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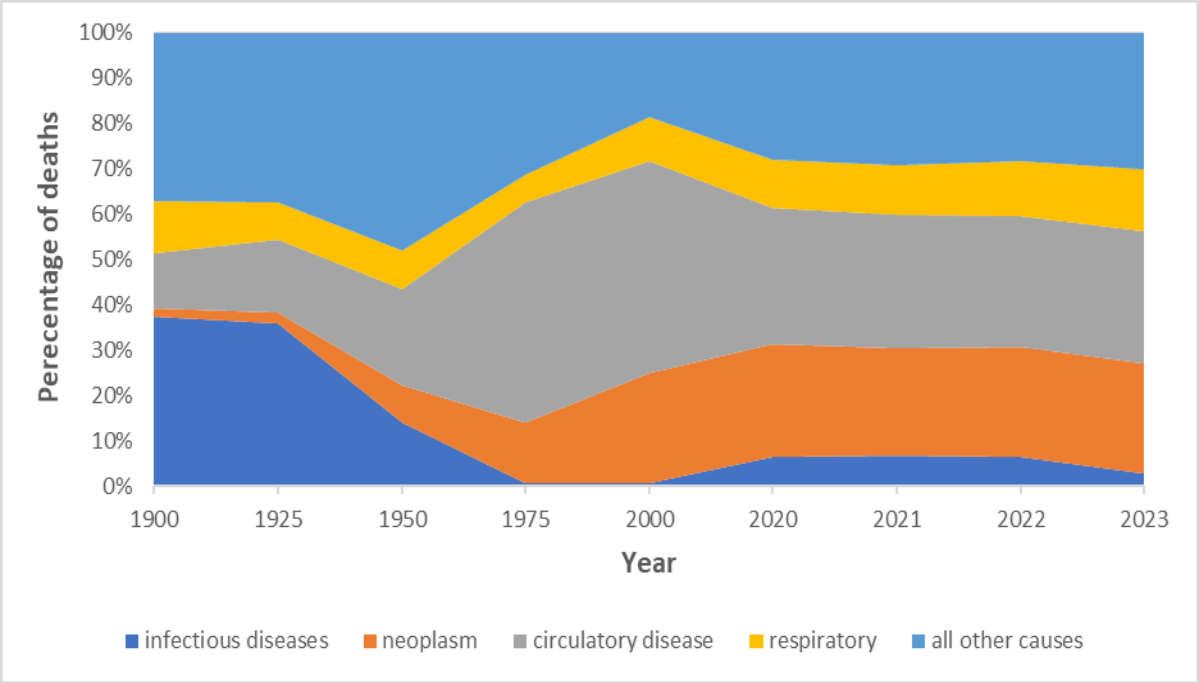

ANNUAL MORTALITY REPORT 2023

DIRECTORATE FOR HEALTH INFORMATION AND RESEARCH

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Special thanks go to Ms Rodianne Scicluna Bugeja and Ms Desire D'Amato who work unremittingly on the National Mortality Registry.

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Key Facts

- In 2023, there were 4033 deaths among residents of the Maltese Islands, representing a decrease of 197 deaths compared to 2022. There was a reduction in deaths in both males and females, with a more marked decrease observed in females.

- 66% of deaths occurred within a hospital setting, a slight decrease from 69% in 2022. Deaths at Mater Dei Hospital accounted for 51% of total deaths, reflecting a shift towards other hospital settings and residential care, including an increase in deaths at St Vincent de Paul Residence and the Sir Anthony Mamo Oncology Centre.

- Circulatory diseases remained the leading cause of death, accounting for 29.0% of all deaths, followed by neoplasms at 24.4%. Respiratory diseases accounted for 13.5% of deaths, with pneumonia and chronic lower respiratory diseases remaining prominent contributors.

- Drug-related deaths showed a notable increase in 2023, reaching the highest recorded number in recent years, with 19 deaths reported. Most deaths occur in males, and an increasing contribution from non-opiate substances, particularly cocaine, is being observed.

- Standardised mortality rates for major causes of death, including circulatory diseases and neoplasms, continue to show a downward trend over the past decade, while dementia and respiratory diseases are showing increasing trends in both males and females.

- Malta continues to compare favourably with the EU average for overall mortality and several major causes of death, particularly among males. However, poorer outcomes persist for respiratory diseases and dementia in both genders, indicating ongoing areas of concern.

- Causes of death continue to vary by age and gender, with external causes remaining prominent in younger age groups, cancers and circulatory diseases dominating in middle age, and circulatory diseases, dementia, pneumonia and diabetes mellitus accounting for a significant proportion of deaths in older age groups.

Overview

In 2023, there were 4033 deaths among residents of the Maltese Islands, dying locally or abroad, a decrease of 197 deaths compared to the previous year. Of these, 2037 were male deaths, and 1996 were female deaths. There was a decrease of 14 male deaths and a decrease of 183 in female deaths from the previous year. There were also 51 deaths in non-residents, who died in the Maltese Islands in 2023, a decrease of 5 deaths from 2022. Figure 1 shows the number of deaths in residents during 2023, by age group and gender.

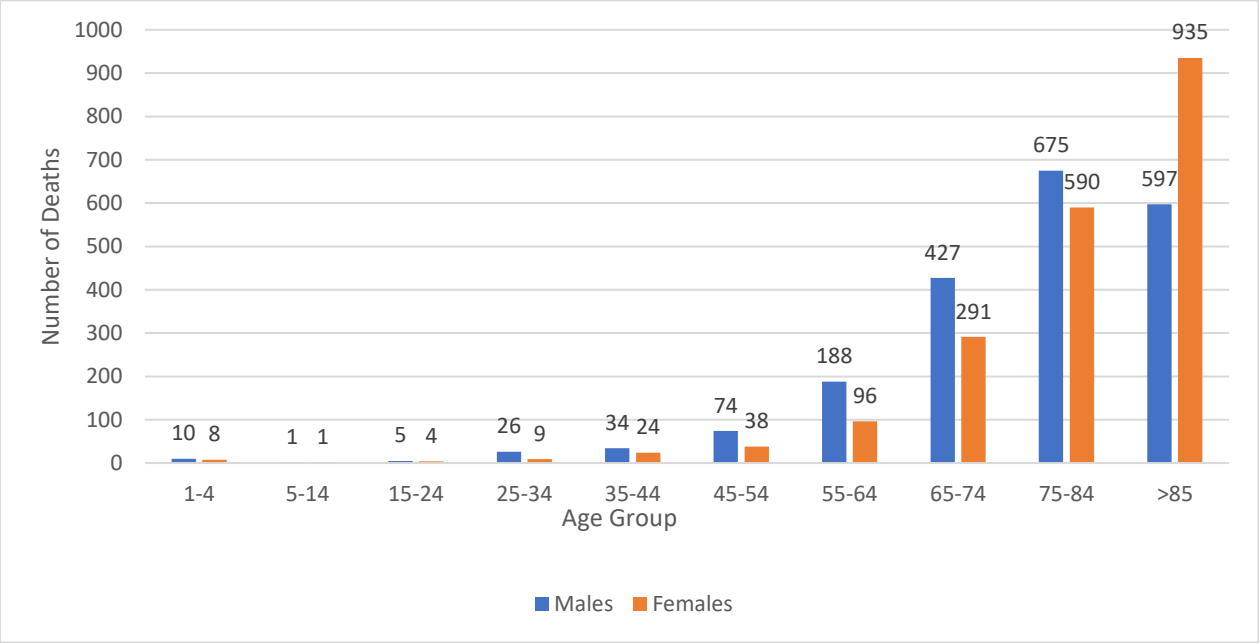

Figure 1: Number of deaths by age group and gender

Trends in the number of deaths and crude mortality rate over time

Over the past 20 years (2004 – 2023), there has been an increasing trend in the number of deaths. In general, there have been more male than female deaths. This increase in the number of deaths can be mainly explained by the population growth over the years, alongside a progressively ageing population. The crude mortality rate (defined as the total number of deaths by gender divided by the total mid-year population by gender multiplied by 100,000) has remained relatively stable since 2004, indicating that the proportion of deaths per year has remained stable. However, there has been a slight increase in the crude mortality rate from 2019 to 2021, which fell slightly in 2022 and 2023 in females and a rise from 2019 to 2020, followed by a small dip from 2022 to 2023 in males.

