Highlights


The COVID-19 pandemic caused the most severe drops in life expectancy seen in 50+ years.

Encouragingly, child mortality continued to drop during the pandemic.

Rates of population growth are declining in most countries.

What’s new in this study?

First GBD update to examine the COVID-19 pandemic.

Incorporated thousands of new data points from sources including vital registration systems, sample vital registration systems, censuses, and surveys.

Used improved methods.

Life expectancy declined in 84% of countries and territories during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Change in life expectancy amid the COVID-19 pandemic, 2019–2021

While global mortality rates rose sharply amid the COVID-19 pandemic, child mortality continued to fall.

Stark differences in the number of deaths that occur in children under 5 years persist between regions.

Population growth rates continued to decline during the COVID-19 pandemic.