

20 March 2012

Deaths according to Cause of Death. Year 2010
Provisional data

The gross mortality rate decreases 1.1% in 2010, as compared with the previous year

Diseases of the nervous system increase 2.9%, representing the fourth most common cause of death

382,047 deaths were recorded in Spain in 2010, that is, 2,886 fewer than those registered in 2009. 183,926 women (1.0% less than the previous year) and 198,121 men (0.5% less) died.

The gross mortality rate stood at 829.2 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants, indicating a 1.1% decrease as compared with the previous year.

By sex, the female rate stood at 786.8 deaths per 100,000 women, whereas the male rate was 872.9 deaths per 100,000 men.

Causes of death, by groups of illnesses and age groups

The three main causes of death were *diseases of the circulatory tract* (responsible for 31.2 out of every 100 deaths), *tumours* (28.1 out of every 100) and diseases of the respiratory tract (10.5 out of 100).

The first two maintained the trend of recent years: an increase in *tumours* (2.0% more deaths) and decrease in *circulatory diseases* (–0.8%). In 2010 deaths due to *respiratory diseases* also decreased (–7.0%).

It is also worth highlighting the increase in deaths due to the *diseases of the nervous system* group (19,309 deaths, 11,344 of which were due to Alzheimer's disease). This increase, maintained during the last decade, placed it as the fourth most common cause of death in 2010, whereas it was the eighth most common in 2000.

By age, the main cause of death in persons aged over 79 years old were *diseases of the circulatory tract* (37.3% of the total deaths from this group).

In the age groups between five and 14 years old, and between 40 and 79 years old, the main causes of death were *tumours* (35.7% and 42.7% of the total, respectively).

Among the persons aged between one and four years old, and those aged 15 to 39 years old, the main cause of death was the *external causes* group (25.5% and 38.5%, respectively).

Causes of death in women and in men

Tumours and *diseases of the circulatory tract* were the main causes of death in men and women, but not in the same order. *Tumours* were the main cause of death in males (with a rate of 291.2 deaths per 100,000) and the second in females (175.8).

Conversely, *diseases of the circulatory tract* were the leading cause of death among females (276.7 deaths per 100,000) and the second most common among males (239.6).

The causes with the greatest increase in male mortality were *external* causes (mainly traffic accidents and suicides), in which the male mortality rate was double the female rate (41.2, as compared with 20.7). Also significantly higher was the male mortality rate in *respiratory diseases* (103.2, as compared with 71.9).

In *osteomuscular and skin diseases*, the incidence of mortality in women was double that of men. Moreover, of note was the clear predominance in female mortality of *diseases of the nervous system* (with a rate of 50.2 for females and 33.4 in males) and in *mental disorders* (41.7 as compared with 22.3). Within the first group, deaths due to Alzheimer's disease predominated, and in the second, those due to other forms of dementia were prevalent (vascular, senile, etc.).

Chapters of the ICD	No. of deaths	%
Total deaths	382,047	100.00
Diseases of the circulatory tract	119,063	31.16
Tumours	107,188	28.06
Diseases of the respiratory tract	40,231	10.53
Diseases of the nervous system and sensory organs	19,309	5.05
Diseases of the digestive tract	19,110	5.00
Mental and behavioural disorders	14,798	3.87
External causes of mortality	14,186	3.71
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	12,596	3.30
Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings	10,764	2.82
Diseases of the genitourinary system	10,485	2.74
Infectious and parasitic diseases	6,457	1.69
Diseases of the osteomuscular system and of the conjunctive tissue	3,354	0.88
Diseases of blood and haematopoietic organs, and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism system	1,514	0.40
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	1,156	0.30
Congenital malformations, deformities and chromosomal abnormalities	978	0.26
Affections originating in the perinatal period	838	0.22
Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	20	0.01

Deaths due to the most common causes of death

On a more detailed level of diseases, *ischaemic heart diseases* (heart attack, angina pectoris etc.) and *cerebrovascular diseases* continued to occupy the first and second places in the number of deaths. In both cases, however, there was a decrease in deaths, as compared with the previous year (–1.0% and –3.3%, respectively). *Ischaemic diseases* were the leading cause of death in men, and *cerebrovascular diseases* were the leading cause in women.

Among *tumours*, those causing the greatest mortality were *bronchial and lung cancer* (1.6% more deaths in 2010) and *colon cancer* (3.6% more deaths).