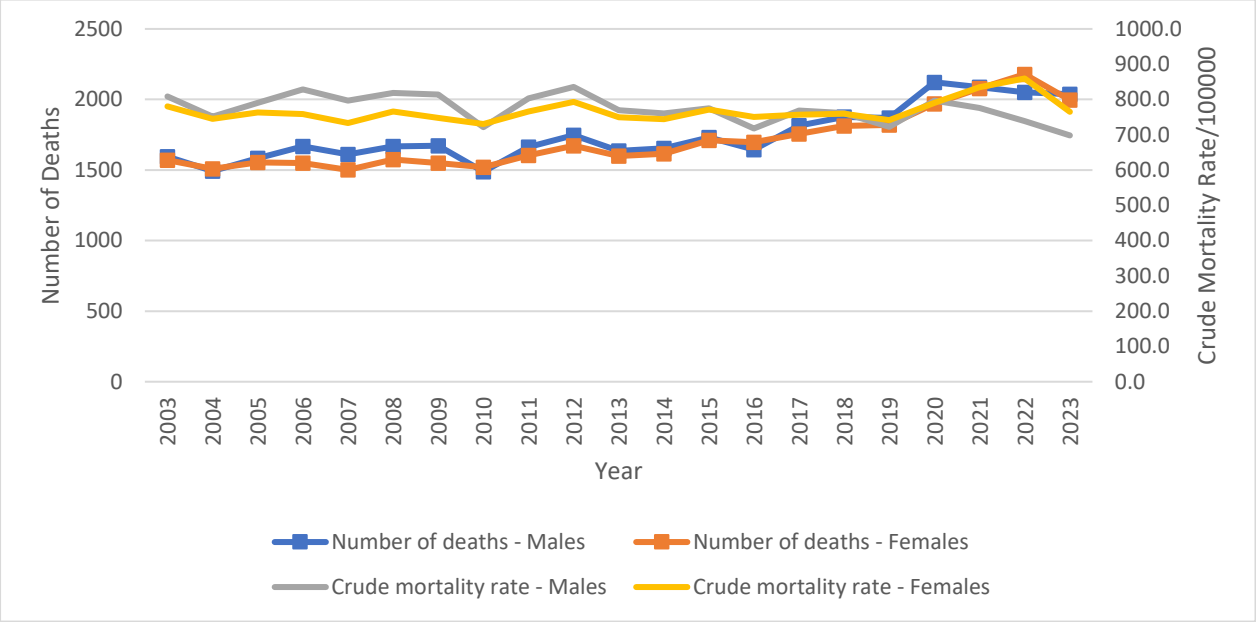

Figure 2: Number of deaths and crude mortality rate by gender over 20 years

According to EUROSTAT, the life expectancy at birth for Malta was 81.8 years for males and 85.3 years for females in 2023[1,] whilst life expectancy at age 65 stood at 19.7 years for males and 22.3 years for females.[2]

In 2023, the oldest male died at 102 years of age, while the oldest female died at 105 years of age. The mean age at death was 75.7 years in males (median 78 years) and 80.8 years in females (median 84 years).

[1,2] *Source: Eurostat database and Malta National Mortality Registry*

Standardised Mortality Rate in Malta compared with the European Union

The overall age-standardised mortality rate (SMR-new 2013 standard population) in Malta in males and females is showing an overall downward trend over the past recent years, especially in males. However, there has been a slight stagnation in SMR in the last couple of years. The standardised mortality rates for both genders in Malta compare favourably with the EU average, with rates being lower for Malta than the EU average. This is particularly true in the case of men (Figure 3).

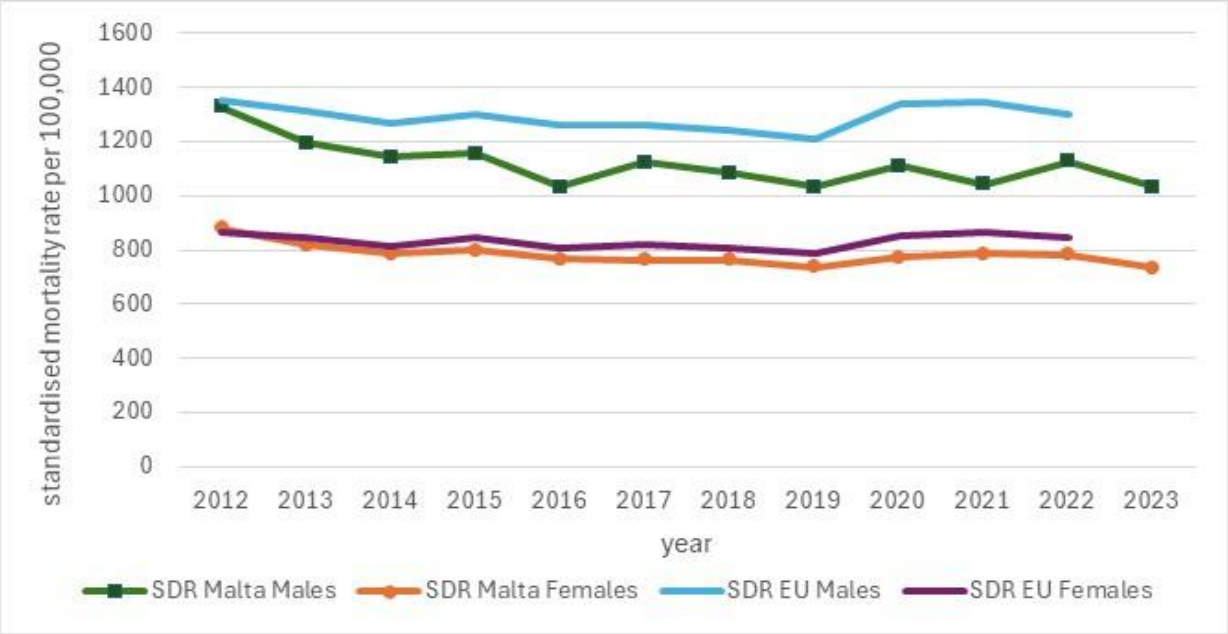

Figure 3: Trends in standardised mortality rate for males and females in Malta compared with the EU average.[3]

[3] *Source: Eurostat database*

Distribution by Type of Place of Death

66% of all deaths among residents occurred within a hospital setting, including public and private hospitals, but excluding residential homes. This was a slight decrease from 2022, where 69% of all deaths had occurred in a hospital setting. There was also a slight decrease in the proportion of deaths at Mater Dei Hospital, with 51% of total deaths occurring there in 2023, compared with 55% in 2022. This reflects a shift from MDH to other hospital and residential home settings, with an increase in deaths occurring at St Vincent de Paul Residence (SVPR), rising from 9% in 2022 to 11% in 2023, and at the Sir Anthony Mamo Oncology Centre (SAMOC), which increased from 7% in 2022 to 8% in 2023.

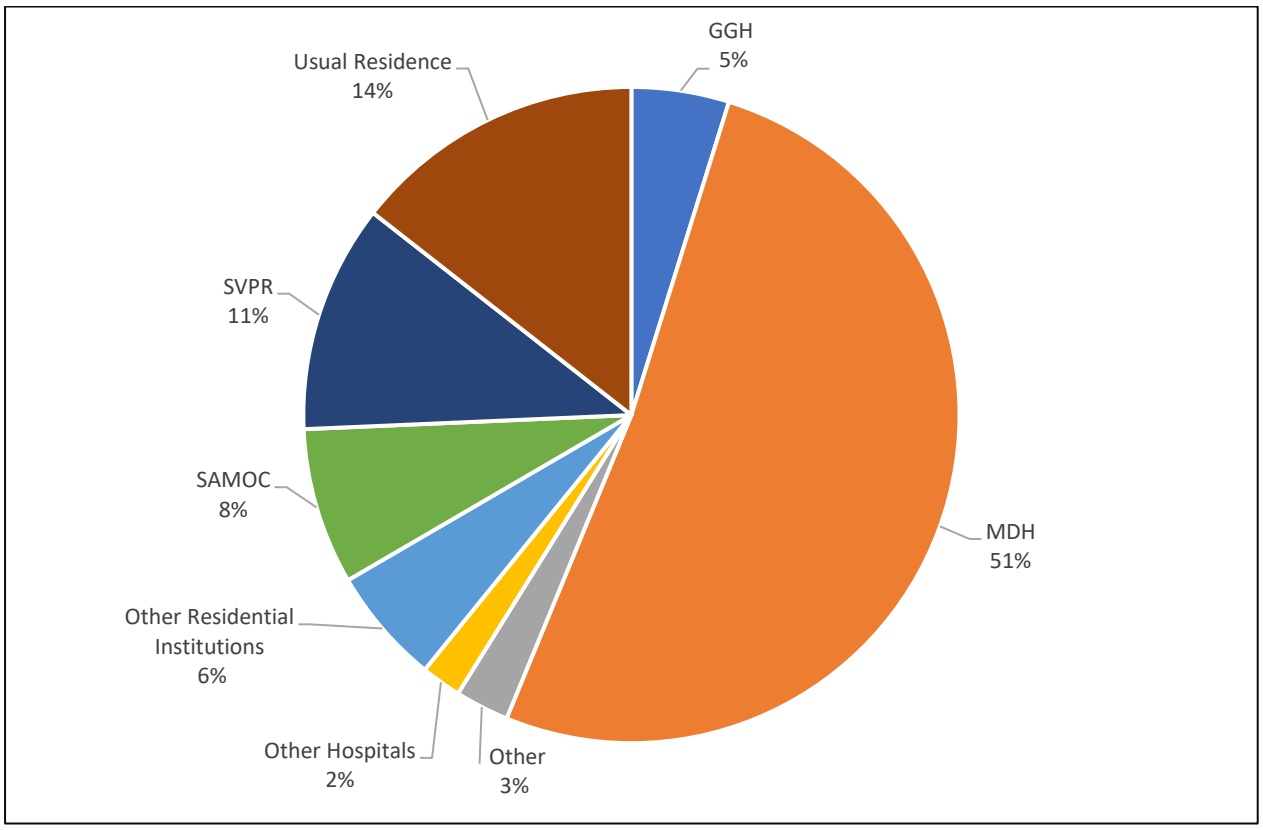

Figure 4: Percentage of deaths by place of death

Causes of Death

Diseases of the circulatory system remained the leading cause of death in 2023, with a total of 1171, or 29.0% of total deaths. This was a decrease of 40 deaths from 2022. The three major causes of death within this category were ischaemic heart disease, other heart diseases including heart failure, and cerebrovascular diseases. The second most common cause of death was neoplasms, which had a total of 986 deaths (24.4% of total deaths), a decrease of 51 deaths from 2022, when neoplasms accounted for 24.5% of total deaths. Diseases of the respiratory system accounted for 545 deaths (13.5% of total deaths), an increase of 27 deaths compared to the previous year. Pneumonia and chronic lower respiratory diseases remained the major causes of death in this category. Mental and behavioural disorders, mainly dementia, are an important cause of death in the elderly population, accounting for 328 deaths (8.1% of all deaths), a decrease of 15 from 2022. Endocrine and metabolic diseases accounted for 250 deaths (6.2% of all deaths), with the leading cause being diabetes mellitus.

