



**HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
HELLENIC STATISTICAL  
AUTHORITY**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Causes of death: 2013**

The Hellenic Statistical Authority announces statistical data reflecting the causes of deaths for the year 2013. The data sources are the death certificates submitted by medical practitioners and, for sudden or violent deaths, by the Forensic Medicine Authorities.

In 2013, deaths recorded a decrease by 4,2 %, thus amounting to 111.794 (57.630 men and 54.164 women) in comparison with 116.668 (60.135 men and 56.533 women), which was the corresponding figure for 2012.

Following the trend of the latest years, the major causes of death for 2013 were cardiovascular diseases with 46.342 deaths, followed by neoplasms with 28.857 deaths and then by diseases of the respiratory system with 10.924 deaths (Table 1).

In comparison with the previous years, the percentage of deaths caused by cardiovascular diseases rose from 10% in 1938 (first year for which analytical data were made available) to 25% in 1956 (first year after the Second World War for which data are available) and up to 41,5 % in 2013. The corresponding percentage of deaths caused by neoplasms rose from 4% in 1938 to 25,8 % in 2013. On the contrary, deaths caused by infectious and parasitic diseases, which in 1938 amounted to 18,5%, have dropped significantly to 1% in 2013 (Table 2, Graph 2).

The number of deaths due to suicides, as recorded by the Forensic Medicine and Criminal Investigation Authorities, amounted to 533 in 2013, compared with 508 in 2012. It should be noted that any discrepancies from the corresponding data of other agencies may be on account of different methodology used or other underlying factors, such as the need for time-consuming research by the Forensic Medicine Services in order to investigate the conditions resulting to the death, deaths caused by late effects after a failed suicide attempt, etc.

Information:  
Population and Labour  
Market Statistics Division  
Vital and Migration Statistics Section  
Konstantinos Voulgaris  
Tel: +30 213 135 2172  
E-mail: k.voulgaris@statistics.gr

