



**HELLENIC REPUBLIC**  
**HELLENIC STATISTICAL**  
**AUTHORITY**



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## ***PRESS RELEASE***

### **Causes of death: 2012**

The Hellenic Statistical Authority announces statistical data reflecting the causes of deaths for the year 2012. The data sources are the death certificates submitted by medical practitioners and, for sudden or violent deaths, by the Forensic Medicine Authorities.

In 2012, deaths recorded an increase by 5%, thus amounting to 116.668 (60.135 men and 56.533 women) in comparison with 111.099 (57.999 men and 53.100 women), which was the corresponding figure for 2011.

Following the trend of the latest years, the major causes of death for 2012 were cardiovascular diseases with 49.728 deaths, followed by neoplasms with 28.201 deaths and then by diseases of the respiratory system with 11.384 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 43% in 2012. The corresponding percentage of deaths caused by neoplasms rose from 4% in 1938 to 24% in 2012. On the contrary, deaths caused by infectious and parasitic diseases, which in 1938 amounted to 18,5%, have dropped significantly to less than 1% in 2012 (Table 2, Graph 2).

The number of deaths due to suicides, as recorded by the Forensic Medicine and Criminal Investigation Authorities, amounted to 508 in 2012, compared with 477 in 2011. 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 2008 – 2012**

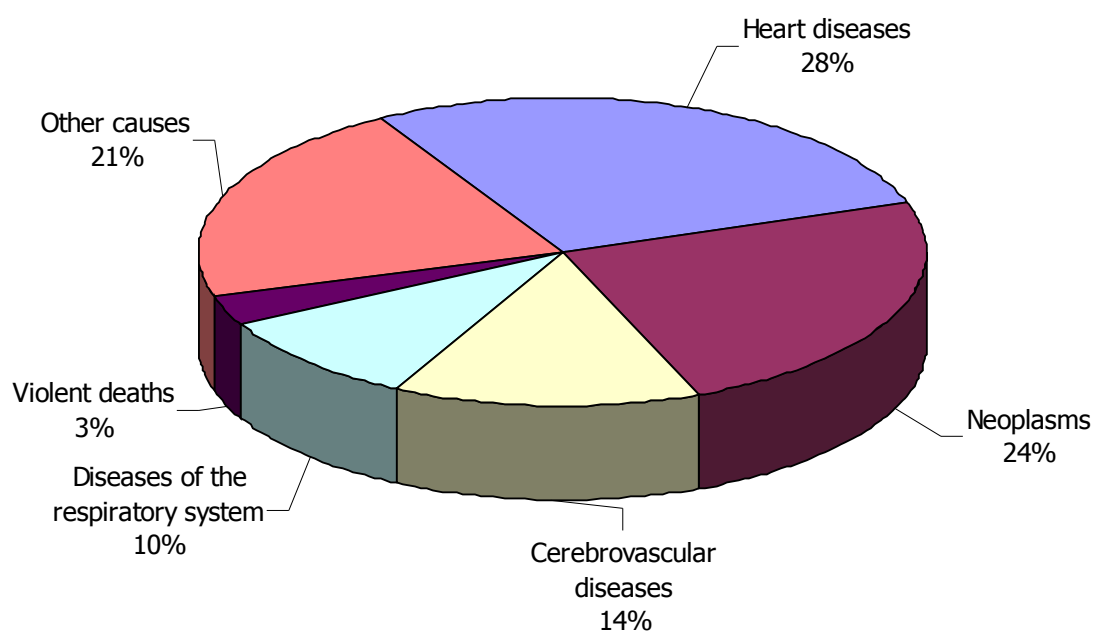
<b>Cause of Death</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>TOTAL DEATHS</b>	<b>105.170</b>	<b>107.979</b>	<b>108.316</b>	<b>109.084</b>	<b>111.099</b>	<b>116.668</b>
Infectious and parasitic diseases	483	1.077	1.183	1.058	952	1.074
Neoplasms	23.775	27.386	27.345	27.177	27.357	28.201
Endocrine and metabolic diseases, nutritional deficiencies and immunity	1.108	1.605	1.404	1.360	1.513	1.472
Diseases of blood and blood-forming organs	97	197	211	347	371	421
Mental disorders	84	119	109	98	126	132
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs	1.348	1.371	1.517	1.529	1.517	1.947
Diseases of the circulatory system	52.283	49.214	48.453	47.709	47.741	49.728
<i>of which</i>						
<i>Heart diseases</i>	<i>32.381</i>	<i>32.212</i>	<i>31.976</i>	<i>31.837</i>	<i>31.625</i>	<i>32.735</i>
<i>Cerebrovascular diseases</i>	<i>18.753</i>	<i>16.064</i>	<i>15.493</i>	<i>14.910</i>	<i>15.041</i>	<i>15.868</i>
<i>Other circulatory system diseases</i>	<i>1.149</i>	<i>938</i>	<i>984</i>	<i>962</i>	<i>1.075</i>	<i>1.125</i>
Diseases of the respiratory system	7.994	10.239	10.770	10.341	10.335	11.384
Diseases of the digestive system	2.614	2.534	2.585	2.573	2.772	2.918
Diseases of the genitourinary system	1.606	2.232	1.859	1.898	1.782	1.874
Complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	0	0	4	6	4	1
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	35	33	35	31	21	29
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	289	349	426	548	576	503
Congenital anomalies	247	163	214	256	239	222
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	277	159	172	185	146	127
Symptoms, signs and indefinable conditions	8.434	7.452	8.161	10.414	12.187	13.169
Violent deaths	4.496	3.849	3.868	3.554	3.460	3.466
<i>of which</i>						
<i>Accidents related to transport</i>	<i>2.288</i>	<i>1.722</i>	<i>1.647</i>	<i>1.430</i>	<i>1.339</i>	<i>1.191</i>
<i>Other accidents</i>	<i>1700</i>	<i>1604</i>	<i>1663</i>	<i>1553</i>	<i>1.451</i>	<i>1.533</i>
<i>Suicides</i>	<i>382</i>	<i>373</i>	<i>391</i>	<i>377</i>	<i>477</i>	<i>508</i>
<i>Homicides</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>167</i>	<i>165</i>	<i>186</i>	<i>173</i>
<i>Other violence *</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>61</i>

