



Piraeus, 5 February 2026

Causes of Death: 2023

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) announces statistical data on the causes of death for the year 2023. The data sources are the death certificates submitted by medical practitioners and, for violent or sudden deaths, by the Forensic Medicine Authorities.

Data on the causes of death are compiled in accordance with the 10th Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10, version 2008) which was adopted in 2014. In particular, the data are as follows:

- In 2023, deaths amounted to 128,097¹ (64,898 men and 63,199 women), recording a decrease of 9.0%, in comparison to the 140,792 deaths (70,795 men and 69,997 women) recorded in 2022 (Graph 1).
- The main causes of death in 2023 were diseases of the circulatory system with 40,812 deaths, followed by neoplasms and diseases of the respiratory system with 30,095 and 12,894 deaths, respectively (Table 1, Graph 2).
- Deaths caused by COVID-19 amounted to 5,975² (3,131 men and 2,844 women) in 2023. Most of the deaths were recorded in the age group 75 years and over (4,789 deaths), followed by the age groups 60-74 years and 45-59 years with 941 and 208 deaths, respectively. In the age group under 15 years, 4 deaths due to the disease were recorded. The COVID-19 disease was the only cause of death, as mentioned in the death certificates, in the 21.9% of the COVID-19 deaths (1,311 deaths), whereas for the 78.1% (4,664 deaths) there was reference to a pre-existing condition (comorbidity). The most common pre-existing conditions of the deceased by COVID-19 were diseases of the circulatory system, neoplasms and diseases of the respiratory system, with 27.9% (1,666 deaths), 18.4% (1,098 deaths) and 6.6% (395 deaths), respectively (Table 5, Graph 5).
- In comparison to previous years, the share of deaths caused by diseases of the circulatory system increased from 10.0% in 1938 (first year when analytical data were made available) to 25.0% in 1956 (first year after the Second World War for which data were available) and amounted to 31.9% in 2023. The corresponding share of deaths caused by neoplasms rose from 4.1% in 1938 to 11.7% in 1956 and up to 23.5% in 2023. On the contrary, deaths caused by infectious and parasitic diseases, which in 1938 accounted for 18.4% of the total deaths, dropped significantly to 2.8% in 2023 (Table 2, Graph 3). It should be noted that classification changes should be considered when assessing the comparability of data over time.

¹ It is noted that the data on deaths are finalized after the processing of the data on the causes of death, and therefore, the total number of deaths presented in this announcement does not fully coincide with the data presented in the announcement on "Vital Statistics: 2023" of the 1st October 2024.

² Data on deaths caused by COVID-19 presented in this announcement have been compiled according to the International Guidelines of the World Health Organization for certification and classification (coding) of COVID-19 disease as cause of death and may differ from those announced by the National Public Health Organization (EODY).

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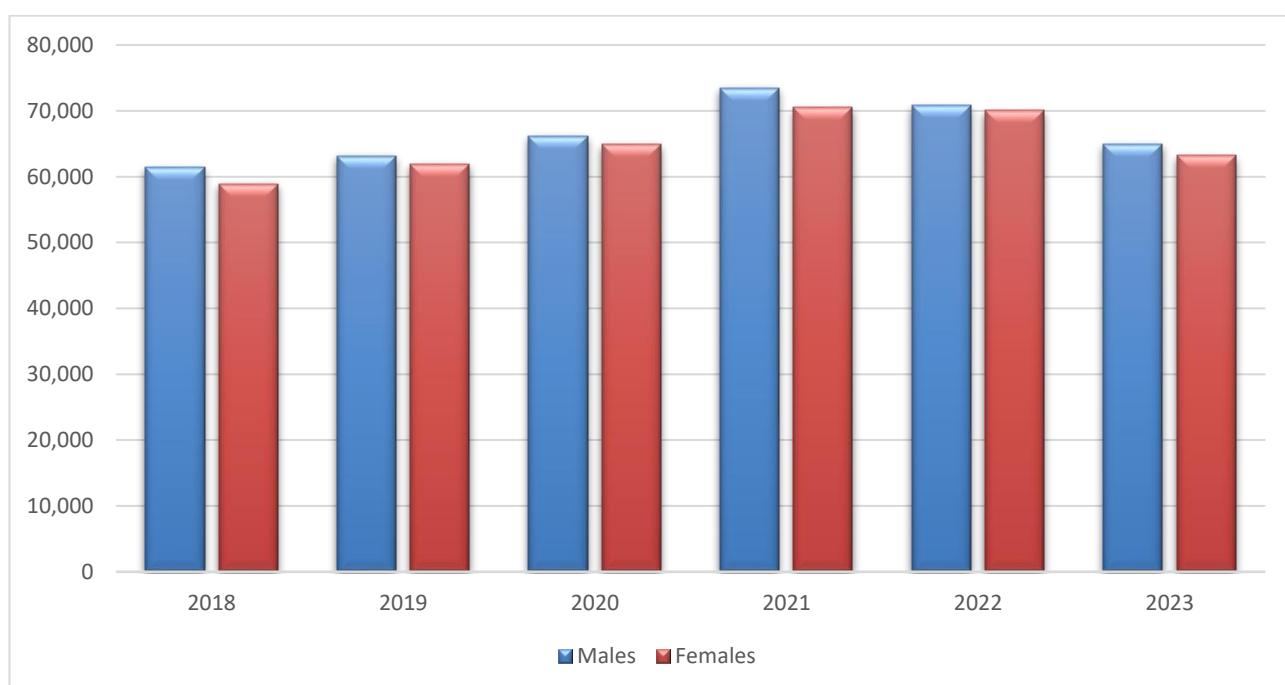
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- The number of deaths due to suicides, as recorded by the Forensic Medicine and Criminal Investigation Authorities, amounted to 488 in 2023, compared to 516 in 2022 (decrease of 5.4%). It should be noted that any discrepancies between these data and the corresponding data of other agencies may be on account of the different methodology used or other underlying factors, such as the need for time-consuming research by the Forensic Medicine Authorities in order to investigate the conditions resulting to the death, deaths caused by late effects after a suicide attempt, etc.
- The data presented in this Publication do not include data on the number of refugees/migrants who died while border-crossing before being registered in the Country or have drowned in Greek territorial waters. The corresponding figures per year are 72 in 2018, 62 in 2019, 59 in 2020, 84 in 2021, 122 in 2022 and 121 in 2023.