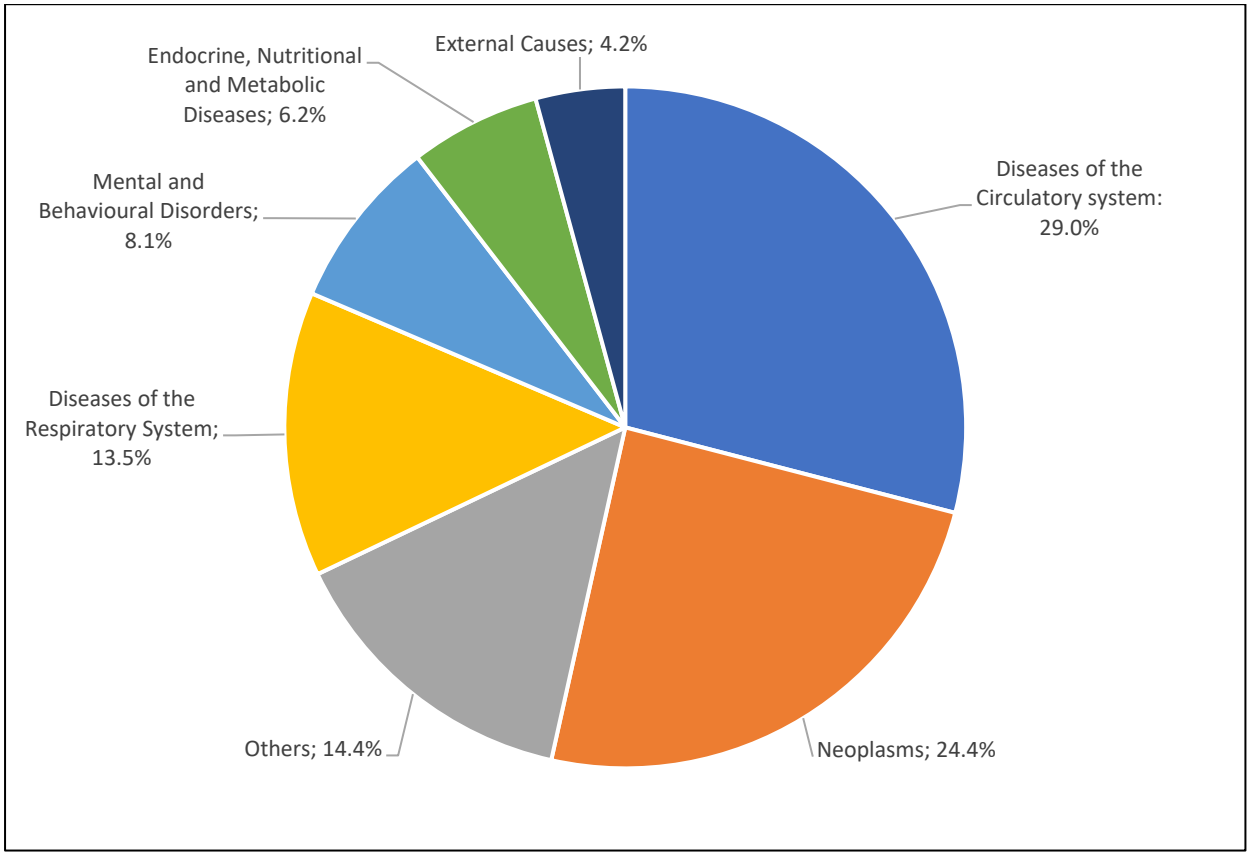

Figure 5: Main causes of death in 2023

Leading Causes of Death in Males

In 2023, ischaemic heart disease remained the leading cause of death among males, accounting for 15.3% of all male deaths. This represents the only notable decrease compared with 2022, when it accounted for 16.9% of male deaths. Chronic lower respiratory diseases remained stable, contributing 4.6% of male deaths in 2022 and 2023.

In contrast, increases were observed across several other major causes of death. Malignant neoplasm of the trachea, bronchus and lung rose to 6.8% in 2023 from 6.4% in 2022, while deaths attributed to dementia increased from 6.1% in 2022 to 6.3% in 2023. Pneumonia and other lower respiratory tract infections also contributed substantially, accounting for 5.9% of male deaths compared with 5.3% the previous year.

A marked rise was observed in deaths due to diabetes mellitus, increasing from 3.9% in 2022 to 5.3% in 2023. Deaths from other heart diseases increased from 4.2% to 5.1%, and deaths from cerebrovascular diseases increased from 4.5% in 2022 to 5.0% in 2023.

Other leading causes of death among males in 2023 included malignant neoplasms of the pancreas, which accounted for 2.8% of male deaths, and malignant neoplasms of the colon, rectum and anus, which contributed 2.7%.

Cause of death	ICD-10 code	Number of deaths	% of male deaths
Ischaemic Heart Disease	I20-I25	311	15.3
Malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus and lung	C33-C34	138	6.8
Dementia	F01-F03, G30, G31.8	128	6.3
Pneumonia and other lower respiratory tract infections	J12-J22	121	5.9
Diabetes mellitus	E10-E14	108	5.3
Other heart diseases	I26-I51	104	5.1
Cerebrovascular diseases	I60-I69	101	5.0
Chronic lower respiratory diseases	J40-J47	94	4.6
Malignant Neoplasms of the Pancreas	C25	57	2.8
Malignant neoplasm of colon, rectum and anus	(C18-C21)	54	2.7

Table 1: Leading causes of death in males in 2023

Leading Causes of Death in Females

Ischaemic heart disease continued to feature as the main cause of death among females in 2023, accounting for 12.6% of all female deaths. This represents a slight decrease compared with 2022, when it accounted for 13.1% of female deaths. Dementia remained the second most common cause of death among females, accounting for 10.3% of deaths in 2023, showing a small reduction from 10.6% in 2022.

Pneumonia and other lower respiratory infections became the third most common cause of death in females in 2023. These accounted for 8.7% of female deaths, an increase from 6.5% in 2022. Deaths due to other heart diseases accounted for 7.7% of female deaths, rising from 4.8% in the previous year.

Cerebrovascular diseases accounted for 6.2% of female deaths in 2023, a decrease from 10.0% in 2022. Deaths due to diabetes mellitus also declined slightly, representing 5.2% of female deaths compared with 5.6% in 2022.

Breast cancer remained a leading cause of cancer-related mortality among females, accounting for 3.6% of all female deaths in 2023. Malignant neoplasms of the trachea, bronchus and lung accounted for 2.9%, while hypertensive disease contributed 2.3%. Chronic lower respiratory diseases accounted for 2.1% of all female deaths.

Cause of death	ICD-10 code	Number of deaths	% of female deaths
Ischaemic Heart Disease	I20-I25	252	12.6
Dementia	F01-F03, G30, G31.8	206	10.3
Pneumonia and other lower respiratory infections	J12-J22	173	8.7
Other Heart Diseases	I26-I51	153	7.7
Cerebrovascular diseases	I60-I69	123	6.2
Diabetes mellitus	E10-E14	103	5.2
Malignant neoplasm of breast	C50	72	3.6
Malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus and lung	C33-C34	57	2.9
Hypertensive Disease	I10-I14	46	2.3
Chronic lower respiratory diseases	(J40-J47)	42	2.1

Table 2: Leading causes of death in females in 2023

Trends in Major Groups of Causes of Death

Overall, most major causes of death in 2023 show a downward or stable trend in standardised mortality rates over the past 10 years for both males and females. Declining trends are observed for all-cause mortality, neoplasms and diseases of the circulatory system. In contrast, dementia and diseases of the respiratory system are showing an increasing trend. Ten-year trends are based on a three-year moving average to smooth year-to-year variation due to small numbers.

