

**Deaths according to Cause of Death  
2014**

**The crude mortality rate increased by 1.7% and stood at 852.1 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants.**

**Diseases of the circulatory system remained the leading cause of death**

In 2014 there were 395,830 deaths in Spain, 5,411 more than in the previous year (an increase of 1.4% in relative terms).

By sex, 201,571 males died (0.9% more than in 2013) and 194,259 females (1.9% more).

The crude mortality rate stood at 852.1 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants, which implies a 1.7% decrease as compared with the previous year. The male rate was 882.5 deaths per 100,000 men (an increase of 1.3%) and the female rate was 822.6 per 100,000 women (an increase of 2.1%).

Most of the deaths were due to natural causes (diseases). In 2014, 380,927 people died from these causes, representing 96.2% of the total. This figure was 1.4% higher than that of the previous year.

**Leading causes of death by groups of diseases<sup>1</sup>**

The group of *diseases of the circulatory system* remained the leading cause of death (with a rate of 252.7 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants), followed by tumours (237.4) and *diseases of the respiratory system* (94.4).

Compared to the previous year, deaths from *respiratory diseases* increased by 3.0%, while cases due to the other two groups decreased (tumours by 0.7% and *diseases of the circulatory system* by 0.1%).

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<sup>1</sup> Chapters of the International Classification of Diseases 10th revision (ICD-10) of the WHO.

**Number of deaths by cause of death (Chapters ICD-10)**

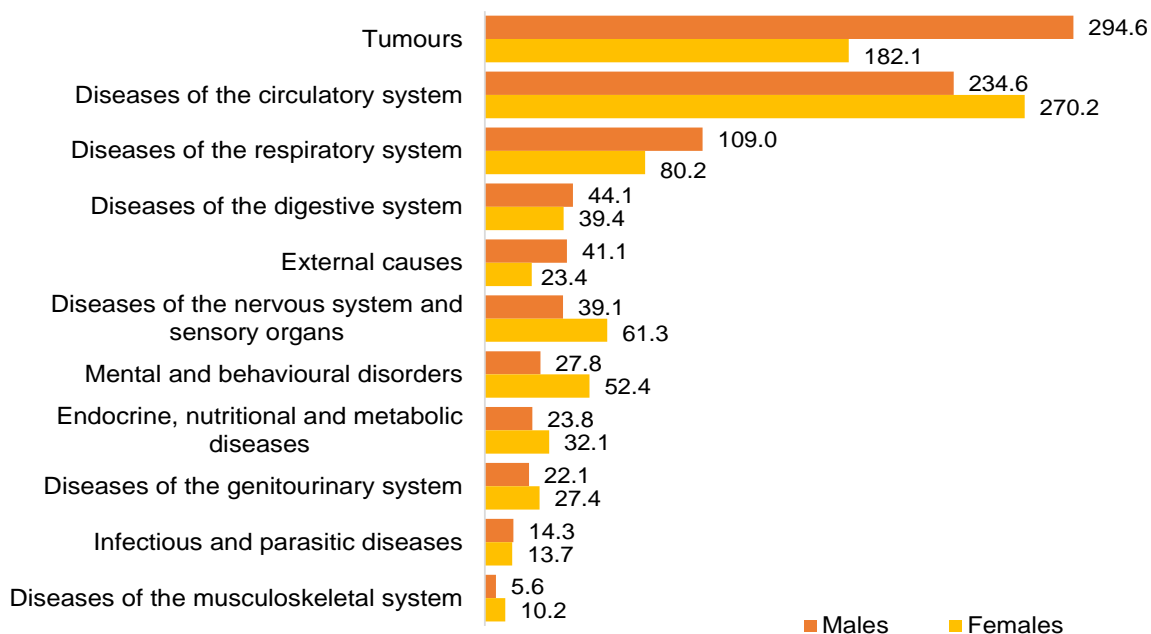
2014

Chapters of the ICD-10	No. of deaths	%
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>395,830</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Diseases of the circulatory system	117,393	29.7
Tumours	110,278	27.9
Diseases of the respiratory system	43,841	11.1
Diseases of the nervous system and sensory organs	23,394	5.9
Diseases of the digestive system	19,385	4.9
Mental and behavioural disorders	18,706	4.7
External causes of mortality	14,903	3.8
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	13,013	3.3
Diseases of the genitourinary system	11,530	2.9
Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings	8,483	2.1
Infectious and parasitic diseases	6,508	1.6
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and of the connective tissue	3,679	0.9
Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders affecting the immune mechanism	1,784	0.5
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	1,318	0.3
Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	828	0.2
Conditions originating in the perinatal period	778	0.2
Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	9	0.0

By sex, *tumours* were the leading cause of death in males (with a rate of 294.6 deaths per 100,000) and the second in females (182.1).

