26 June 2024

Death statistic according to cause of death

Year 2023. Provisional data

Main results

- In 2023, the leading cause of death was *tumours*, which accounted for 26.6% of the total number of deaths.
- Reported deaths due to *diseases of the circulatory system* decreased by 5.3% compared to 2022, ranking as the second most frequent cause of death, with 26.5% of the total.
- In addition, deaths due to COVID-19 decreased by 75.1% compared to 2022 and accounted for 1.8% of all deaths.
- *Unintentional falls* became the leading external cause, displacing suicides.

More information

- Tables annex
- Detailed results

In 2023, the number of deaths recorded in Spain was 433,163, which is 31,254 less than the previous year (6.7% less). In terms of gender, a total of 219,077 men and 214,086 women died (6.5% and 6.9% less than in 2022, respectively).

The crude mortality rate stood at 895.4 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants, down 7.9% from the previous year. The rate for males was 924.2 deaths per 100,000 males (down 7.6%) and for females 867.8 deaths per 100,000 females (down 8.1%).

Of those deaths, 95.9% were due to *natural causes* and 4.1% to *external causes*.

Principal causes of natural death by gender

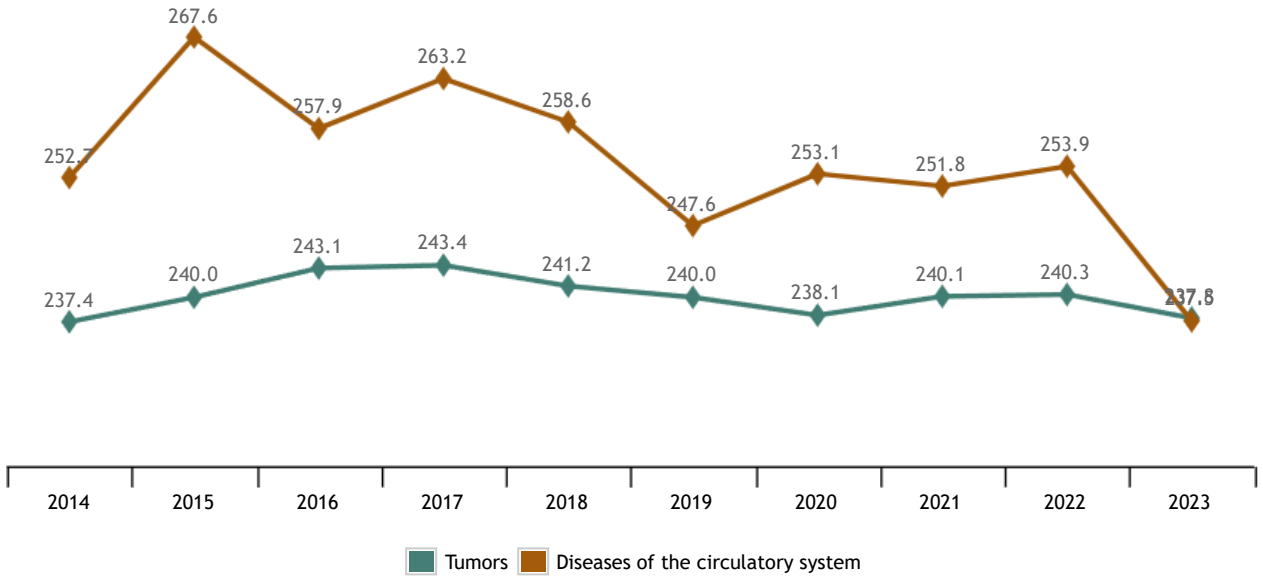
In 2023, *tumours* were the number one cause of death, accounting for 26.6% of all deaths, followed by d*iseases of the circulatory system* (26.5%).

Compared with the previous year, deaths due to *tumours* increased by 0.2%, while those due to diseases of the circulatory system decreased by 5.3%.

For the first time, this disparate evolution caused the death rate from *tumours* (237.8 per 100,000 inhabitants) to be higher than that of *diseases of the circulatory system* (237.5).

Current press release at:https://www.ine.es/dyngs/Prensa/en/pEDCM2023.htm

Deaths from tumours and from diseases of the circulatory system. Year 2014-2023
Rates per 100,000 inhabitants



Looking at a more specific detail, among deaths due to *diseases of the circulatory system*, *ischaemic heart* disease was the most frequent cause of death in 2023, with 27,203 people deceased, 6.4% less than in 2022. This was followed by *cerebrovascular diseases*, with 23,173 deaths (6.1% less).

