Case Fatality Rate is decreasing

The Case Fatality Rate (CFR) is the ratio between confirmed deaths and confirmed cases. During an outbreak of a pandemic, the CFR is a poor measure of the mortality risk of the disease. We explain this in detail at OurWorldInData.org/Coronavirus.

Source: European CDC – Situation Update Worldwide – Last updated 27 August, 10:34 (London time)
Case Fatality Rate is age & health condition dependent

Coronavirus: case fatality rates by age

Case fatality rate (CFR) is calculated by dividing the total number of confirmed deaths due to COVID-19 by the number of confirmed cases. Two of the main limitations to keep in mind when interpreting the CFR:
1. Many cases within the population are unconfirmed due to a lack of testing.
2. Some individuals who are infected will eventually die from the disease, but are still alive at time of recording.

Coronavirus: early-stage case fatality rates by underlying health condition in China

Case fatality rate (CFR) is calculated by dividing the total number of deaths from a disease by the number of confirmed cases. Data is based on early-stage analysis of the COVID-19 outbreak in China in the period up to February 11, 2020.

Cardiovascular disease: 10.5%
Diabetes: 7.3%
Chronic respiratory disease: 6.5%
Hypertension: 6.0%
Cancer: 5.6%
No health condition: 0.9%

10.5% of people with a cardiovascular disease who were diagnosed with COVID-19 died.

Individuals with underlying health conditions are more vulnerable than those without.

Data sources:

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