The data on the causes of death for the year 2023 are presented below, broken down by sex, age group, place of usual residence of the deceased and month of occurrence (Tables 3,4,6 and 7, Graphs 4,6).

Graph 1. Deaths by sex, 2018-2023



Graph 2. Percentage distribution of deaths by main categories of causes of death, 2023

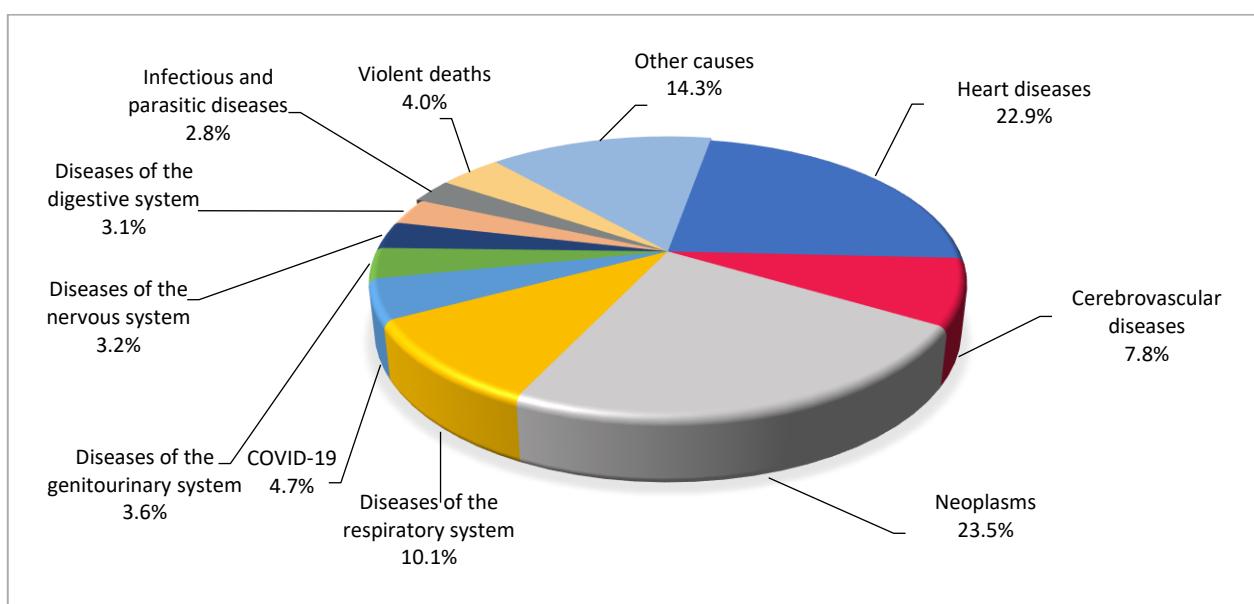


Table 1. Deaths by categories of causes of death, broken down by the most important subcategories, 2018-2023

Causes of death	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total deaths	120,291	124,954	131,025	143,904	140,792	128,097
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases	4,054	4,234	3,921	3,244	3,413	3,528
Neoplasms, of which:	30,331	30,637	30,829	30,675	29,532	30,095
<i>Malignant neoplasms of colon, rectosigmoid junction, rectum, anus and anal canal</i>	2,681	2,851	2,774	2,775	2,760	2,884
<i>Malignant neoplasm of liver and intrahepatic bile ducts</i>	1,422	1,480	1,384	1,326	1,321	1,299
<i>Malignant neoplasm of pancreas</i>	1,914	1,898	2,000	2,032	1,973	2,038
<i>Malignant neoplasms of trachea, bronchus and lung</i>	7,046	7,117	7,014	6,959	6,696	6,540
<i>Malignant neoplasm of breast</i>	2,201	2,261	2,219	2,269	2,039	2,094
<i>Malignant neoplasm of prostate</i>	1,711	1,706	1,785	1,848	1,735	1,781
Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism	263	340	338	389	484	497
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases, of which:	2,509	2,740	2,767	3,035	3,157	3,211
<i>Diabetes mellitus</i>	2,220	2,384	2,401	2,580	2,691	2,690
Mental and behavioural disorders, of which:	1,940	2,256	2,658	3,215	3,396	3,373
<i>Dementia</i>	1,720	1,949	2,280	2,753	2,752	2,602
Diseases of the nervous system, of which:	3,652	3,546	4,102	4,274	4,131	4,077
<i>Parkinson disease</i>	1,609	1,560	1,474	1,304	1,383	1,377
<i>Alzheimer's disease</i>	545	504	514	520	535	554
Diseases of the eye and adnexa	0	0	0	3	0	0
Diseases of the ear and mastoid process	1	2	1	0	1	0
Diseases of the circulatory system, of which:	44,590	44,234	45,741	46,607	44,325	40,812
<i>Heart diseases</i>	30,526	29,804	31,275	32,749	31,379	29,396
<i>Cerebrovascular diseases</i>	12,574	12,973	13,022	12,437	11,417	9,942
Diseases of the respiratory system, of which:	12,668	13,591	12,576	13,078	13,165	12,894
<i>Influenza</i>	36	139	128	0	38	107
<i>Pneumonia & other acute lower respiratory infections</i>	6,145	6,608	6,038	6,188	6,501	6,630
<i>Chronic lower respiratory diseases</i>	3,029	3,244	3,047	3,285	3,143	2,873
Diseases of the digestive system	3,544	3,585	3,453	3,466	3,700	3,916
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	54	79	57	51	138	130
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	352	408	418	592	521	556
Diseases of the genitourinary system	3,544	3,866	4,275	4,599	4,479	4,581
Pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium	4	6	3	5	3	6
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	173	195	168	199	149	148
Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	184	196	226	179	187	204
Symptoms, signs, and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified	7,910	10,435	9,712	8,884	8,621	8,960
External causes of mortality-Violent deaths	4,518	4,604	4,752	5,066	5,217	5,134
<i>Transport accidents</i>	865	840	699	726	789	819
<i>Falls</i>	918	1,063	1,395	1,436	1,339	1,237
<i>Accidental drowning and submersion</i>	367	363	272	340	380	386
<i>Accidental poisoning by and exposure to noxious substances</i>	268	276	277	291	270	233
<i>Other accidents</i>	923	848	933	1,020	1,207	1,221
<i>Suicide</i>	567	530	464	467	516	488
<i>Homicide, assault</i>	109	93	86	91	83	75
<i>Other external causes</i>	501	591	626	695	633	675
COVID-19	-	-	5,028	16,343	16,173	5,975

