

PRESS RELEASE

Causes of Death: 2014

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) announces statistical data reflecting the causes of deaths for the year 2014. The data sources are the death certificates submitted by medical practitioners and, for sudden or violent deaths, by the Forensic Medicine Authorities.

From 2014 onwards, 10th revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10) is adopted in order to code and classify mortality data.

- In 2014, deaths recorded an increase by 1.7 %, thus amounting to 113,740 (58,546 men and 55,194 women) in comparison with 111,794 (57,630 men and 54,164 women), which was the corresponding figure for 2013.
- Following the trend of the latest years, the major causes of death for 2014 were cardiovascular diseases with 45,859 deaths, followed by neoplasms with 29,155 deaths and then by diseases of the respiratory system with 12,231 deaths (Table 1).
- In comparison with the previous years, the percentage of deaths caused by cardiovascular diseases rose from 10.0% in 1938 (first year for which analytical data were made available) to 25.0% in 1956 (first year after the Second World War for which data are available) and up to 40.3 % in 2014. The corresponding percentage of deaths caused by neoplasms rose from 4.1% in 1938 to 25.6 % in 2014. On the contrary, deaths caused by infectious and parasitic diseases, which in 1938 amounted to 18.5%, have dropped significantly to 1.0% in 2014 (Table 2, Graph 2).
- The number of deaths due to suicides, as recorded by the Forensic Medicine and Criminal Investigation Authorities, amounted to 565 in 2014, compared with 533 in 2013. 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

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Table 1. Causes of Death: 2000 and 2010 – 2014

Cause of Death	2000	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
TOTAL DEATHS	105,170	109,084	111,099	116,668	111,794	113,740
Infectious and parasitic diseases	483	1,058	952	1,074	1,105	1,094
Neoplasms	23,775	27,177	27,357	28,201	28,857	29,155
Endocrine and metabolic diseases, nutritional deficiencies and immunity	1,108	1,360	1,513	1,472	1,759	2,011
Diseases of blood and blood-forming organs	97	347	371	421	481	612
Mental disorders	84	98	126	132	137	669
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs	1,348	1,529	1,517	1,947	1,830	2,533
Diseases of the circulatory system	52,283	47,709	47,741	49,728	46,342	45,859
<i>Heart diseases</i>	32,381	31,837	31,625	32,735	30,212	29,789
<i>Cerebrovascular diseases</i>	18,753	14,910	15,041	15,868	14,996	14,279
<i>Other circulatory system diseases</i>	1,149	962	1,075	1,125	1,134	1,791
Diseases of the respiratory system	7,994	10,341	10,335	11,384	10,924	12,231
Diseases of the digestive system	2,614	2,573	2,772	2,918	3,049	3,294
Diseases of the genitourinary system	1,606	1,898	1,782	1,874	2,106	2,791
Complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	0	6	4	1	0	4
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	35	31	21	29	28	66
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	289	548	576	503	371	186
Congenital anomalies	247	256	239	222	195	153
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	277	185	146	127	158	190
Symptoms, signs and indefinable conditions	8,434	10,414	12,187	13,169	10,979	9,338
Violent deaths	4,496	3,554	3,460	3,466	3,473	3,554
<i>Accidents related to transport</i>	2,288	1,430	1,339	1,191	1,096	1,025
<i>Other accidents</i>	1,700	1,553	1,451	1,533	1,624	1,773
<i>Suicides</i>	382	377	477	508	533	565
<i>Homicides</i>	125	165	186	173	158	121
<i>Other Violence¹</i>	1	29	7	61	62	70

¹ Pursuant to the 10th Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death (ICD-10) 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

