

German life expectancy decreased during pandemic years

July 26 2022



Credit: CC0 Public Domain

Average life expectancy in Germany dropped noticeably between 2019 and 2021, the national statistics office said Tuesday, a change that it attributed to unusually high numbers of deaths during the coronavirus

pandemic.

The Federal Statistical Office said that [life expectancy](#) for newborn girls last year was 83.2 years and for boys 78.2 years. That was a decrease of 0.4 and 0.6 years respectively compared with 2019, the last year before the pandemic.

"The main reason for this development is unusually high death figures during the COVID-19 waves," the office said in a statement.

An increase in the proportion of older people in the German population has led to expectations over the past 20 years of increasing numbers of deaths, the office said, but life expectancy had been rising before the pandemic.

Until COVID-19 hit, death figures were rising by an average 1-2% per year, but deaths were 5% higher in 2020 and a further 4% higher last year, statistics showed—meaning that there were 70,000 to 100,000 more deaths over the two years than would statistically have been expected.

The statistics [office](#) said that nearly 115,000 deaths of people with the coronavirus were reported in the two years, while pandemic-related precautions may have reduced deaths from other diseases. Germany has a population of 83 million.

© 2022 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed without permission.

Citation: German life expectancy decreased during pandemic years (2022, July 26) retrieved 20 April 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2022-07-german-life-decreased-pandemic-years.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.