 has had a major impact on mortality rates in Portugal.
- Calculating YLLs associated with COVID-19 in Portugal provides relevant data for establishing effective strategies in future epidemics.

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Years of life lost associated with COVID-19 deaths in Portugal: two years of pandemic

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Background:

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Portuguese population is still underexplored. Therefore, the characterization of years of life lost (YLL) due to this epidemic may provide relevant data for establishing effective strategies in future epidemics. The aim of this study was to calculate YLL associated with COVID-19 deaths in Portugal between 2020 and 2022.

Methods:

This was an observational, cross-sectional study. Data on the average resident population and life expectancy at birth by age group and sex were obtained from Statistics Portugal (INE) and GBD 2019 standard life-table, respectively. Data on COVID-19 deaths were extracted from the Directorate-General of Health's (DGS) reports. YLL was calculated as the number of COVID-19 deaths multiplied by standard life expectancy at the age of death, globally, by sex and age group. YLL was calculated by 100,000 population and age-standardized.