Graph 1. Percentage distribution of major groups of causes of death, 2014

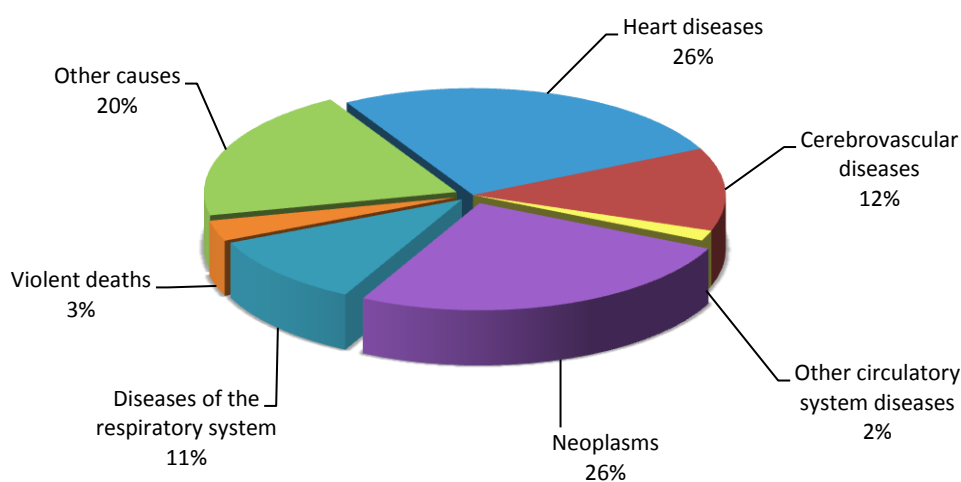
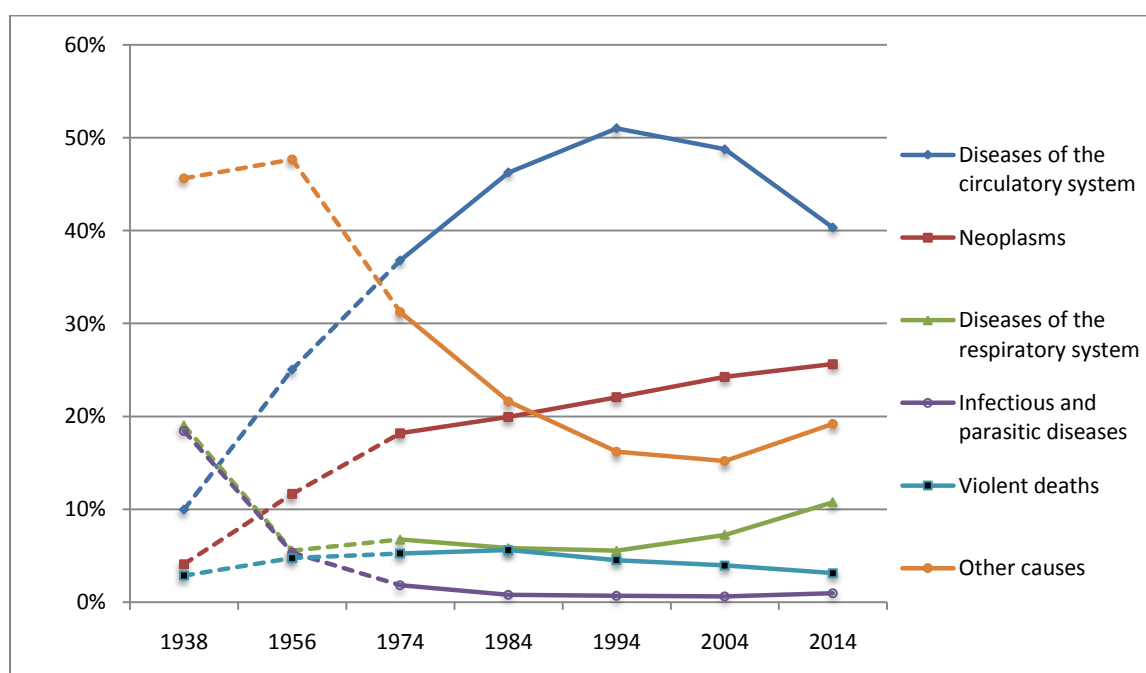


Table 2. Evolution of major groups of causes of death (years 1938, 1956 and 1974-2014)

	1938	1956	1974	1984	1994	2004	2014
Total deaths	93.766	59.460	76.303	88.397	97.807	104.942	113.740
Diseases of the circulatory system	9.347	14.893	28.068	40.883	49.886	51.150	45.859
Neoplasms	3.831	6.928	13.871	17.625	21.569	25.448	29.155
Diseases of the respiratory system	17.849	3.290	5.149	5.133	5.420	7.611	12.231
Infectious and parasitic diseases	17.283	3.185	1.386	702	664	651	1.094
Violent deaths	2.687	2.821	4.005	4.964	4.422	4.147	3.554
Other causes	42.769	28.343	23.824	19.090	15.846	15.935	21.847

Graph 2. Evolution of the percentage distribution of major groups of causes of death (years 1938, 1956 and 1974-2014)



EXPLANATORY NOTES

Vital Statistics	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.
Legal Framework	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”.
Coverage	The survey is a census survey and it covers all the deaths, which occur all over Greece.
Reference period	1/1/2014-31/12/2014
Definitions	<p>Death: means the permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after live birth has taken place.</p> <p>Major cause of death: pursuant to the 10th Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) 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.</p>
Methodology	Vital statistics data, after having been collected from the Civil Register Offices, undergo the necessary quality checks, and then they are processed and tabulated.
References	More information (tables, methodology) is available on the website of ELSTAT, at the link: http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/SPO13/