Table 2. Main categories of causes of death, years 1938, 1956, 1983, 1993, 2003, 2013 and 2023

Main causes of death	1938	1956	1983	1993	2003	2013	2023
Total deaths	93,766	59,460	90,586	97,419	105,529	111,794	128,097
Diseases of the circulatory system	9,347	14,893	41,568	47,769	52,763	46,342	40,812
Neoplasms	3,831	6,928	17,563	21,044	24,799	28,857	30,095
Diseases of the respiratory system	17,849	3,290	5,940	5,592	7,430	10,924	12,894
Infectious and parasitic diseases	17,283	3,185	800	677	739	1,105	3,528
Violent deaths	2,687	2,821	5,004	4,309	4,041	3,473	5,134
Other causes	42,769	28,343	19,711	18,028	15,757	21,093	35,634*

* Deaths caused by COVID-19 are included

Graph 3. Percentage distribution of main categories of causes of death, years 1938, 1956, 1983, 1993, 2003, 2013 and 2023

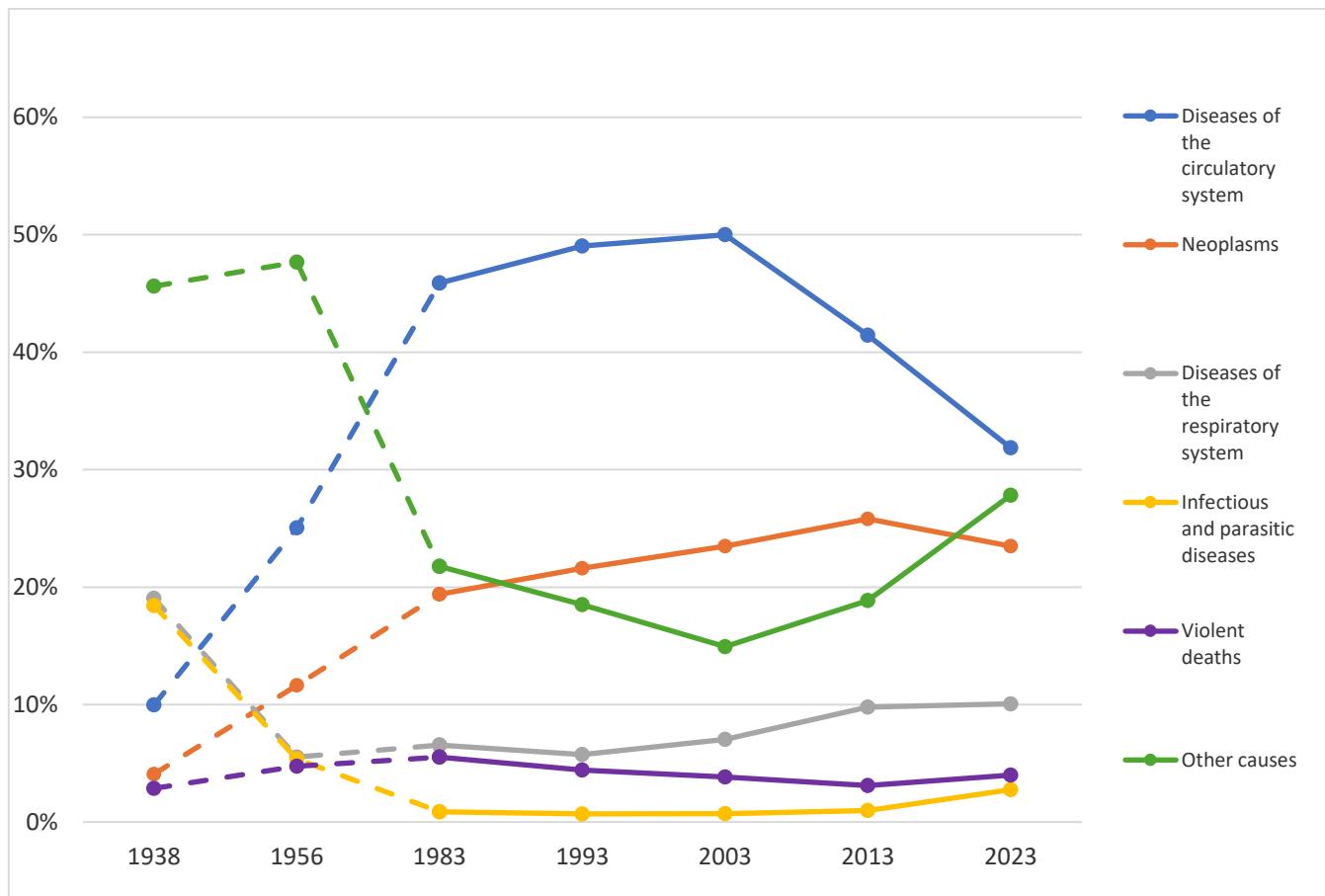


Table 3. Deaths by main categories of causes of death, by age group and sex, 2023