Cause of Death	Trend over 10 years (2014-2023)	
	Males	Females
All causes of death (A00-Y89)	↓	↓
Malignant neoplasms (C00-C97)	↓	↓
Malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus & lung (C33-C34)	↓	↔
Malignant neoplasm of breast (C50)	N/A	↓
Malignant neoplasm of colon, rectum and anus (C18-C21)	↓	↓
Malignant neoplasm of pancreas (C25)	↔	↔
Dementia (F01-F03)	↑	↑
Diabetes mellitus (E10-E14)	↔	↔
Diseases of the circulatory system (I00-I99)	↓	↓
Ischaemic heart disease (I20-I25)	↓	↓
Cerebrovascular diseases (I60-I69)	↓	↓
Diseases of the respiratory system (J00-J99)	↑	↑
Diseases of the digestive system (K00-K93)	↔	↔
Diseases of the genitourinary system (N00-N99)	↔	↑
External causes of morbidity & mortality (V01-Y89)	↔	↑
Transport accidents (V01-V99)	↔	↓
Intentional self-harm (X60-X84)	↓	↔

Table 3: Long-term trends in major causes of death

Major Causes of death in males and females in Malta compared with the EU average

Figures 6 and 7 below show how Malta compares with the EU average and other EU countries, with the best and worst outcomes for a number of causes of death. Eurostat's most recent available data correspond to 2023[4], allowing direct comparison with Malta's 2023 figures. The methodology used is that developed by the Joint Assessment Framework, which is described in more detail in the methodology section of this report.

The dark grey bars represent the best-performing country for a particular indicator, whilst the light grey bars represent the worst-performing country for the same indicator. Scores for Malta are shown in light and dark green for progressively better scores than the EU average, while orange and red are used for progressively worse scores than the EU average. White is used for a score for Malta that lies around the EU average.

For both males and females, Malta scores better than the EU average for many of the causes of death (marked as light or dark green), including all-cause mortality in males. Poorer outcomes were observed for respiratory conditions and dementia (marked as red) in both genders and for malignant neoplasms of the uterus for females. (Figures 6 and 7).

[4] *Source: Eurostat Database*

Figure 6: Causes of death in males in Malta (2023) compared with the EU average (2023).

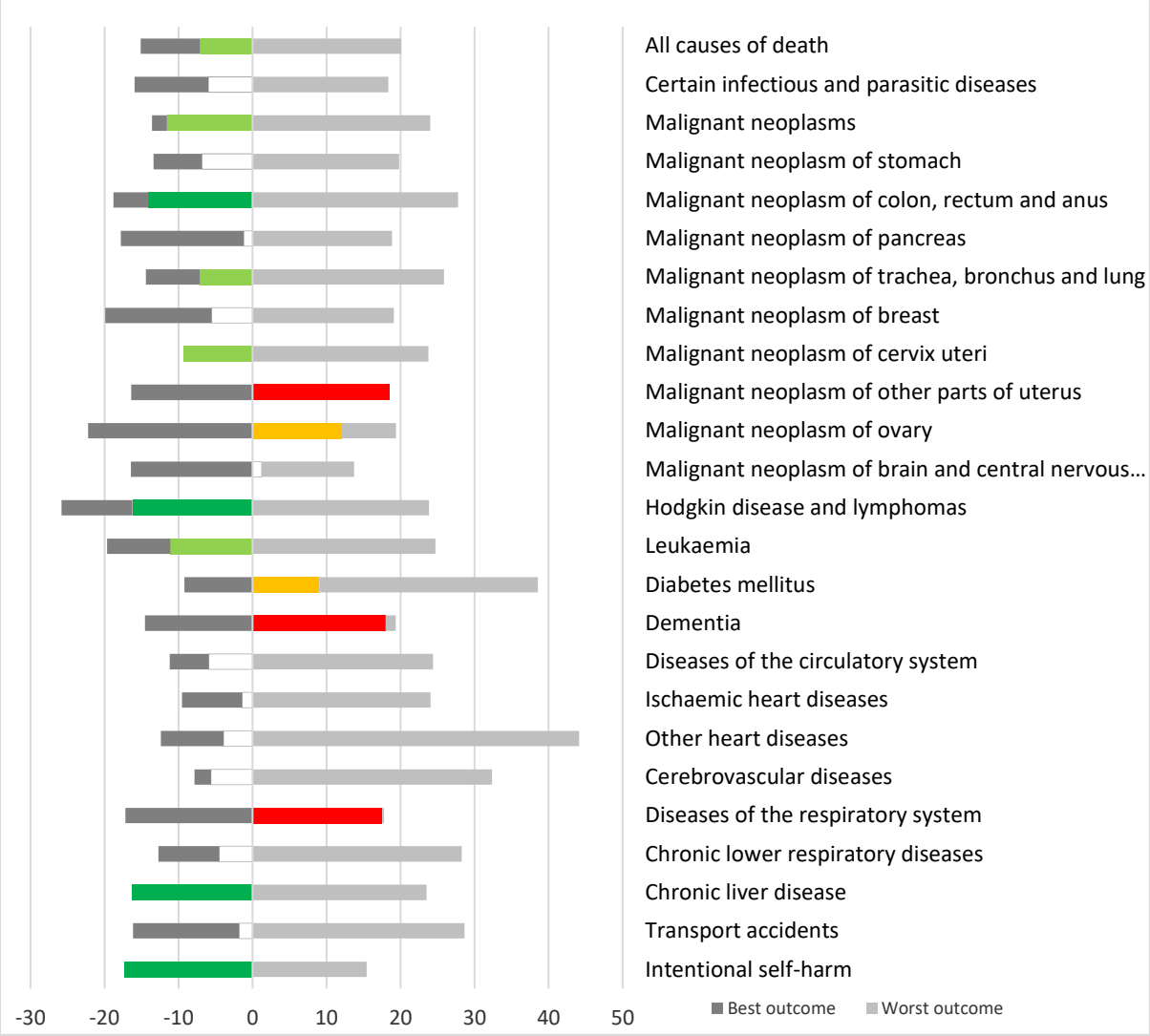

Figure 7: Causes of death in females in Malta (2023) compared with the EU average (2023).

Deaths due to malignancy

There were 986 deaths due to malignant neoplasms in 2023. Cancer of the trachea, bronchus and lung remained the most common cause of cancer death, accounting for 19.8% of all cancer deaths.

Malignant neoplasm of the pancreas was the second most common cause of cancer death in 2023, representing 9.9% of all cancer deaths. This was followed by malignant neoplasms of the colon, rectum and anus, which accounted for 9.4%. Malignant neoplasm of the breast contributed 7.3% and malignant neoplasm of the liver and intrahepatic bile ducts accounted for 4.7% of all cancer deaths in 2023.

A brief comparison with 2022 indicates that cancer of the trachea, bronchus and lung remained the leading cause of cancer mortality, with its proportional contribution increasing from 18.1% to 19.8%. Pancreatic and colorectal cancers continued to feature prominently, with proportions remaining broadly similar between years. Breast cancer remained an important cause of cancer-related mortality, although its relative contribution declined from 8.6% in 2022 to 7.3% in 2023. Overall, the distribution of cancer deaths in 2023 was largely consistent with the previous year, with lung cancer continuing to account for the largest share of cancer mortality.

Cause of Death	ICD-10 Code	Number of Deaths	% of Cancer Deaths
Malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus and lung	C33-C34	195	19.8
Malignant neoplasm of pancreas	C25	98	9.9
Malignant neoplasm of colon, rectum and anus	C18-C21	93	9.4
Malignant neoplasm of breast	C50	72	7.3
Malignant neoplasm of liver and intrahepatic bile ducts	C22	46	4.7

Table 4: Commonest cancer deaths in 2023

Deaths due to COVID-19

COVID-19 accounted for 53 deaths in 2023, a substantial decrease compared with previous years. Of these, 27 occurred in males and 26 in females. The vast majority of deaths (44 out of 53) occurred in individuals aged 75 years and over, with 7 deaths in the 65–74 age group and 2 deaths in the 55–64 age group. This represents a sharp reduction from 2022, when COVID-19 accounted for 202 deaths (4.8% of all deaths).

Heat-Related Deaths

A record number of deaths was recorded in week 30 of 2023 associated with the heatwave experienced during this period. *Source: EUROMOMO (Euromomo.eu) 2025*
This included a record number of direct heat-related deaths: 25 deaths caused by dehydration and exposure to excessive natural heat, (E86, X30) as well other deaths in which the heat exacerbated other co-morbidities.