Conversely, *diseases of the circulatory system* were the leading cause of death among females (270.2 deaths per 100,000) and the second most common among males (234.6).

**Crude rates per 100,000 inhabitants by cause of death as per chapters from ICD-10 and sex. Year 2014**

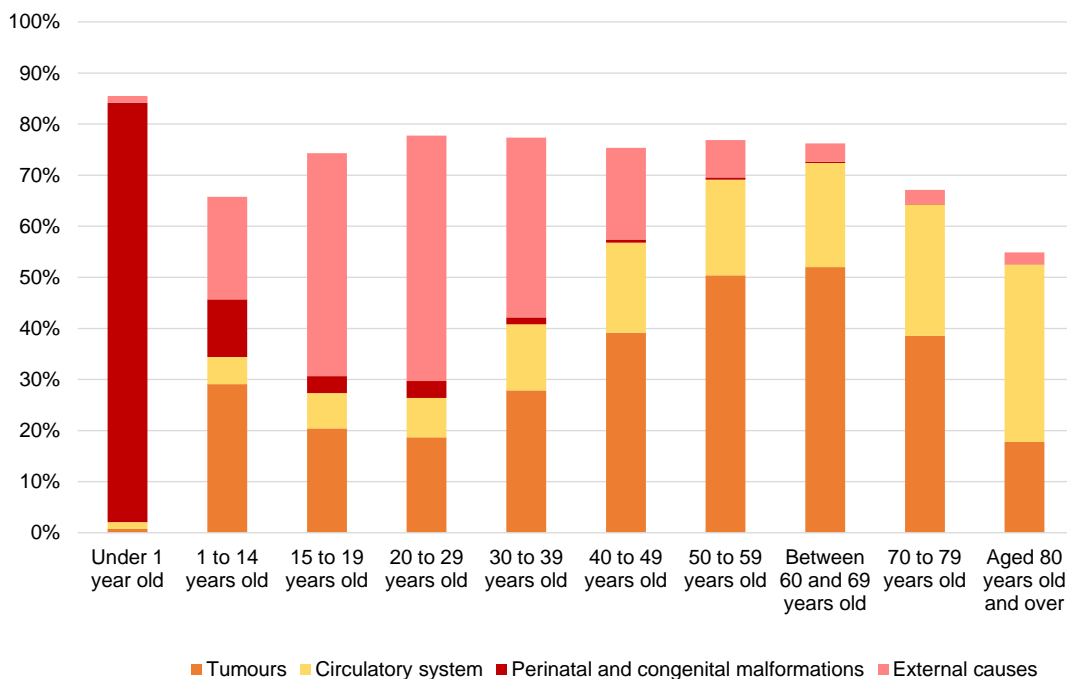


By age, the leading cause of death among children under one year of age were *perinatal conditions* and *congenital malformations* (82.1% of total deaths in this group).

In the 1-14 and 40-79 age groups, the leading causes of death were *tumours* (29.1% and 44.1% of the total, respectively), while the leading cause of death among those over 79 years of age were *diseases of the circulatory system* (34.7%).

Finally, among people 15-39 years old, external causes (39.3%) were the leading causes of death.

**Leading causes of death by age**  
Percentage of total deaths. Year 2014



### Most common diseases as cause of death

At a more detailed level, in the group of *circulatory diseases*, *ischaemic heart disease* (heart attack, angina etc.) and *cerebrovascular disease* again occupied first and second place in the number of deaths. In both cases, however, there was a decrease in deaths as compared with the previous year (-2.5% and -1.0%, respectively).

By sex, *ischaemic heart disease* was the leading cause of death in males and *cerebrovascular disease* in females.

Among *tumours*, those responsible for the highest rate of mortality were *bronchus and lung cancer* (although these deaths were reduced by 1.9% from 2013) and *colon cancer* (which also decreased in number of deaths by 0.4%).

By sex, both types of cancer caused more deaths among males (-2.1% and 0.3% respectively over the previous year). For its part, among females, the cancer with the highest mortality was *breast cancer* (-3.8% compared to 2013) followed by *colon cancer* (-1.5%).

