

Case fatality rate of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Iran-a term of caution

Vahid Rahmanian , Mohammad Hasan Rabiee, Hamid Sharifi

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has spread to 72 countries by the time of writing this report on 4th March 2020[1]. On 20th February 2020, the first two confirmed deaths from COVID-19 were reported in Iran. Till 4th March 2020, 2 922 confirmed and 92 death cases have also been reported till 4th March 2020 in Iran (Figure 1)[1]. A key question that remains unanswered or controversial among the public, media, and researchers is the exact COVID-19 case fatality rate (CFR) in Iran. Why does the CFR in Iran appear to be higher compared to the rest of the world until now? Or why the fatality rate is high at the beginning of the epidemic in Iran? For an epidemic of an emerging disease such as COVID-19, CFR is one of the most important epidemiological values. Little knowledge regarding various methods to estimate the CFR and their limitations can lead to misleading and misinterpretations and eventually may lead the decision-makers to make the wrong decisions.