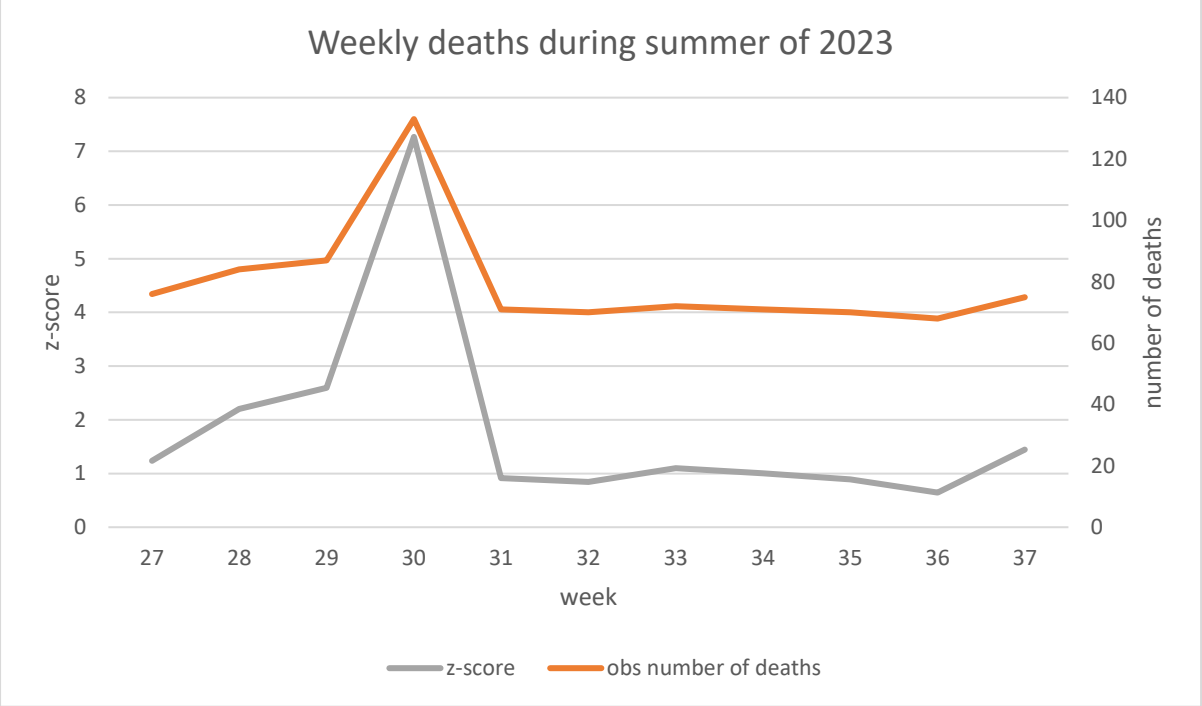

Figure 8: Z-score and number of deaths per week during weeks 27-37 of the year 2023

Trends in Drug-Related Deaths in Malta

The data being presented below refers to drugs of abuse according to the EUDA (European Union Drugs Agency) definition: "drug-induced deaths are those 'happening shortly after consumption of one or more illicit psychoactive drugs and directly related to this consumption, although they may often happen when such substances are taken in combination with other substances, such as alcohol or psychoactive medicines'.

Overview

During the last 2 years (2022-2023), there has been a sharp increase in DRDs in Malta (Figure 9) and age-specific mortality rate (Figure 10). The highest recorded number of deaths was in 2023, with 19 deaths (Figure 9). Most deaths occur in males.

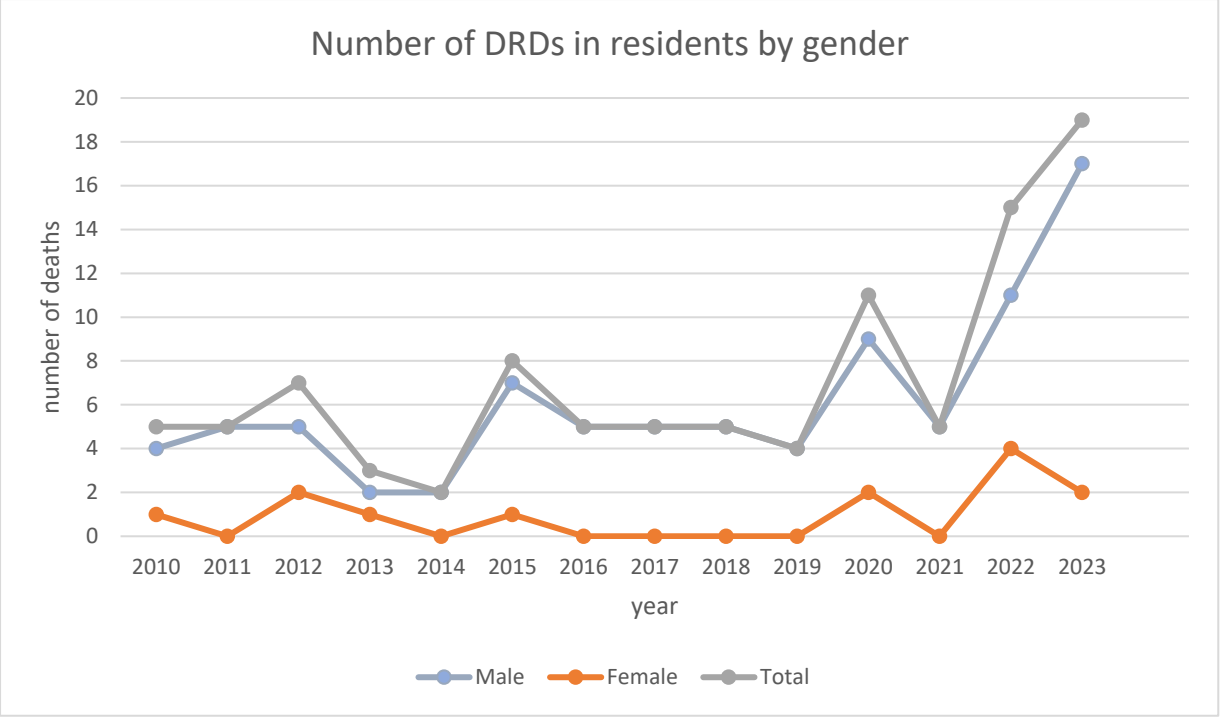

Figure 9: Trends in the number of DRDs in residents over the last 15 years

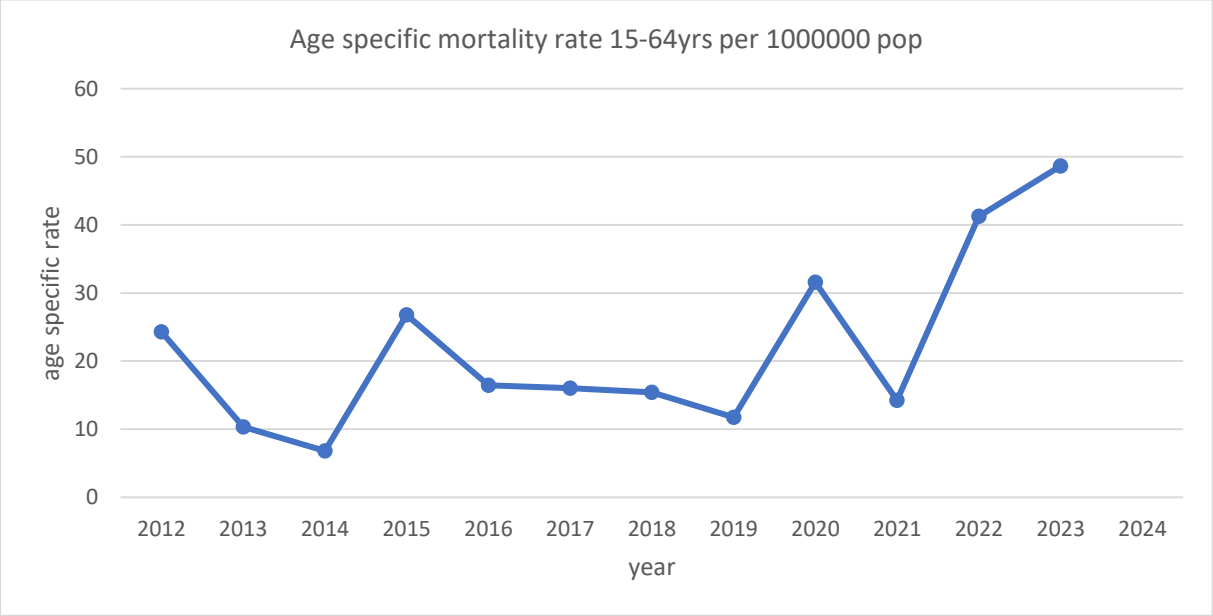

Figure 10: Age-specific mortality rates from DRDs in persons aged 15-64 per million population

Comparison with other mainly EU countries

According to the most recent data available from the European Union Drug Agency (EUDA), mortality rates for Malta are well above the EU average. However, in some countries, reporting may be an underestimate. Rates in Figure 11 below are for 2023 for most countries, including Malta or the latest available.