17,883 people died due to dementia<sup>2</sup> and 14,022 to Alzheimer's disease. These diseases were ranked as the fourth and the seventh most common cause of death in Spain in 2014. Both diseases feature excess female mortality (out of every 10 deaths, seven were females).

**Number of deaths by most frequent causes of death (\*)**

<b>2014</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>
<b>Total illnesses</b>	395,830	201,571	194,259
Ischaemic heart diseases	32,564	19,101	13,463
Cerebrovascular diseases	27,579	11,573	16,006
Cancer of the trachea, bronchus and lung	21,251	17,194	4,057
Dementia	17,883	5,838	12,045
Cardiac failure	17,095	6,214	10,881
Chronic diseases of the lower respiratory tracts (LRTI)	15,546	11,434	4,112
Alzheimer's disease	14,022	4,099	9,923
Colon cancer	11,797	6,964	4,833
Hypertensive diseases	11,573	3,699	7,874
Diabetes Mellitus	9,625	4,100	5,525
Pneumonia	8,445	4,357	4,088
Renal failure	6,395	2,975	3,420
Breast cancer	6,325	94	6,231
Pancreatic cancer	6,287	3,199	3,088
Prostate cancer	5,863	5,863	-

(\*) Causes with relative weight greater than 1.4%

**External causes**

In 2014 there were 14,903 deaths due to *external causes* (9,388 males and 5,515 females), with an increase of 1.5% over the previous year.

*Suicide* remained the leading cause of external death (with 3,910 deaths), followed by *accidental falls* (2,749) and *drowning, choking and accidental suffocation* (2,370).

In 2014, a total of 1,873 people died in *traffic accidents* (1,429 males and 444 females), ranking as the fifth external cause.

By sex, *suicide* was the leading cause of external death in males (with a rate of 12.9 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants) followed by *traffic accidents* and *accidental falls* (both 6.3). Meanwhile, *accidental falls* were the first external cause in females (with a rate of 5.6 per 100,000 inhabitants), with *drowning, choking and suffocation* being the second external cause (with 4.8).

<sup>2</sup> Includes vascular dementia and others like senile dementia. Does not include Alzheimer's type dementia which falls within nervous system diseases.

### Mortality rates by Autonomous Region

The highest crude rates of deaths per 100,000 inhabitants in 2014 were in Principado de Asturias (1215.5), Castilla y Leon (1118.0) and Galicia (1092.6).

The lowest rates were in the autonomous cities of Melilla (576.8) and Ceuta (601.5) and in Comunidad de Madrid (675.3) and Canarias (676.5).

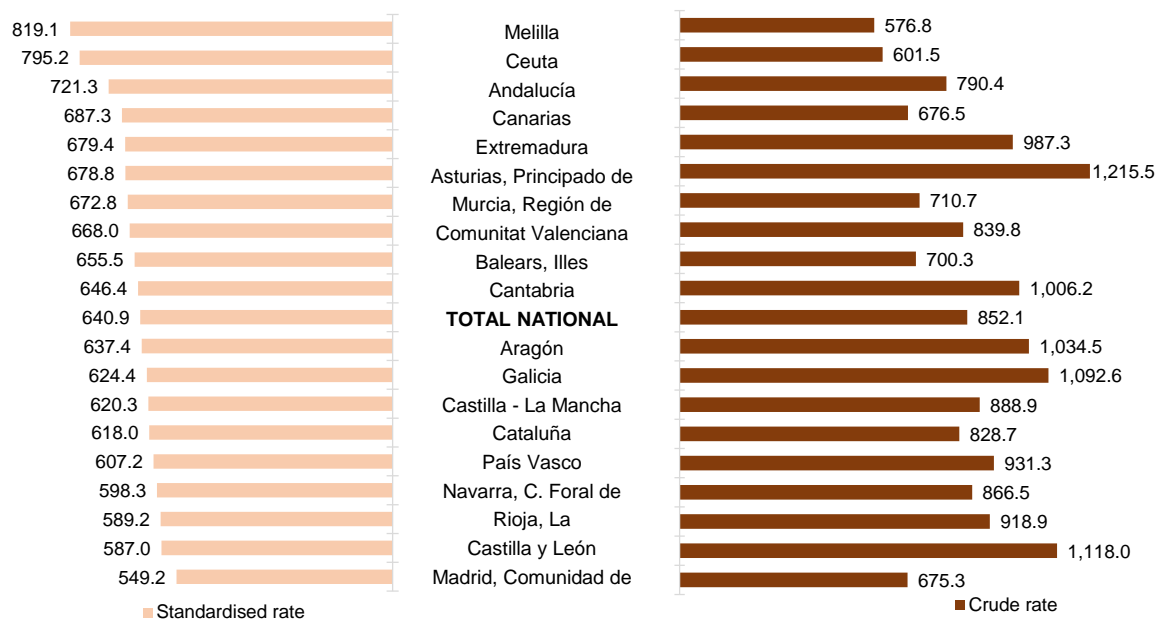
The crude mortality rate increased in all regions except the autonomous city of Ceuta (-4.3%) and Extremadura (-1.8%) and Galicia (-1.2%).