By sex, the cancer that caused most deaths among males was *bronchial and lung cancer*. In women it was *breast cancer*, with a 2.7% increase as compared with the previous year.

Number of deaths by most frequent cause of death¹

Year 2010	Total	Male	Female
Total deaths	382,047	198,121	183,926
Ischaemic heart diseases	35,259	20,220	15,039
Cerebrovascular diseases	30,137	12,626	17,511
Bronchial and lung cancer	20,723	17,279	3,444
Cardiac failure	16,025	5,595	10,430
Chronic diseases of the lower respiratory tracts	15,662	11,634	4,028
Dementia	14,041	4,543	9,498
Alzheimer's disease	11,344	3,427	7,917
Colon cancer	11,238	6,526	4,712
Diabetes mellitus	9,797	4,108	5,689
Hypertensive diseases	9,471	3,124	6,347
Pneumonia	7,515	3,765	3,750
Breast cancer	6,369	76	6,293
Renal failure	6,281	3,067	3,214
Prostate cancer	5,875	5,875	-
Stomach cancer	5,851	3,601	2,250

(1) Causes whose relative weight is greater than 1.5%

Deaths due *traffic accidents* (2,327 deaths) continued their downward trend, decreasing 10.1%, as compared with 2009.

In turn, ***suicide*** was once again the first external cause of death, with 3,145 deaths (2,456 men and 689 women).

The number of deaths due to AIDS/HIV decreased 5.4% in the year 2010 (813 men and 208 women).

Gross mortality rates by Autonomous Community

By Autonomous Community, the highest death rates per 100,000 inhabitants in 2010 corresponded to Principado de Asturias (1,203.7), Galicia (1,087.1) and Castilla y León (1,086.1).

In turn, the lowest mortality rates were recorded in Canarias (611.8), Comunidad de Madrid (642.1) and in the Autonomous City of Melilla (551.3).

The main cause of death in all Autonomous Communities were *diseases of the circulatory tract*, except in País Vasco, Canarias, Comunidad de Madrid and Cataluña, where it was *tumours*.

Mortality rate per 100,000 inhabitants Year 2010

Total	829.2
Asturias, Principado de	1,203.7
Galicia	1,087.1
Castilla y León	1,086.1
Aragón	1,004.8
Extremadura	999.3
Cantabria	943.9
Rioja, La	907.1
País Vasco	905.7
Castilla-La Mancha	855.9
Cataluña	815.5
Comunitat Valenciana	804.1
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	802.5
Andalucía	782.5
Balears, Illes	711.3
Ceuta	710.7
Murcia, Región de	680.6
Madrid, Comunidad de	642.1
Canarias	611.8
Melilla	551.3

Methodological note

The Death Statistics according to Cause of Death provides annual information on deaths which have occurred in the country dealing, by basic cause of death, in accordance with the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) of the World Health Organisation (WHO). The 10th revision of this classification has been used since 1999.

In accordance with the recommendations of the WHO, the classification of causes of death is investigated and tabulated depending of the **basic cause of death**. This is defined as the *illness or injury which started the chain of pathological events which directly led to death. When the cause is a traumatic injury, the basic cause is considered to be the circumstances of the accident or violence which produced the fatal injury.* To be exact, this set or chain of illnesses is what the doctor certifying the death must provide in the statistical bulletin. Starting with these causes, named by the WHO as *immediate, intermediate, initial or fundamental and other processes*, and in accordance with the international regulations established in the ICD for selecting the basic cause, the latter is reached.

Data on causes of death is collected in three statistical questionnaire models: Medical Death Certificate/Statistical Death Register (CMD/BED), Judicial Statistical Death Register (BEDJ) and the Statistical Bulletin of Infants who died within 24 hours (BEP). The first one collects data on deaths due to natural causes, without requiring the intervention of a judge, whereas the second is directed at obtaining information on deaths due to causes requiring judicial intervention, since there are signs of a possible accidental or violent cause; both contain data on deaths among those who have lived more than 24 hours. Deaths occurring within 24 hours of life are collected in the BEP.

The sections in the bulletins containing the causes of death are different in both models. In the CMD/BED, 4 causes are described, which form the chain of illnesses which led to death, in the BEP only two are shown, one relating to the mother and another to the foetus, and in the BEDJ the external circumstances that caused the death are shown.

These statistics provide information on mortality by dealing with the basic cause of death, its distribution by sex, age, residence and month of death. It also offers indicators that enable the drawing of comparisons on an Autonomous Community level and large groups of causes of death.