Causes of death	Total deaths per cause	Deaths by age group and sex											
		under 15		15-29		30-44		45-59		60-74		75 and over	
		Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Total deaths	128,097	209	153	442	163	1,194	520	5,163	2,569	15,159	8,190	42,731	51,604
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases	3,528	1	2	4	5	33	9	82	42	259	182	1,134	1,775
Neoplasms, of which:	30,095	14	9	51	23	206	223	1,627	1,318	6,272	3,538	9,843	6,971
Malignant neoplasm of colon	2,498	0	0	4	0	10	18	115	77	456	251	897	670
Malignant neoplasm of bronchus and lung	6,537	0	0	2	0	30	12	459	190	2,245	706	2,214	679
Malignant neoplasm of breast	2,094	0	0	1	3	0	56	3	280	5	502	22	1,222
Malignant neoplasm of prostate	1,781	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	294	0	1,470	0
Malignant neoplasm of brain	1,020	2	3	12	0	25	18	97	86	230	173	199	175
Leukaemia	1,059	4	2	10	2	11	8	48	38	155	94	383	304
Diseases of the circulatory system, of which:	40,812	3	4	52	15	272	79	1,580	417	4,128	1,774	13,645	18,843
Heart diseases	29,396	3	4	46	12	218	59	1,298	275	3,078	1,183	9,830	13,390
Cerebrovascular diseases	9,942	0	0	3	3	43	18	191	121	759	482	3,323	4,999
Diseases of the respiratory system	12,894	17	12	5	5	34	10	151	81	776	479	5,462	5,862
Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	204	46	27	8	10	15	11	30	24	19	10	2	2
Other pathological causes	29,455	107	87	60	34	216	107	969	465	2,388	1,588	8,972	14,462
Violent deaths	5,134	19	10	260	69	399	71	601	137	729	266	1,276	1,297
Transport accidents	819	2	4	169	45	119	25	148	27	126	22	94	38
Falls	1,237	2	1	5	2	10	1	32	6	77	22	483	596
Accidental drowning and submersion	386	6	1	5	0	16	0	39	11	92	44	112	60
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to noxious substances	233	0	0	14	3	75	15	76	11	12	9	8	10
Other accidents	1,221	4	2	16	1	55	8	112	23	164	71	351	414
Suicide	488	1	0	28	15	81	10	115	31	102	21	74	10
Homicide, assault	75	1	2	13	2	19	4	18	4	7	2	1	2
Other external causes	675	3	0	10	1	24	8	61	24	149	75	153	167
COVID-19	5,975	2	2	2	2	19	10	123	85	588	353	2,397	2,392

Graph 4. Percentage distribution of deaths by main categories of causes of death, on total deaths by age group and sex, 2023