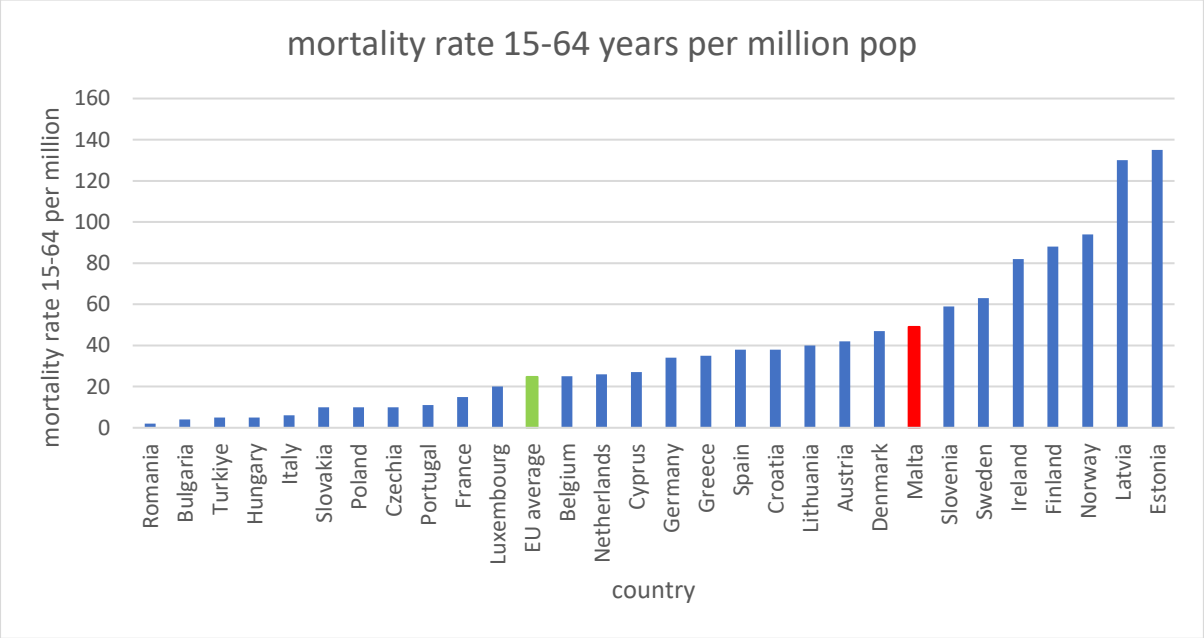

Figure 11: Age-specific mortality rates from DRDs in persons 15-64 years per million population in 2023 (including Malta) or the latest available

Drug-related deaths by type of drug involved

To date, the National Mortality Register relies on information as provided on the death certificate to code DRDs. However, the great majority of drug-related deaths, as per EUDA definition, would have undergone toxicological analysis. The National Mortality Register also liaises with the pathologists in difficult cases to correctly classify drug-related deaths. A drug-related death may involve one drug or several drugs and medicines, and alcohol taken together. As per Figure 12 below, there has been a recent change in trend in DRDs with fewer opiate and heroin deaths and an increase in non-opiate deaths mainly due to cocaine.

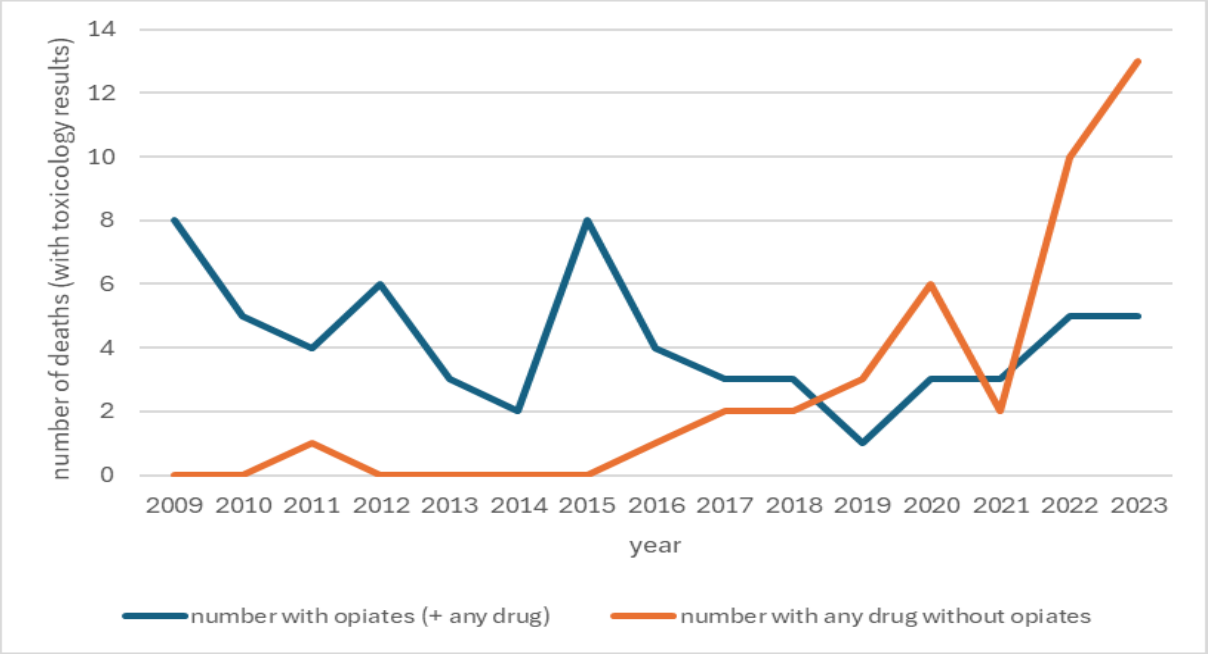

Figure 12: Trends in DRDs with and without opiate involvement

Commonest causes of death by age group

The relative importance of different causes of death varied by age group.

Deaths in children below the age of 1 year

There were a total of 16 deaths in 2023 (1.3 male/1female ratio), in infants aged less than 1 year. This represents a decrease compared to 2022, when 23 deaths were recorded in this age group. These deaths accounted for 0.4 % of total deaths. Causes of death were mainly due to conditions originating in the perinatal period and congenital anomalies.

In 2023, the infant mortality rate for Malta was 3.6 deaths per 1000 live births, which is comparable to the EU average of 3.3 deaths per 1000 live births. This represents a marked decrease from 2022 (5.3 per 1000 live births), bringing Malta's rate closer to the EU average. In interpreting these findings, it is important to consider that, as termination of pregnancy is not permitted in Malta, some infants with severe congenital anomalies are born alive and may die shortly after birth, which contributes to infant mortality rates. Also, due to small numbers rates fluctuate from year to year.

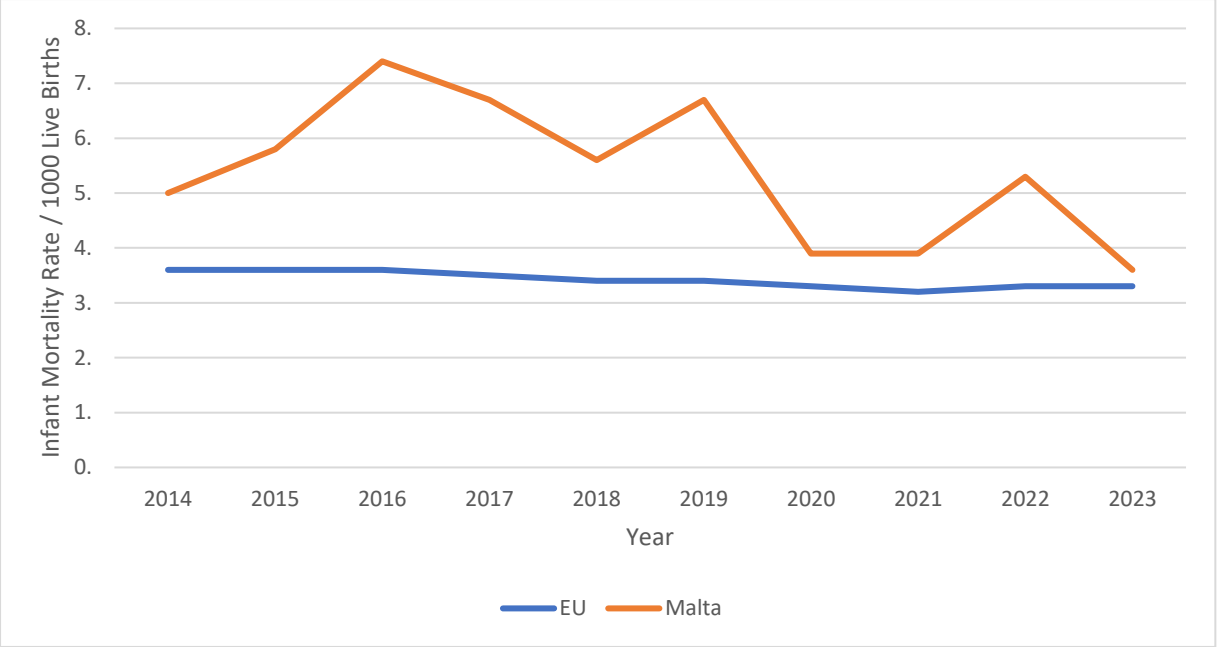

Figure 13: Trends in infant mortality rate in Malta compared with the EU

[5] *Source: Eurostat Database*

Deaths in children aged 1-14 years

In the 1–14 age group, there were 4 deaths registered in 2023 (2 males and 2 females), matching the total number reported in the previous year. These deaths accounted for 0.10% of all deaths in 2023 (4 out of 4,033).

Deaths in the 15-44 age group

In the 15-44 age group, there were a total of 102 deaths in 2023, accounting for 2.53% of all deaths. This represents a slight decrease compared with 2022 (104 deaths). Of the 102 deaths, 65 occurred in males and 37 in females.

External causes of morbidity and mortality remained the leading cause of death in this age group, accounting for 39 deaths (38.2%). These deaths showed a clear predominance in males.

Neoplasms were the second most common cause of death, with 28 deaths (27.5%) recorded. In contrast to external causes, neoplasms showed a predominance in females, with 16 female deaths compared to 12 male deaths. Diseases of the circulatory system accounted for a further 12 deaths (11.8%) in this age group.

