



Abdullah Uçar <abdullahucar@gmail.com>

RE: 20-2967-1 FW: About a bug on ECDC COVID-19 data.

1 mesaj

ECDC Info <ECDC.Info@ecdc.europa.eu>

21 Temmuz 2020 16:46

Alici: "abdullahucar@gmail.com" <abdullahucar@gmail.com>

Dear Abdullah,

Thank you for contacting the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

On 3 July, the UK announced an ongoing revision of historical data that may lead to a decreased number of cases. Data will be retro-corrected accordingly.

Please note that the negatives found in the ECDC worldwide COVID-19 dataset are due to countries doing a retro-correction or a change in their reporting system. When historical data of retro-corrections are publicly available, we try to adjust, but for those situations when this is not available from an official source, such a situation can result in negative numbers.

A few examples:

UK: The United Kingdom adjusted their reporting on 20 May 2020 (This is due to a transfer of cases between testing pillars and revisions to historical data due to further information being made available to support data processing.), this led to a negative value in our dataset on 21 May 2020.

Spain: In early May 2020, Spain changed the way they report cases and the time in which they update their dashboard: <https://cneccovid.isciii.es/covid19/>

They now report systematically PCR+ cases (previously they also included non-PCR+ cases). In addition they made a change in frequency of reporting from regional level to national level since 11 May, resulting in discrepancies in the number of cases and deaths due to data validation. More can be found about this here: https://www.mscbs.gob.es/profesionales/saludPublica/ccayes/alertasActual/nCov-China/documentos/Actualizacion_116_COVID-19.pdf

Lithuania: The negative number of new cases for Lithuania (-105) was because they changed their reporting from "positive samples" to "positive individuals" which caused a drop in cases. The use of positive samples for case numbers had been a mistake which was corrected, but as no historical correction was provided this negative number stays.

Ecuador: This is due to a change how confirmed cases are counted by Ecuador. They provide an explanation on their website:

<https://www.salud.gob.ec/variacion-en-casos-por-reclasificacion/>

In summary they say (translated by Google translate from Spanish): "The implementation of the application evidenced a new reclassification and refinement of the data, which is reflected in today's national infographic, when the confirmed cases are reduced by -1,480, in relation to yesterday's record; the adjustment is mainly due to the fact that beyond the number of tests, cases are reported according to the citizen's ID number."

Benin: On 19 May 2020, Benin government indicated that they have changed their case classification in order to comply with World Health Organization requirements. From now, confirmed cases only correspond to cases confirmed by PCR testing. Previously, confirmed cases referred to cases diagnosed through PCR and rapid diagnostic testing.

We hope this helps. Thank you for your kind understanding and patience.

Kind regards,

The Info Team at ECDC

From: Abdullah Uçar <abdullahucar@gmail.com>
Sent: 17 July 2020 13:58
To: ECDC Info <ECDC.Info@ecdc.europa.eu>
Subject: Re: About a bug on ECDC COVID-19 data.

Dear Sir/Madam

I noticed a bug in the COVID-19 New Cases [csv file](#) in which UK's new case number on 03.07.2020 presented as "-29726".

Sincerely,

Abdullah Uçar
MD, PhD Candidate
Istanbul University
Health Sciences Institute
Turkey

12/07/2020,12,7,2020,820,148,United_Kingdom,UK,GBR,66647112,Europe,-31.954873
11/07/2020,11,7,2020,512,48,United_Kingdom,UK,GBR,66647112,Europe,-31.8498422
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03/07/2020,3,7,2020,-29726,89,United_Kingdom,UK,GBR,66647112,Europe,-25.0753551
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29/06/2020,29,6,2020,901,36,United_Kingdom,UK,GBR,66647112,Europe,22.89971694
28/06/2020,28,6,2020,890,100,United_Kingdom,UK,GBR,66647112,Europe,23.81948673

Abdullah Uçar

ECDC Info <ECDC.Info@ecdc.europa.eu>, 11 Haz 2020 Per, 12:31 tarihinde şunu yazdı:

Dear Abdullah

Thanks a lot for flagging this up and for your nice words. Spain recently changed the way they report cases. This led to discrepancies in cases and death numbers. Hopefully this will not happen again.

Kind Regards

The ECDC Info Team

From: Abdullah Uçar <abdullahucar@gmail.com>

Sent: 11 June 2020 11:22

To: webmaster WEBMASTER <webmaster@ecdc.europa.eu>; ECDC Info <ECDC.Info@ecdc.europa.eu>; ECDC.Publications <ecdc.publications@ecdc.europa.eu>

Subject: About a bug on ECDC COVID-19 data.

Dear Madam/Sir,

First of all, thank you for open access data sharing by providing COVID-19 total and new cases/deaths data. It provides great benefits and opportunities for researchers.

I noticed a bug in New_deaths/cases numbers for Spain on **25 May 2020**. On this date, **Spain** case number seems **"-372"** and death number seems **"-1918"**. I think this bug may be due to an error in automatic calculations on total case and death numbers.

I just wanted to give you feedback on this.

Thank you again for your work.

Sincerely,

Abdullah Uçar
MD, PhD Candidate
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