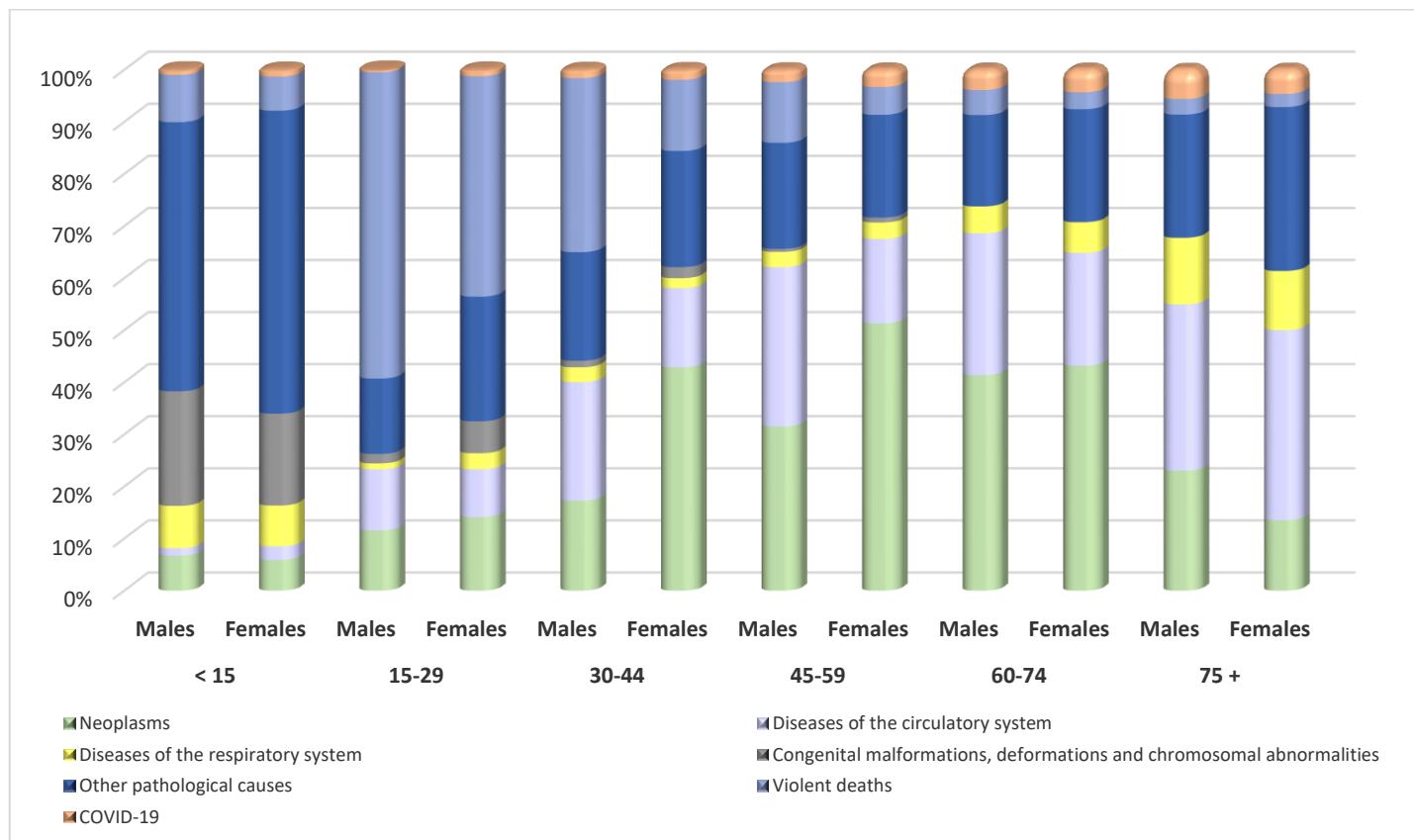


Table 4. Deaths by month of occurrence and cause of death, 2023

Month	Total deaths per month	Causes of death									
		Certain infectious and parasitic diseases	Neoplasms	Heart diseases	Cerebrovascular diseases	Influenza, pneumonia & other acute lower respiratory infections	Transport accidents	Suicides	COVID-19	Other causes	
Total deaths	128,097	3,528	30,095	29,396	9,942	6,737	819	488	5,975	41,117	
January	13,168	427	2,607	2,943	1,053	985	58	52	1,168	3,875	
February	11,346	358	2,327	2,614	981	683	101	29	712	3,541	
March	10,893	331	2,526	2,320	935	700	48	35	568	3,430	
April	10,080	348	2,355	2,265	860	585	60	36	449	3,122	
May	10,076	375	2,447	2,137	829	540	64	52	409	3,223	
June	9,484	330	2,447	2,049	737	523	63	38	222	3,075	
July	11,675	300	2,713	2,813	863	543	95	52	141	4,155	
August	10,547	269	2,604	2,393	760	489	73	42	266	3,651	
September	9,529	203	2,469	2,167	678	395	67	41	357	3,152	
October	9,634	190	2,494	2,250	687	379	58	39	489	3,048	
November	9,825	184	2,432	2,374	731	399	63	38	434	3,170	
December	11,840	213	2,674	3,071	828	516	69	34	760	3,675	

Table 5. Deaths caused by COVID-19 disease by main pre-existing conditions, age group and sex, 2023

Pre-existing condition (comorbidity)	Total COVID-19 deaths per cause	Deaths by age group and sex							
		Under 45		45-59		60-74		75 and over	
		Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Total COVID-19 deaths	5,975	23	14	123	85	588	353	2,397	2,392
Without pre-existing condition	1,311	5	3	22	18	85	54	519	605
Diseases of the circulatory system	1,666	2	0	15	7	109	54	709	770
Neoplasms	1,098	3	4	44	37	210	118	399	283
Diseases of the respiratory system	395	0	0	4	1	46	22	205	117
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	374	2	2	3	7	50	26	150	134
Mental and behavioural disorders	361	1	0	4	1	19	16	123	197
Diseases of the genitourinary system	231	0	0	1	0	13	14	115	88
Diseases of the nervous system	221	2	0	13	5	18	17	92	74
Diseases of the digestive system	92	1	1	4	1	18	7	28	32
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	47	0	1	1	2	5	14	7	17
Other pathological causes	78	7	3	10	5	7	7	15	24
External causes of morbidity	101	0	0	2	1	8	4	35	51

Graph 5. Percentage distribution of deaths caused by COVID-19 disease by main pre-existing conditions, in total COVID-19 deaths, by age group and sex, 2023