Cause of death	ICD-10 Code	No. of Deaths (M)	No. of Deaths (F)	No. of Deaths (Total)	% Total for age group
External causes of morbidity and mortality	V01-Y89	30	9	39	38.2
Neoplasms	C00-D48	12	16	28	27.5
Diseases of the circulatory system	I00-I99	9	3	12	11.8

Table 5: The commonest causes of death in persons aged 15-44 years

Deaths in the 45-64 age group

In the 45–64 age group there were a total of 396 deaths in 2023, accounting for 9.8% of all deaths. This represents a decrease of 70 deaths compared with 2022. Of the 396 deaths, 262 were males and 134 were females.

Ischaemic heart diseases remained the leading cause of death in this relatively young age group, with 56 deaths, representing 14.1% of deaths in this category. Malignant neoplasms of the trachea, bronchus and lung were the second most common cause of death, with 38 deaths (9.6%).

Cause of death	ICD-10 Code	No. of Deaths (M)	No. of Deaths (F)	No. of Deaths (Total)	% Total for age group
Ischaemic heart diseases	I20-I25	44	12	56	14.1
Malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus and lung	C33-C34	26	12	38	9.6
Diabetes mellitus	E10-E14	15	3	18	4.5
Malignant neoplasm of breast	C50	0	17	17	4.3
Other heart diseases	I26-I51	10	6	16	4.0
Pneumonia and other lower respiratory infections	J12-J22	10	6	16	4.0

Table 6: The commonest causes of death in persons aged 45-64 years

Deaths in the 65-84 age group

In the 65–84 age group, there were a total of 1,983 deaths in 2023, accounting for 49.2% of all deaths. Of these deaths, 1,102 were males, and 881 were females. Ischaemic heart disease was the leading cause of death in this age group, with 258 deaths, representing 14.4% of deaths in this category. Malignant neoplasms of the trachea, bronchus and lung were the second most common cause of death, with 134 deaths (6.8%).

Compared with 2022, mortality in this age group decreased from 2,077 to 1,983 deaths. Ischaemic heart disease deaths declined from 306 to 258, lung cancer deaths increased slightly from 119 to 134, and diabetes-related deaths rose from 102 to 124. Overall, the main causes of death remained consistent between the two years.

Cause of death	ICD-10 Code	No. of Deaths (M)	No. of Deaths (F)	No. of Deaths (Total)	% Total for age group
Ischaemic heart diseases	I20-I25	181	104	258	14.4
Malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus and lung	C33-C34	94	40	134	6.8
Diabetes mellitus	E10-E14	70	54	124	6.3
Other heart diseases	I26-I51	46	66	112	5.6
Pneumonia and other lower respiratory infections	J12-J22	41	63	104	5.2

Table 7: The commonest causes of death in persons aged 65-84 years

Deaths in the 85+ age group

In the 85+ age group, there were a total of 1,532 deaths in 2023, accounting for 38.0% of all deaths. Of these deaths, 597 were males and 935 were females.

Dementia was the leading cause of death in this age group, with 230 deaths, representing 15.0% of deaths in this category. Ischaemic heart disease was the second most common cause of death, with 216 deaths (14.1%).

Compared with 2022, mortality in this age group decreased from 1,556 to 1,532 deaths. Deaths from ischaemic heart disease declined from 239 to 216, while dementia deaths increased from 207 to 230. The overall pattern of leading causes remained similar across both years.

Cause of death	ICD-10 Code	No. of Deaths (M)	No. of Deaths (F)	No. of Deaths (Total)	% Total for age group
Dementia	F01-F03, G30.8	76	154	230	15.0
Ischaemic heart diseases	I20-I25	82	134	216	14.1
Pneumonia and other lower respiratory infections	J12-J22	70	103	173	11.3
Other heart diseases	I26-I51	44	80	124	8.1
Cerebrovascular diseases	I60-I69	39	1069	106	6.9

Table 8: The commonest causes of death in persons aged 85+

Methodology

Data Analysis

The information used is based on details obtained from death certificates and supplemented by other sources of information as well as collaboration with pathologists, public health doctors, police and certifying doctors. These additional sources of information are needed for verification. They add detail and ensure that mortality data is as reliable and as accurate as possible.

The International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health problems – ICD-10 is used to translate diagnoses of diseases from words into alphanumeric codes in order to permit easier storage, retrieval and analysis of the data. This also allows comparison between different countries and over different periods of time.

Additional Sources of Data

The National Statistics Office of Malta was the source from which information about mid-year population 2023 by age group and gender was obtained. WHO Gateway and Eurostat database were used as a source of data for some of the figures in this report.

Definitions

Crude Death Rate

This is equal to the total number of registered deaths divided by the estimated resident mid-yearly population of that year multiplied by 100,000. The following mid-year population of 2023, provided by the National Statistics Office, has been used for this annual report.

age group	Males	Females	Total
0-4	11568	10900	22468
5-9	12253	11271	23524
10-14	11963	11278	23241
15-19	11814	10721	22535
20-24	17367	13947	31314
25-29	28319	20344	48663
30-34	30854	23953	54807
35-39	28026	21918	49944
40-44	24323	20093	44416
45-49	20713	17685	38398
50-54	16745	14956	31701
55-59	14788	13896	28684
60-64	15667	15289	30956
65-69	14645	14705	29350

70-74	13139	13866	27005
75-79	11122	12731	23853
80-84	4675	6338	11013
85-89	3797	7065	10862
Total	291778	260956	552734

Table 9: Estimated mid-year 2023 population by age-group and gender

Age-Standardised Death/Mortality Rate

The age-standardised death/mortality rate for a particular condition is that which would have occurred if the observed age-specific death rates for the condition were applied in a given standard population. The European Standard Population as reported by Eurostat have been used in this report.

Methodology used to develop Figures 6 and 7: Causes of death in males and females in Malta compared with the EU average

The methodology applied for these graphs was adopted from the Joint Assessment Framework (JAF). The EU average was taken as the mean, which is taken as 0 in the graphs, while the dark grey bars represent the best performing EU country, and the light grey bars represent the worst performing EU county. The EU average (un-weighted) was calculated from the data available on Eurostat database for the 27 EU countries. The values for each indicator are standardized, the score being calculated using the following method:

*Standardised score indicator x = [(value of indicator x – EU average of x)/standard deviation across EU MS of x]*10*

The interpretation of the standardised scores was the same as that used in the JAF report. The standardised score for Malta for each indicator is interpreted with respect to the EU average. Standardised scores between -7 and 7 are defined as around the EU average (0) and the bars are shaded in white. Standardised scores from -7 to -13 (bars coloured in light green) are better (+) than the EU average and standardised scores smaller than -13 (bars coloured in dark green) are considerably better (++) than the EU average. Conversely, standardised scores from 7 to 13 (bars coloured in orange) are worse (-) than the EU average and standardised scores larger than 13 (bars coloured in red) are considerably worse (- -) than the EU average.

Table 10- Deaths in residents by cause during the year 2023

	Deaths 2023 in Residents				Age Groups							
MTL-1	Cause of Death	Sex	0-4	5-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85 & over	Grand Total
	All Causes	**T**	**18**	**11**	**35**	**58**	**112**	**284**	**718**	**1265**	**1532**	**4033**
	All Females	**F**	**8**	**5**	**9**	**24**	**38**	**96**	**291**	**590**	**935**	**1996**
	All Males	**M**	**10**	**6**	**26**	**34**	**74**	**188**	**427**	**675**	**597**	**2037**
1001	**Certain infectious and parastic diseases (A00-B99)**	**F**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**14**	**13**	**28**
		M	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**15**	**12**	**31**
1004	Other intestinal infectious diseases (A01-A08)	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
		M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	4
1006	Other tuberculosis (A17-A19)	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
1012	Septicaemia (A40-A41)	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	12	23
		M	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	13	8	23
1019	Viral hepatitis (B15-B19)	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		M	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
1020	Human immunodeficiency virus disease (HIV) (B20-B24)	F	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
		M	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
1025	Remainder of certain infectious and parasitic diseases (A21-A32,	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
	A38, A42-A49, A65-A79, A81, A83-A89, B00-B04, B06-B09, B25-	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	B49, B58-B64, B66-B94, B99)											
U07.1	**COVID-19, virus identified**	**F**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**3**	**12**	**10**	**26**
		M	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**4**	**11**	**11**	**27**
1026	**Neoplasms**	**F**	**0**	**1**	**3**	**12**	**20**	**46**	**118**	**150**	**86**	**436**
		M	**0**	**0**	**6**	**6**	**22**	**66**	**161**	**190**	**99**	**550**
1027	Malignant neoplasm of lip, oral cavity and pharynx (C00-C14)	F	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	5	11
		M	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	2	0	8
1028	Malignant neoplasm of oesophagus (C15)	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
		M	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	5	4	17
1029	Malignant neoplasm of stomach (C16)	F	0	0	1		1	1	3	5	3	14
		M	0	0	1	2	3	1	11	7	6	31
1030	Malignant neoplasm of colon, rectum and anus (C18-C21)	F	0	0	0	0	1	1	10	17	10	39
		M	0	0	0	0	2	5	15	17	15	54
1031	Malignant neoplasm of liver and intrahepatic bile ducts (C22)	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	2	10
		M	0	0	1	0	2	7	13	12	1	36
1032	Malignant neoplasm of pancreas (C25)	F	0	0	0	0	2	1	15	16	7	41
		M	0	0	1	1	3	8	17	22	5	57
1033	Malignant neoplasm of larynx (C32)	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
		M	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	2	1	8
1034	Malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus and lung (C33-C34)	F	0	0	0	1	5	7	21	19	4	57
		M	0	0	0	0	6	20	42	52	18	138
1035	Malignant neoplasm of skin (C43)	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		M	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	5
1036	Malignant neoplasm of breast (C50)	F	0	0	2	3	4	13	19	18	13	72
		M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1037	Malignant neoplasm of cervix uteri (C53)	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	4
		M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1038	Malignant neoplasm of other and unspecified parts of uterus	F	0	0	0	0	0	5	11	7	3	26
	(C54-C55)	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1039	Malignant neoplasm of ovary (C56)	F	0	0	0	3	1	5	7	14	4	34
		M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