\* 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.

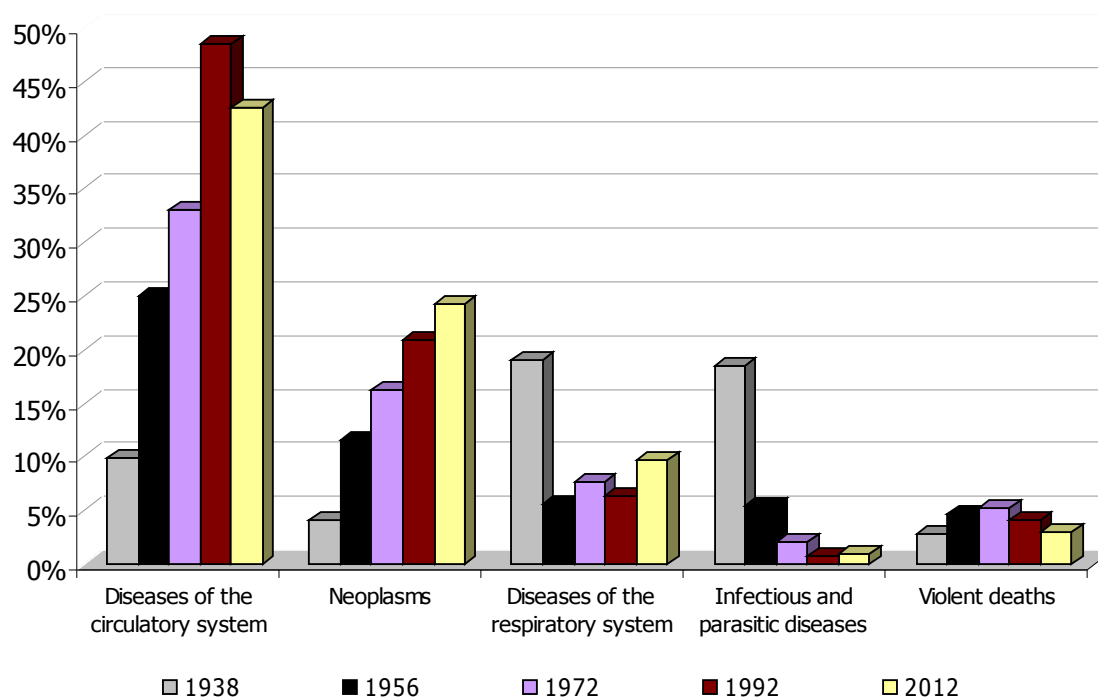
**Table 2. Evolution of major groups of causes of death:  
1938, 1956, 1972, 1992 and 2012**

	1938	1956	1972	1992	2012
<b>Total deaths</b>	<b>93.766</b>	<b>59.460</b>	<b>76.859</b>	<b>98.231</b>	<b>116.668</b>
Diseases of the circulatory system	9.347	14.893	25.333	47.610	49.728
Neoplasms	3.831	6.928	12.512	20.472	28.201
Diseases of the respiratory system	17.849	3.290	5.858	6.162	11.384
Infectious and parasitic diseases	17.283	3.185	1.587	675	1.074
Violent deaths	2.687	2.821	4.068	4.036	3.466
Other causes	42.769	28.343	27.501	19.276	22.815

**Graph 1. Percentage distribution of major groups of causes of death, 2012**



**Graph 2. Evolution of the percentage distribution of major groups of causes of death for the years 1938, 1956, 1972, 1992 and 2012**



## **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>	1/1/2012-31/12/2012
<b>Definitions</b>	<p><b>Death:</b> means the permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after live birth has taken place.</p> <p><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.</p>
<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 >