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Deaths according to Cause of Death. Year 2006. Provisional data

The gross mortality rate drops 4.1% in the year 2006

Deaths due to AIDS decrease 9%, indicating the greatest decrease since 1998

371,478 deaths were recorded in Spain in 2006, that is, 15,877 fewer than those registered in 2005. The gross mortality rate stood at 843 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants, indicating a decrease of 4.1% as compared with the figure from the year 2005, when an increase had been produced in the number of deaths due to illnesses aggravated by influenza.

Cardiovascular disease, the number one cause of death in 2006

Cardiovascular diseases remained the number one cause of death in 2006 (32.5% of the total number of deaths) and neoplasms (tumours) continued in second place (27.4% of the total). In 2006, a total of 101,669 deaths were caused by the latter, indicating a slight increase (1.2%) as compared with the year 2005.

Despite the fact that, year after year, cardiovascular diseases remain the number one cause, their relative weight in the total number of deaths has continued to decrease. These illnesses were the main cause of almost half of the deaths occurring in 1980, and have gradually decreased in importance as compared with other causes, such as tumours, which in 1980 represented 20.2% of deaths.

The third most important group of causes of death was diseases of the respiratory system, responsible for 39,486 deaths in 2006.

Distribution by chapter of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases

Year 2006. Provisional data

Chapters of the ICD	No. Deaths	Percentage
Total chapters	371,478	100.00
Diseases of the circulatory system	120,690	32.49
Neoplasms	101,669	27.37
Diseases of the respiratory system	39,486	10.63
Diseases of the digestive system	19,337	5.21
External causes of morbidity and mortality	16,152	4.35
Diseases of the nervous system	15,722	4.23
Mental and behavioural disorders	12,111	3.26
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	11,519	3.10
Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified	10,632	2.86
Diseases of the genitourinary system	9,402	2.53
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases	7,198	1.94
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	3,388	0.91
Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism	1,227	0.33
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	1,085	0.29
Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	935	0.25
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	911	0.25
Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	14	0

By sex, cardiovascular diseases continued to be the number one cause of death in women, whereas tumours are the main cause in men.

Differences by sex could be observed as well in other groups of cause of death. Deaths due to external causes (mainly traffic accidents and suicides) were more frequent among men. In contrast, deaths originating in the nervous system (such as Alzheimer or Parkinson's), mental disorders (such as dementia), and endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases (such as diabetes mellitus) were more frequent among women.

Deaths by chapter of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases

Year 2006. Provisional data

Chapters of the ICD	Males	Females
Total chapters	194,154	177,324
Diseases of the circulatory system	55,398	65,292
Neoplasms	63,137	38,532
Diseases of the respiratory system	22,989	16,497
Diseases of the digestive system	10,445	8,892
External causes of morbidity and mortality	11,207	4,945
Diseases of the nervous system	6,213	9,509
Mental and behavioural disorders	4,173	7,938
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	4,494	7,025
Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified	4,786	5,846
Diseases of the genitourinary system	4,409	4,993
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases	3,953	3,245
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	1,041	2,347
Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism	503	724
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	361	724
Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	517	418
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	528	383
Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	---	14

Within the area of cardiovascular disease, ischaemic heart diseases (acute myocardial infarction, angina pectoris, ...) were, once again, the number one cause of death in men (21,194 deaths). On the other hand, cerebrovascular diseases were the main cause in women (19,038 deaths).

For women, breast cancer continued to be the most significant, with 5,956 deaths (3.4% more than the previous year). Colon cancer remained practically the same as in 2005, with 4,284 deaths.

Bronchial and lung cancer, most significant in men, caused 16,879 male deaths and 2,634 female deaths. Nonetheless, the increase, as compared with 2005, of deaths due to this type of cancer, was greater in women (6.7%) than in men.

The second most significant type of cancer for men was colon cancer (with 5,642 deaths and an increase of 1.4%). Prostate cancer was responsible for 5,413 deaths, 1.8% less than in 2005.

Deaths due to AIDS and traffic accidents decrease

Among the causes of death that most decreased in 2006 were **AIDS**, with 1,320 deaths, 9% less than in 2005, and **traffic accidents**, which caused 4,129 deaths, 7.7% less than the previous year.

The number of persons who died from suicide decreased by 4.9%. In 2006, of the 3,234 persons who died from this cause, 2,504 were men and 730 were women, indicating a greater male mortality of 3 to 1.

Number of deaths by most frequent causes of death, and by sex

Year 2006. Provisional data

	Total	Males	Females
Total diseases	371,478	194,154	177,324
Ischaemic heart diseases	37,076	21,194	15,882
Cerebrovascular diseases	32,887	13,849	19,038
Bronchial and lung cancer	19,513	16,879	2,634
Cardiac failure	18,888	6,562	12,326
Chronic diseases of the lower respiratory tracts	14,333	10,770	3,563
Dementia	11,215	3,639	7,576
Colon cancer	9,926	5,642	4,284
Diabetes mellitus	9,672	3,818	5,854
Alzheimer's disease	9,174	2,806	6,368
Pneumonia	7,812	4,083	3,729
Hypertensive diseases	6,675	2,120	4,555
Renal failure	6,035	3,003	3,032
Breast cancer	6,021	65	5,956
Stomach cancer	5,716	3,542	2,174
Prostate cancer	5,413	5,413	---

1 Causes with a relative weighting greater than 1.4%

The average age at the time of death stands at 76.37 years

In 2006, the average age at the time of death stood at 76.37 years. Considering only the main cause of death, mental and behavioural disorders and diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue presented the highest average ages (85 and 84 years of age, respectively). The lowest ages corresponded to external causes (56.98 years).

On the other hand, the average ages at the time of death due to cardiovascular disease and tumours, the main causes of death in 2006, were 80.45 and 71.78 years, respectively.

Average age at the time of death

Year 2006. Provisional data

Chapters of the ICD	Average age (years)
Total chapters	76.37
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	0.56
Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	19.55
Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	33.29
External causes of morbidity and mortality	56.98
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases	69.12
Neoplasms	71.78
Diseases of the digestive system	75.28
Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving	77.57
Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere c	78.43
Diseases of the nervous system	78.76
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	79.30
Diseases of the circulatory system	80.45
Diseases of the respiratory system	81.29
Diseases of the genitourinary system	82.43
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	83.82
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	84.00
Mental and behavioural disorders	85.00

Asturias registers the highest mortality rate, and Canarias the lowest

Mortality is directly related to the aging of the population, and is thus reflected in the data by Autonomous Community.

In 2006, the highest death rates per 100,000 inhabitants corresponded to Asturias (1,166.7), Galicia (1,080.3) and Castilla y León (1,054.4). Conversely, the lowest death rates per 100,000 inhabitants were recorded in Canarias (643.4), Madrid (666.1) and Ceuta (669.6).

Mortality rates per 100,000 inhabitants

Autonomous Community	2006 Rate	Autonomous Community	2006 Rate
Spain	843.0	Navarra (Comunidad Foral de)	836.7
Asturias (Principado de)	1,166.7	Cataluña	826.6
Galicia	1,080.3	Comunidad Valenciana	821.8
Castilla y León	1,054.4	Andalucía	795.4
Aragón	1,026.1	Balears (Illes)	726.4
Cantabria	972.7	Murcia (Región de)	718.6
Extremadura	965.9	Melilla	677.4
Castilla-La Mancha	905.0	Ceuta	669.6
Rioja (La)	874.8	Madrid (Comunidad de)	666.1
País Vasco	873.8	Canarias	643.4

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