MTL-1	Cause of Death	Sex	0-4	5-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85 & over	Grand Total
1040	Malignant neoplasm of prostate (C61)	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		M	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	19	12	42
1041	Malignant neoplasm of bladder (C67)	F	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	3	9
		M	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	7	11	29
1042	Malignant neoplasm of meninges, brain and other parts of	F	0	0	0	1	3	4	2	5	0	15
	central nervous system (C70-C72)	M	0	0	1	0	0	5	6	3	1	16
1043	Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (C82-C86)	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	2	8
		M	0	0	0	1	2	2	3	5	5	18
1044	Multiple myeloma and malignant plasma cell neoplasms (C90)	F	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	2	6
		M	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	3
1045	Leukaemia (C91-C95)	F	0	0	0	1	2	1	2	5	1	12
		M	0	0	2	1	0	1	5	10	5	24
1046	Remainder of malignant neoplasms (C17, C23-C24, C26-C31, C37-	F	0	1	0	3	1	4	14	18	21	62
	C41, C44-C49, C51-C52, C57-C60, C62-C66, C68-C69, C73-C81, C88,	M	0	0	0	1	1	8	15	23	9	57
	C96-C97)											
1047	Remainder of neoplasms (D00-D48)	F	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	5	4	13
		M	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	7
1048	**Diseases of the blood and blood forming organs and certain disorders**	**F**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**3**
	involving the immune system (D50-D89)	**M**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**3**	**6**
1049	Anaemias (D50-D64)	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
		M	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	4
1050	Other diseases of the blood and blood forming organs and	F	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
	certain disorders involving the immune mechanism (D65-D89)	M	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
1051	**Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases (E00-E88)**	**F**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**7**	**19**	**44**	**55**	**125**
		M	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**17**	**34**	**45**	**27**	**125**
1052	Diabetes mellitus (E10-E14)	F	0	0	0	0	0	3	16	38	46	103
		M	0	0	0	0	1	14	28	42	23	108
1054	Remainder of endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases (E00-	F	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	6	9	22
	E07, E15-E34, E50-E88)	M	1	0	0	0	0	3	6	3	4	17
1055	**Mental and behavioural disorders (F01-F99)**	**F**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**8**	**44**	**152**	**204**
		M	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**2**	**7**	**41**	**72**	**124**
1056	Mental and behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	use (F10-F19)	M	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	4
1057	Remainder of mental and behavioural disorders (F01-F09, F20-	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	44	152	204
	F99)	M	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	39	72	120
1058	**Diseases of the nervous system (G00-G98)**	**F**	**0**	**1**	**2**	**0**	**2**	**6**	**14**	**19**	**16**	**60**
		M	**1**	**0**	**4**	**2**	**4**	**1**	**18**	**20**	**18**	**68**
1059	Meningitis (G00, G03)	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		M	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
1060	Alzheimer's disease (G30)	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
		M	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	1	6
1061	Remainder of diseases of the nervous system (G04-G25, G31-G98)	F	0	1	2	0	2	6	13	19	15	58
		M	1	0	4	2	4	1	13	19	17	61
1064	**Diseases of the circulatory system (I00-I99)**	**F**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**1**	**8**	**19**	**72**	**177**	**331**	**610**
		M	**0**	**0**	**2**	**7**	**16**	**54**	**120**	**179**	**183**	**561**
1066	Hypertensive diseases (I10-I14)	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	13	30	46
		M	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	5	13	21
1067	Ischaemic heart diseases (I20-I25)	F	0	0	1	1	5	7	37	67	134	252
		M	0	0	0	4	9	35	79	102	82	311
1068	Other heart diseases (I26-I51)	F	0	0	1	0	1	5	15	51	80	153
		M	0	0	2	2	3	7	14	32	44	104
1069	Cerebrovascular diseases (I60-I69)	F	0	0	0	0	1	4	13	38	67	123
		M	0	0	0	0	4	6	19	33	39	101
1070	Atherosclerosis (I70)	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	12	15
		M	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	5	3	12
1071	Remainder of diseases of the circulatory system (I71-I99)	F	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	6	8	21
		M	0	0	0	1	0	3	4	2	2	12

MTL-1	Cause of Death	Sex	0-4	5-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85 & over	Grand Total
1072	**Diseases of the respiratory system (J00-J98)**	**F**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**2**	**9**	**30**	**74**	**154**	**270**
		M	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**8**	**14**	**38**	**98**	**116**	**275**
1073	Influenza (J10-J11)	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	5
		M	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	4
1074	Pneumonia (J12-J18)	F	0	0	0	0	1	3	10	34	66	114
		M	0	0	0	0	2	5	5	21	51	84
1075	Other acute lower respiratory infections (J20-J22)	F	0	0	0	1	0	2	6	13	37	59
		M	0	0	0	0	2	1	5	10	19	37
1076	Chronic lower respiratory diseases (J40-J47)	F	0	0	0	0	1	0	9	17	15	42
		M	0	0	0	0	1	5	17	44	27	94
1077	Remainder of diseases of the respiratory system (J00-J06, J30-J39,	F	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	9	32	50
	J60-J98)	M	0	0	1	0	2	3	11	23	16	56
1078	**Diseases of the digestive system (K00-K92)**	**F**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**13**	**17**	**34**	**68**
		M	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**4**	**8**	**12**	**19**	**15**	**58**
1079	Gastric and duodenal ulcer (K25-K27)	F	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	4	8
		M	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	4
1080	Diseases of the liver (K70-K76)	F	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	3
		M	0	0	0	0	2	6	3	6	4	21
1081	Remainder of diseases of the digestive system (K00-K22, K28-K66,	F	0	0	0	0	1	1	10	15	30	57
	K80-K92)	M	0	0	0	0	1	2	9	12	9	33
1082	**Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue (L00-L98)**	**F**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**4**	**7**	**11**
		M	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**4**	**3**	**8**
1083	**Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue**	**F**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**4**	**2**	**9**
	(M00-M99)	**M**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**3**
1084	**Diseases of the genitourinary system (N00-N98)**	**F**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**2**	**5**	**15**	**36**	**59**
		M	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**9**	**19**	**21**	**52**
1085	Glomerular and renal tubulo-interstitial diseases (N00-N15)	F	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	4
		M	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
1086	Remainder of diseases of the genito-urinary system (N17-N98)	F	0	0	0	1	0	1	5	14	34	55
		M	0	0	0	0	0	3	8	18	20	49
1089	**Pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium (O00-O99)**	**F**	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
		M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1092	**Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period (P00-P96)**	**F**	**7**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**7**
		M	**6**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**6**
1093	**Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal**	**F**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**4**
	abnormalities (Q00-Q99)	**M**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**4**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**9**
1094	**Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings,**	**F**	**0**	**0**			**1**	**1**	**2**	**4**	**13**	**21**
	not elsewhere classified (R00-R99)	**M**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**1**	**2**	**2**	**1**	**5**	**3**	**17**
1095	**External causes of morbidity and mortality (V01-Y89)**	**F**	**0**	**2**	**2**	**5**	**2**	**2**	**6**	**10**	**25**	**54**
		M	**0**	**6**	**9**	**16**	**14**	**14**	**18**	**27**	**13**	**117**
1096	Transport accidents (V01-V99)	F	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	4
		M	0	0	2	1	3	1	2	2	1	12
1097	Falls (W00-W19)	F	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	5	20	28
		M	0	1	3	0	1	1	7	14	11	38
1098	Accidental drowning and submersion (W65-W74)	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
		M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
1099	Exposure to smoke, fire and flames (X00-X09)	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
		M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1100	Accidental poisoning and exposure to noxious substances (X40-	F	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	4
	X49)	M	0	0	0	7	4	4	1	0	0	16
1101	Intentional self-harm (X60-X84)	F	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
		M	0	4	4	7	3	6	1	2	0	27
1102	Assault (X85-Y09)	F	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
		M	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
1103	All other external causes (W20-W64, W75-W99, X10-X39, X50-X59,	F	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	3	4	12
	Y10-Y89)	M	0	1	0	1	3	2	6	8	1	22