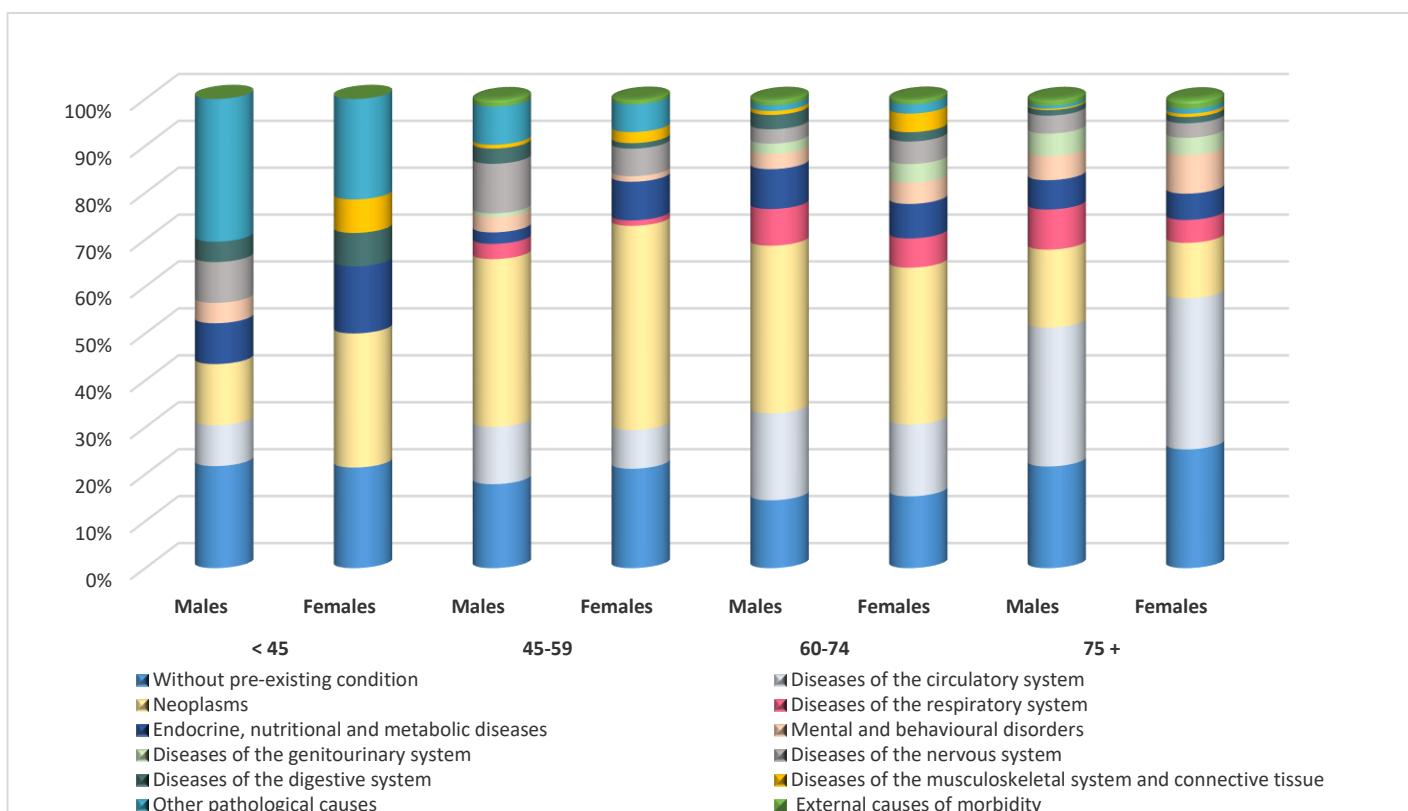


Table 6. Cause-specific mortality by sex, for important categories of causes of death, 2023

Causes of Death	Total	Males	Females
Septicaemia	25.1	21.1	28.8
Malignant neoplasm of colon	24.1	29.2	19.2
Malignant neoplasm of pancreas	19.6	21.9	17.4
Malignant neoplasm of bronchus and lung	62.9	97.4	29.9
Malignant neoplasm of breast	20.2	0.6	38.9
Malignant neoplasm of prostate	17.1	35.0	0.0
Malignant neoplasm of bladder	12.5	20.9	4.5
Diabetes mellitus	25.9	25.6	26.2
Dementia and Alzheimer's disease	30.4	18.9	41.4
Heart diseases	283.0	284.7	281.5
Cerebrovascular diseases	95.7	85.0	106.1
Influenza, pneumonia & other acute lower respiratory infections	64.9	61.4	68.2
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	26.8	33.0	20.8
COVID-19	57.5	61.6	53.6
Senility	23.2	14.5	31.5
Transport accidents	7.9	12.9	3.0
Suicide	4.7	7.9	1.6

Graph 6. Cause-specific mortality by sex, for important categories of causes of death, 2023