With regard to tumours, *bronchial and lung cancer* was the most frequent cause of disease (with 22,717 deaths, unchanged from 2022), followed by *colon cancer* (10,891 deaths, 2.3% less).

The most frequent diseases that increased the most were in the respiratory conditions group. For example, deaths due to pneumonia increased by 17.1% and *chronic lower respiratory diseases* by 2.6%.

On the other hand, the cause of death that decreased the most with respect to 2022 was the *COVID-19 virus identified* (75.1% less).

Current press release at:https://www.ine.es/dyngs/Prensa/en/pEDCM2023.htm

Deaths according to the most frequent causes of death. Records for 2019-2023
Absolute values and percentage change

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Variation 2023/2022
TUMORS						
- Bronchial and lung cancer	21,987	21,893	22,413	22,712	22,717	0.0%
- Colon cancer	11,546	11,131	11,021	11,142	10,891	-2.3%
- Cancer of pancreas	7,313	7,427	7,663	7,973	8,111	1.7%
- Breast cancer	6,452	6,651	6,614	6,754	6,492	-3.9%
DISEASES OF THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM						
- Ischaemic heart disease	29,247	29,654	28,852	29,068	27,203	-6.4%
- Cerebrovascular disease	25,712	25,817	24,858	24,688	23,173	-6.1%
- Cardiac insufficiency	19,040	19,358	20,173	20,584	19,107	-7.2%
- Hypertensive disease	11,854	14,271	14,149	14,865	14,459	-2.7%
RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DISEASES						
- Acute lower respiratory infections	13,808	12,734	11,295	12,311	12,636	2.6%
- Pneumonia	9,384	8,768	6,799	8,776	10,280	17.1%
NERVOUS SYSTEM DISEASES						
- Alzheimer disease	14,634	15,571	13,045	13,999	13,172	-5.9%
MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL DISORDERS						
- Dementia	22,117	20,822	19,650	21,888	21,084	-3.7%
DISEASES OF THE GENITOURINARY SYSTEM						
- Renal insufficiency	7,229	7,351	7,561	8,117	8,003	-1.4%
ENDOCRINE, NUTRITIONAL AND METABOLIC DISEASES						
- Diabetes mellitus	9,644	11,297	10,748	11,063	10,671	-3.5%
INFECTIOUS AND PARASITIC DISEASES						
- Covid-19 virus identify	0	60,358	39,444	31,606	7,885	-75.1%

*2023 data published today are provisional

Current press release at:https://www.ine.es/dyngs/Prensa/en/pEDCM2023.htm

By gender, *ischaemic heart* disease was the number one cause of death among men (17,038 deaths), which was followed by *bronchial and lung cancer* (16,503) and *cerebrovascular diseases* (10,356).

For women, the most frequent causes were *dementia* (14,225 deaths), *cerebrovascular diseases* (12,817) and *heart failure* (11,258).

Principal external causes of death by gender

In 2023 there were 17,737 deaths due to external causes, 837 less than in the previous year (-4.5%). By gender, 11,205 men died (4.2% less than in 2022) and 6,532 women (5.0% less).

Unintentional falls were the number one cause of external death, with 4,018 deaths (6.1% more), surpassing *suicides* (with 3,952).

Among the most frequent causes, the highest decreases were recorded in deaths due to *drowning, submersion and accidental suffocation* (11.8% less) and in *suicides* (6.5% less). The number of deaths due to *road traffic accidents* also decreased (-3.6%).

By gender, the most frequent causes of external death among men were *suicides* (2,952 deaths) and *unintentional falls* (2,156). For women, the most frequent causes were *unintentional falls* (1,862 deaths) and *drowning, submersion and suffocation* (1,701).

Main causes of external death. Records for 2019-2023
Absolute data and percentage change

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Variation 2023/2022
Accidental falls	3,297	3,605	3,655	3,788	4,018	6.1%
Suicide	3,671	3,941	4,003	4,227	3,952	-6.5%
Drowning, submersion and suffocation	3,248	2,913	3,504	4,108	3,625	-11.8%
Traffic accidents	1,842	1,463	1,599	1,815	1,750	-3.6%

*2023 data published today are provisional

Results by Autonomous Communities and Cities

The number of deceased decreased in all autonomous communities in the year 2023 compared to 2022.