Meanwhile, the rate increased the most in Cantabria (5.7%), Canarias (4.7%) and in the autonomous city of Melilla (4.7%).

The crude mortality rates were higher in territories with older populations, because normally there are more deaths from the effect of the population structure by age. To correct this, standardised mortality rates are calculated which represent the death rate in the autonomous region assuming they all had the same age composition.

In this case, the regions with the highest standardised rates were the autonomous cities of Melilla (819.1) and Ceuta (795.2) and the autonomous regions of Andalusia (721.3) and Canarias (687.3).

### Mortality rates by Autonomous Region of residence. Year 2014



*Diseases of the circulatory system* were the leading cause of death in most autonomous regions. The highest mortality rates for these diseases were registered in Principado de Asturias (with 386.1 deaths per thousand inhabitants), Galicia (349.9) and Castilla y León (332.7).

These three autonomous regions also had the highest rates of deaths from *tumours* with 336.6, 300.5 and 318.3 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants respectively.

*Diseases of the respiratory system* stood as the third cause of death in all autonomous regions. Meanwhile, *diseases of the nervous system* were the fourth leading cause of death in all the autonomous regions, except in Extremadura, Comunidad de Madrid and the autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla, where it was diseases of the digestive system.

### Crude mortality rates per 100,000 inhabitants by leading causes of death (\*)

	Circulatory system	Tumours	Respiratory system	Nervous system	Digestive system
<b>TOTAL</b>	252.7	237.4	94.4	50.4	41.7
Andalucía	262.1	203.7	81.8	44.7	41.9
Aragón	315.5	285.5	103.8	59.2	49.1
Asturias	386.1	336.6	131.1	65.0	55.5
Balears, Illes	204.2	188.9	69.4	41.9	32.8
Canarias	164.7	199.7	79.7	32.9	27.7
Cantabria	277.9	291.7	125.9	53.9	45.9
Castilla y León	332.7	318.3	127.3	61.0	55.8
Castilla-La Mancha	254.0	235.0	116.6	52.6	46.4
Cataluña	228.8	232.9	84.9	62.0	40.8
Comunitat Valenciana	257.7	231.9	83.4	58.3	39.4
Extremadura	313.4	275.6	112.4	50.6	53.8
Galicia	349.9	300.5	119.5	51.3	51.3
Madrid, Comunidad de	179.5	202.5	98.4	30.6	31.3
Murcia	208.6	195.4	86.5	47.5	38.1
Navarra	232.9	258.8	94.0	64.5	44.5
País Vasco	249.2	293.7	86.5	59.6	43.8
La Rioja	283.1	250.3	88.5	76.4	43.6
Ceuta	200.9	158.4	50.8	27.2	40.2
Melilla	178.4	149.9	55.9	28.5	30.9

(\*) Autonomous Community of residence

## 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.

These are harmonised European statistics that are backed by Commission Regulation (EU) No. 328/2011 of 5 April 2011 concerning statistics on causes of death.

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 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 Medical Certificate. Starting with these causes, named by the WHO as immediate, intermediate, 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 are collected in three statistical questionnaire models: the Medical Death Certificate/Statistical Death Bulletin (CMD/BED), the Statistical Legal Death Bulletin (BeDJ) and the Statistical Birth Bulletin (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; In the case of those who died before 24 hours of life, the data also are collected through the BEP.

The sections in the bulletins containing the causes of death are different in the various models. The CMD/BED describes the four causes that make up the chain of diseases leading to death. In the BEP only two are included, one on the mother and the other on the foetus. The BeDJ contains the external circumstances that led to the death.

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 Region level and large groups of causes of death.