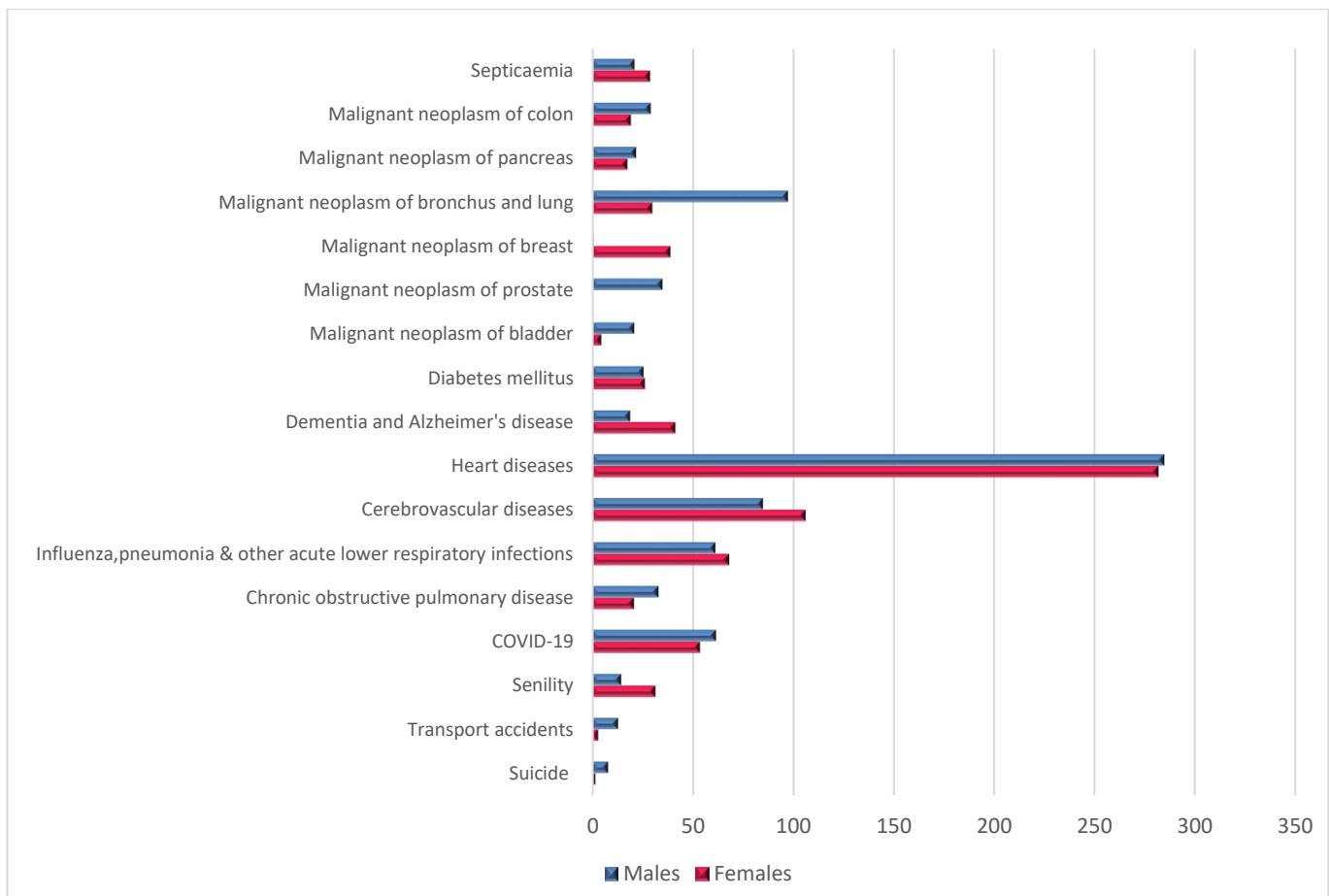


Table 7. Cause-specific mortality by main cause of death and NUTS2 Region of the usual residence of the deceased, 2023*

Causes of Death	Anatoliki Makedonia and Thraki	Kentriki Makedonia	Dytiki Makedonia	Thessalia	Ipeiros	Ionia Nisia	Dytiki Ellada	Stereia Ellada	Peloponisos	Attiki	Voreio Aigaio	Notio Aigaio	Kriti
Overall cause-specific mortality	1,374.7	1,231.3	1,414.3	1,395.4	1,296.5	1,265.3	1,247.2	1,399.3	1,480.0	1,139.5	1,132.1	928.9	1,073.5
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases	20.9	33.0	38.3	49.8	41.3	62.3	33.1	27.4	38.9	31.2	45.2	19.0	37.3
Neoplasms	312.9	301.6	323.4	326.2	293.4	268.0	294.0	305.9	314.0	279.4	258.4	225.2	240.3
Diseases of the circulatory system, of which:	531.9	390.8	510.6	407.0	454.9	373.1	380.7	487.7	469.5	352.9	317.3	300.9	309.0
<i>Heart diseases</i>	400.8	271.8	385.5	284.5	304.0	253.6	263.5	334.5	331.1	262.4	227.9	217.0	229.1
<i>Cerebrovascular diseases</i>	116.4	105.6	114.5	108.7	136.5	98.1	105.5	137.0	120.4	76.1	79.2	72.6	68.5
Diseases of the respiratory system	112.0	104.2	122.2	130.9	126.8	142.5	145.8	138.4	179.8	120.4	124.9	83.1	131.4
Other pathological causes	292.2	296.9	319.0	342.4	276.1	326.3	293.2	330.7	351.2	251.3	304.1	226.5	272.3
Violent deaths	50.0	47.0	47.6	59.9	49.8	49.8	40.9	50.6	53.5	45.7	41.1	42.3	45.2
<i>Transport accidents</i>	9.3	7.3	5.2	8.7	9.4	10.5	8.4	5.9	10.7	6.8	5.6	9.5	7.1
<i>Falls</i>	10.9	13.6	15.7	18.6	10.0	10.0	7.8	10.3	12.4	10.8	12.7	9.8	11.7
<i>Accidental drowning and submersion</i>	2.3	2.0	0.4	1.8	1.9	3.5	2.5	5.4	1.7	3.4	1.5	2.8	1.9
<i>Accidental poisoning by and exposure to noxious substances</i>	1.4	2.2	2.4	2.8	3.1	2.5	1.7	2.0	0.8	2.4	2.5	1.5	2.6
Other accidents	15.0	11.0	13.3	17.2	12.5	12.5	10.9	14.3	14.7	9.9	8.1	12.0	10.1
Suicide	5.0	3.7	4.8	5.6	5.9	5.5	4.4	4.0	4.7	4.5	6.6	3.4	6.1
<i>Homicide, assault</i>	0.4	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.0	0.6	0.5
<i>Other external causes</i>	5.7	6.5	5.6	5.3	6.3	5.0	4.5	8.1	8.1	7.2	4.1	2.8	5.1
COVID-19	54.8	57.8	53.2	79.2	54.2	43.3	59.5	58.7	73.1	58.6	41.1	31.9	37.8

*Deaths of foreign residents, as well as of those whose usual residence was unknown, are not included.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