The highest decreases were in Cantabria, Aragón and Castilla y León (10.9%, 10.3% and 9.6%, respectively). The lowest decreases were in the Autonomous City of Melilla (3.5% less), Catalonia (-4.9%) and Canarias (-5.4%).

Looking at the main causes of death, the highest increases in deaths due to *tumours* were recorded in the autonomous city of Melilla (27.3%), Catalonia (2.9%) and the Illes Balears and Aragon (2.6% in both). The highest decreases were in the autonomous city of Ceuta (-11.3%), Principado de Asturias (-4.7%) and Extremadura (-4.1%).

Deceases due to diseases of the *circulatory system decreased* in all communities, except in Aragon (2.2%). The highest decreases were in the Autonomous City of Melilla, Cantabria and Galicia (16.5%, 12.3% and 9.0%, respectively).

Principado de Asturias had the highest increase in deaths due to *respiratory diseases* (18.7%), followed by Catalonia (16.4%) and Castilla-La Mancha (13.7%). The highest decreases for these diseases were in Aragon (-17.7%), the Autonomous City of Melilla (-13.4%) and La Rioja (-10.9%).

Current press release at:https://www.ine.es/dyngs/Prensa/en/pEDCM2023.htm

Deaths according to the main causes of death, by autonomous communities and cities. Year 2023
Percentage change

	All causes	Tumors	Circulatory system	Respiratory system
TOTAL	-6.7%	0.2%	-5.3%	8.8%
Andalucía	-6.2%	0.3%	-7.8%	12.7%
Aragón	-10.3%	2.6%	2.2%	-17.7%
Asturias, Principado de	-6.6%	-4.7%	-2.5%	18.7%
Balears, Illes	-7.4%	2.6%	-7.9%	-1.0%
Canarias	-5.4%	-0.1%	-5.2%	0.9%
Cantabria	-10.9%	-2.5%	-12.3%	0.0%
Castilla y León	-9.6%	0.7%	-8.0%	13.0%
Castilla-La Mancha	-6.4%	1.0%	-6.7%	13.4%
Cataluña	-4.9%	2.9%	-4.8%	16.4%
Comunitat Valenciana	-6.5%	-0.8%	-2.8%	6.3%
Extremadura	-8.4%	-4.1%	-7.7%	4.5%
Galicia	-6.6%	-0.7%	-9.0%	3.6%
Madrid, Comunidad de	-6.9%	0.2%	-3.9%	10.1%
Murcia, Región de	-7.4%	0.4%	-3.6%	5.3%
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	-7.5%	-3.5%	-5.3%	11.5%
País Vasco	-7.9%	-2.1%	-2.7%	5.1%
Rioja, La	-6.6%	-0.7%	-3.4%	-10.9%
Ceuta	-9.4%	-11.3%	-0.6%	11.1%
Melilla	-3.5%	27.3%	-16.5%	-13.7%

Revisions and data updates

The data for 2023 are provisional and will be disseminated as final in December 2024. All the results of this operation are available on INEBase.

Current press release at:https://www.ine.es/dyngs/Prensa/en/pEDCM2023.htm

Methodological note

The Death Statistics according to Cause of Death provides annual information on deaths occurring within the national territory according to the underlying cause, based on the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) of the World Health Organization (WHO). As of 1999, the 10th revision of this classification is used.

This is a harmonised European statistic which is supported by Commission Regulation (EU) No. 328/2011 of 5 April 2011 on statistics on causes of death.

The methodology followed by the INE in the Statistics of deaths by cause of death is based on the detailed analysis of the medical death certificates (CMD). The source of information for deaths with legal intervention is the Statistical Legal Death Bulletin completed by the courts or the information directly provided by the Institutes of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences (IMLCF). In both cases, the information is provided through a web application designed by the INE.

Type of operation: annual continuous statistics.

Population scope: deaths occurring in the national territory.

Geographical scope: the entire national territory.

Reference period for the results: the calendar year and the semester.

Reference period for the information: date on which death occurs.

Collection method: statistical form based on an administrative act.

More information on the methodology and the standardised methodological report.

INE statistics are produced in accordance with the Code of Good Practice for European Statistics. More information on Quality at INE and the Code of Best Practices.

For further information see INEbase

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