**Table 1. Causes of death: 2000 and 2009 – 2013**

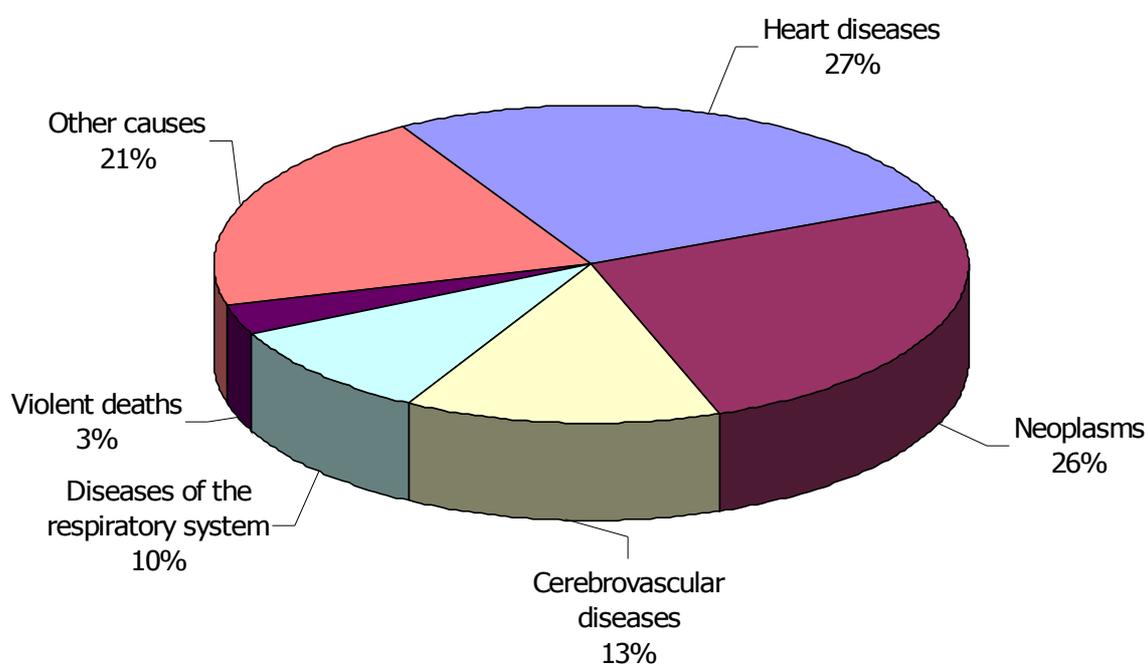
<b>Cause of Death</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>TOTAL DEATHS</b>	<b>105.170</b>	<b>108.316</b>	<b>109.084</b>	<b>111.099</b>	<b>116.668</b>	<b>111.794</b>
Infectious and parasitic diseases	483	1.183	1.058	952	1.074	1.105
Neoplasms	23.775	27.345	27.177	27.357	28.201	28.857
Endocrine and metabolic diseases, nutritional deficiencies and immunity	1.108	1.404	1.360	1.513	1.472	1.759
Diseases of blood and blood-forming organs	97	211	347	371	421	481
Mental disorders	84	109	98	126	132	137
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs	1.348	1.517	1.529	1.517	1.947	1.830
Diseases of the circulatory system <i>of which</i>	52.283	48.453	47.709	47.741	49.728	46.342
<i>Heart diseases</i>	32.381	31.976	31.837	31.625	32.735	30.212
<i>Cerebrovascular diseases</i>	18.753	15.493	14.910	15.041	15.868	14.996
<i>Other circulatory system diseases</i>	1.149	984	962	1.075	1.125	1.134
Diseases of the respiratory system	7.994	10.770	10.341	10.335	11.384	10.924
Diseases of the digestive system	2.614	2.585	2.573	2.772	2.918	3.049
Diseases of the genitourinary system	1.606	1.859	1.898	1.782	1.874	2.106
Complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	0	4	6	4	1	0
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	35	35	31	21	29	28
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	289	426	548	576	503	371
Congenital anomalies	247	214	256	239	222	195
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	277	172	185	146	127	158
Symptoms, signs and indefinable conditions	8.434	8.161	10.414	12.187	13.169	10.979
Violent deaths	4.496	3.868	3.554	3.460	3.466	3.473
<i>of which</i>						
<i>Accidents related to transport</i>	2.288	1.647	1.430	1.339	1.191	1.096
<i>Other accidents</i>	1.700	1.663	1.553	1.451	1.533	1.624
<i>Suicides</i>	382	391	377	477	508	533
<i>Homicides</i>	125	167	165	186	173	158
<i>Other violence *</i>	1	0	29	7	61	62

\* Pursuant to the 9<sup>th</sup> Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death (ICD-9) the following are included: cases when it is stated that 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 in the course of attempting to enforce the Law; deaths caused by injuries during war operations.