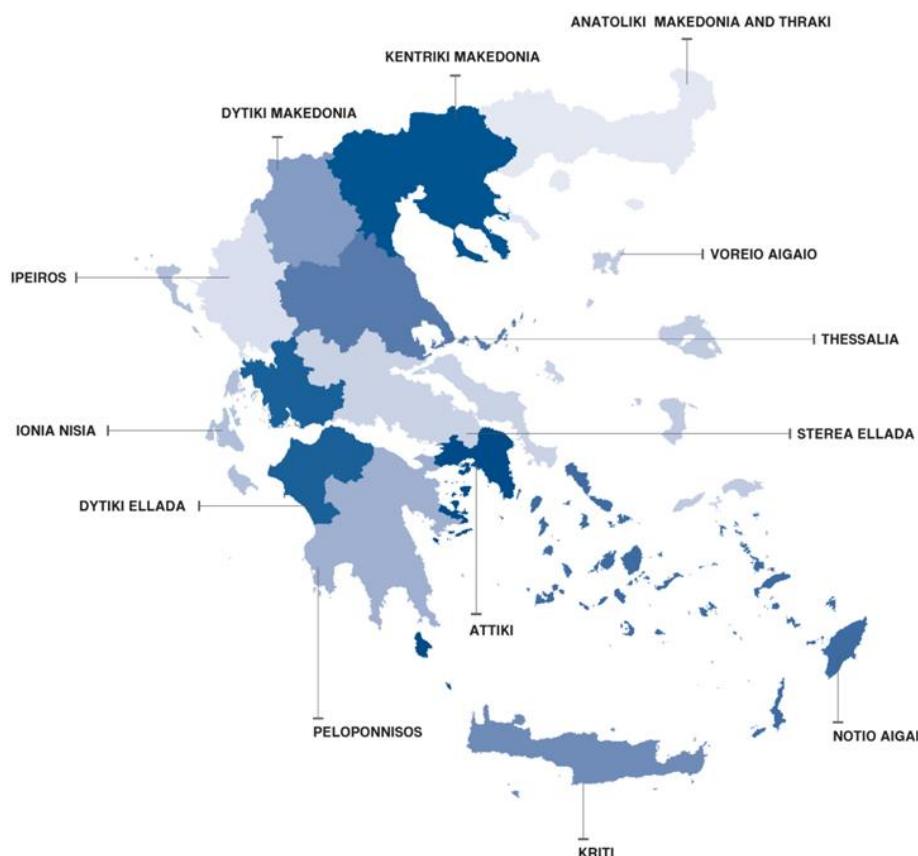
Vital Statistics	Data on the causes of death are part of the Vital Statistics Survey, which is conducted in its current form since 1956. In the context of the survey, individual data on vital events (births, deaths, marriages, registered partnerships and divorces) are drawn, on a monthly basis, from civil registry acts submitted by the Municipal Authorities. From 1938 onwards, data on the causes of death are compiled based on death certificates filled in by medical practitioners or forensic pathologists. As regards violent or sudden deaths, where the cause of death is not specified and more research is needed, data on the causes of death are collected through the Forensic Medicine Authorities. The survey produces statistical results on a yearly basis. Annual data are announced two years after the reference year according to Commission Regulation (EU) No 328/2011.
Legal Framework	The survey is fully harmonized with the European statistical practice: Regulation (EC) No 1338/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on “Community statistics on public health and health and safety at work” and Implementing Commission Regulation (EU) No 328/2011, as regards “statistics on causes of death”. The survey is governed by Law 344/76 concerning the “Registration of vital events” which lays down the obligations of the Civil Register Offices to collect and then to transmit the data, as well as by Law 3832/2010 on the “Hellenic Statistical System, Establishment of the Hellenic Statistical Authority as an independent authority”, as in force.
Coverage	The survey is exhaustive and covers all deaths that have occurred in the Greek territory. Cases of refugees/migrants who died while border-crossing before being registered in the Country or have drowned in Greek territorial waters are not included in the national data on the causes of death.
Reference Period	1/1/2023-31/12/2023.
Definitions	Death: means the permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after live birth has taken place.
	Main or underlying cause of death: pursuant to the 10th Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) of the World Health Organization (WHO), is the disease or injury which initiated the train of morbid events leading directly to death, or the circumstances of the accident or violence which caused the fatal injury.
	Cause-Specific mortality: the rate refers to the number of deaths assigned to a specific cause during a given time interval divided by the population in the middle of the year 2023, per 100,000 inhabitants, which is estimated at 10,385,924.
Methodology	Vital statistics data, after having been collected from the Civil Register Offices, undergo the necessary quality checks and statistics on births, deaths, marriages, registered partnerships and divorces are compiled on an annual basis. All causes of death are coded at a central level by a single team of coders to ensure internal coherence. From 2014 onwards, ELSTAT applies the 4-digit ICD-10 Classification of Diseases, 2008 version. The time series up to 2014 are available in the 4-digit ICD-9 Classification of Diseases. Data for the years 2014-2016 are available in both ICD-9 and ICD-10. From 2017 onwards, data are available only in ICD-10. According to the International Guidelines for certification and classification (coding) of COVID-19 as cause of death of the World Health Organization, a death due to COVID-19 is defined for surveillance purposes as a death resulting from a clinically compatible illness, in a probable or confirmed COVID-19 case, unless there is a clear alternative cause of death that cannot be related to COVID disease (e.g. trauma). There should be no period of complete recovery from COVID-19 between illness and death. A death due to COVID-19 may not be attributed to another disease (e.g. cancer), even if there are pre-existing pathological conditions that are suspected of triggering a severe course of COVID-19.

ELSTAT incorporated the additional codes for COVID-19 into the existing 2008 version of ICD-10. According to the International Guidelines of World Health Organization and Eurostat, COVID-19 is classified in Chapter XXII- Codes for special purposes (U00-U99) of the 10th Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10), and specifically in the codes U07.1: COVID-19, virus identified and U07.2: virus not identified for the clinically or epidemiologically diagnosed cases, the possible cases and the suspected cases of COVID-19.

Comments It should be noticed that in Tables 1, 3 and 7, the subcategory “other external causes” of “violent deaths” includes deaths due to misadventures to patients during surgical and medical care, deaths in cases where an investigation by a medical or legal authority has not determined whether the injuries are accidental, suicidal or homicidal, deaths caused by injuries inflicted by law-enforcing agents (including military) on duty while attempting to enforce the law and deaths caused by injuries during war operations.

Geographical Classification Geographical classification is based on the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS).

Map of the Regions (NUTS2) of Greece



References More information (tables, methodology) concerning Vital Statistics is available on the website of ELSTAT: <https://www.statistics.gr/>, at the link Statistics, Population and Social Conditions, Demography, Deaths-Causes of death (ICD-9) and Deaths-Causes of death (ICD-10).