

Brazil becomes 2nd nation to top 300,000 COVID-19 deaths

March 25 2021, by Mauricio Savarese



A demonstrator places a Brazil national flag on a mattress symbolizing COVID-19 victims, during a protest against the Government's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, organized by the Rio de Paz NGO, in front of the Ronaldo Gazolla hospital in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Wednesday, March 24, 2021. (AP Photo/Silvia Izquierdo)

Brazil topped 300,000 confirmed COVID-19 deaths on Wednesday, becoming the second country to do so amid a spike in infections that has seen the South American country report record death tolls in recent days.

The United States reached the grim milestone on Dec. 14, but has a larger population than Brazil.

On Wednesday, Brazil's [health ministry](#) reported 2,009 daily COVID-19 deaths, bringing its [pandemic](#) total to 300,685. On Tuesday, the country saw a single-day record of 3,251 deaths.

According to local media reports, the latest coronavirus figures might be affected by changes in the government's counting system. Newly appointed Health Minister Marcelo Queiroga said in a press conference that he was going to check whether the numbers had been artificially reduced.

With daily [death](#) tolls at pandemic highs, state governors and mayors in Brazil have expressed fears that April could be as bad as March for the country's overwhelmed hospitals.

Just in the past 75 days, Brazil has registered 100,000 confirmed coronavirus deaths, a spike health experts blame on a lack of political coordination in fighting the virus, new variants that spread more easily and a disregard for health protocols.

President Jair Bolsonaro on Wednesday held a meeting with the heads of other government branches to coordinate anti-virus efforts. But he didn't propose any policies to deal with the pandemic.

Bolsonaro has consistently downplayed the severity of the pandemic, insisting the economy must be kept humming to prevent worse hardship, and he has criticized health measures imposed by local leaders.



Mattresses with roses and signs that read "Shame," symbolizing COVID-19 victims lay on a sidewalk during a protest against the Government's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, organized by the Rio de Paz NGO, in front of the Ronaldo Gazolla hospital in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Wednesday, March 24, 2021. (AP Photo/Silvia Izquierdo)



The body of a COVID-19 victim lies in a body bag at the ICU of the Sao Jose municipal hospital in Duque de Caxias, Brazil, Wednesday, March 24, 2021. (AP Photo/Felipe Dana)



COVID-19 patients rest in the ICU of the Sao Jose municipal hospital, in Duque de Caxias, Brazil, Wednesday, March 24, 2021. (AP Photo/Felipe Dana)



Residents place roses on mattresses symbolizing COVID-19 victims, during a protest against the Government's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, organized by the Rio de Paz NGO, in front of the Ronaldo Gazolla hospital in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Wednesday, March 24, 2021. (AP Photo/Silvia Izquierdo)



COVID-19 patients are treated in the ICU of the Sao Jose municipal hospital, in Duque de Caxias, Brazil, Wednesday, March 24, 2021. (AP Photo/Felipe Dana)



A demonstrator places roses on mattresses symbolizing COVID-19 victims, during a protest against the Government's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, organized by the Rio de Paz NGO, in front of the Ronaldo Gazolla hospital in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Wednesday, March 24, 2021. (AP Photo/Silvia Izquierdo)



An intubated COVID-19 patient is treated in the ICU of the Sao Jose municipal hospital, in Duque de Caxias, Brazil, Wednesday, March 24, 2021. (AP Photo/Felipe Dana)



A COVID-19 patient arrives in an ambulance to the Sao Jose municipal hospital, in Duque de Caxias, Brazil, Wednesday, March 24, 2021. (AP Photo/Felipe Dana)

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