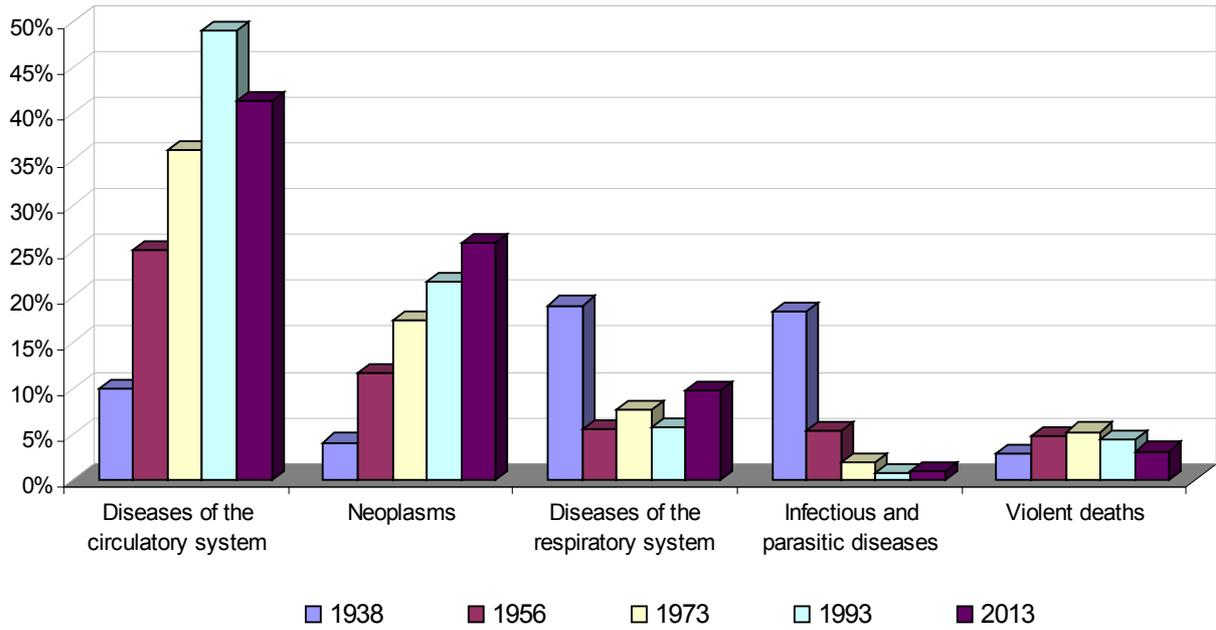
**Table 2. Evolution of major groups of causes of death:  
1938, 1956, 1973, 1993 and 2013**

	1938	1956	1973	1993	2013
<b>Total deaths</b>	<b>93.766</b>	<b>59.460</b>	<b>77.648</b>	<b>97.419</b>	<b>111.794</b>
Diseases of the circulatory system	9.347	14.893	27.941	47.769	46.342
Neoplasms	3.831	6.928	13.513	21.044	28.857
Diseases of the respiratory system	17.849	3.290	5.899	5.592	10.924
Infectious and parasitic diseases	17.283	3.185	1.470	677	1.105
Violent deaths	2.687	2.821	4.077	4.309	3.473
Other causes	42.769	28.343	24.748	18.028	21.093

**Graph 1. Percentage distribution of major groups of causes of death, 2013**



**Graph 2. Evolution of the percentage distribution of major groups of causes of death for the years 1938, 1956, 1973, 1993 and 2013**



## **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

<b>Vital Statistics</b>	Data on the causes of deaths are part of the Vital Statistics Survey, which is being conducted, in its current form, since 1956. In cooperation with the Regional Statistical Offices of ELSTAT, personal statistical data on vital events (births, deaths, marriages, registered partnerships) are collected on a monthly basis from the Civil Register Offices all over Greece. From 1938 onwards, data on the causes of death are compiled on the basis of death certificates filled in by medical practitioners or forensic pathologists. As regards sudden deaths, where the cause of death is not specified and more research is needed, the data on the causes of death are collected through the Forensic Medicine Authorities. The survey produces statistical results on a yearly basis.
<b>Legal Framework</b>	The survey is fully harmonized with the European statistical practice. It 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".
<b>Coverage</b>	The survey is a census survey and it covers all the deaths, which occur all over Greece.
<b>Reference period</b>	1/1/2013-31/12/2013
<b>Definitions</b>	<b>Death:</b> means the permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after live birth has taken place. <b>Major cause of death:</b> pursuant to the 9th Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-9) of the World Health Organisation (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 produced the fatal injury.
<b>Methodology</b>	Vital statistics data, after having been collected from the Civil Register Offices, undergo the necessary quality checks, and then they are processed and tabulated.
<b>References</b>	More information (tables, methodology) is available on the website of ELSTAT, <a href="http://www.statistics.gr">http://www.statistics.gr</a> , at the link: Statistical Themes>Vital Statistics >