Mortality in Malta during 2025
Key Findings

Synopsis

- ***There were 2183 male and 2057 female resident deaths in 2025, an increase in the number of deaths in both genders compared to the previous year.***
- ***Main causes of death vary by age and gender. In the younger age-groups more deaths are observed in men, often associated with increased risk behaviour;***
- **Overall circulatory diseases were responsible for 26.8% of all deaths, neoplasms for 25.6%, respiratory conditions for 16.5% of deaths and dementia for 8.7% of all deaths.**

During the year 2025, there were 4240 deaths among residents of the Maltese Islands, dying locally or abroad, an increase of 59 deaths compared to the previous year. As seen in Figure 1, during the past 20 years, the number of deaths has increased. This increase can mainly be explained by population growth and ageing, as the crude mortality rate has remained relatively stable since 2006. Number of deaths increase with increasing age (figure 2) and in all age groups except for the 85+ group, number of deaths in males is more than that in females. Using the logarithmic scale (figure 3), one can observe that mortality rates in young males (5-35 years) is much higher than that in females.

Figure 1

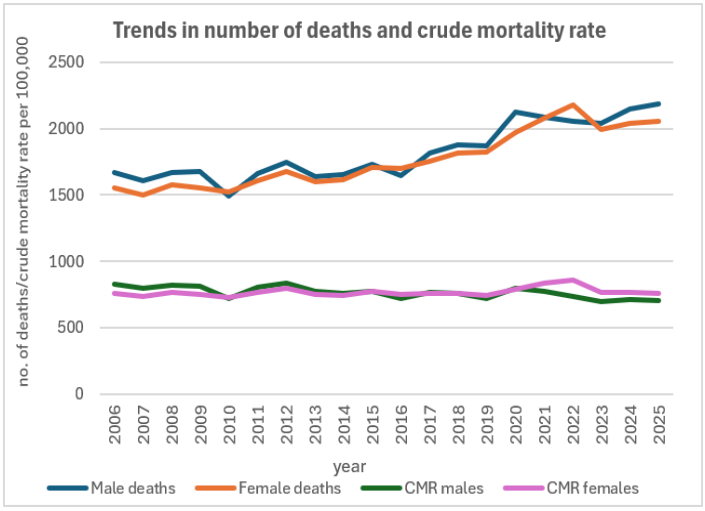
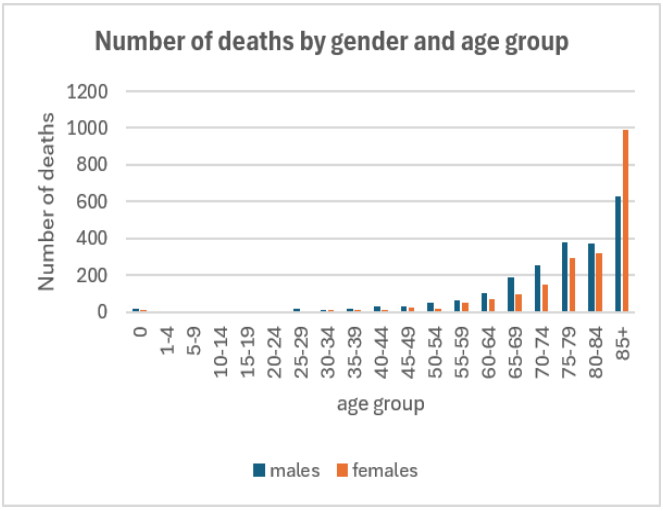
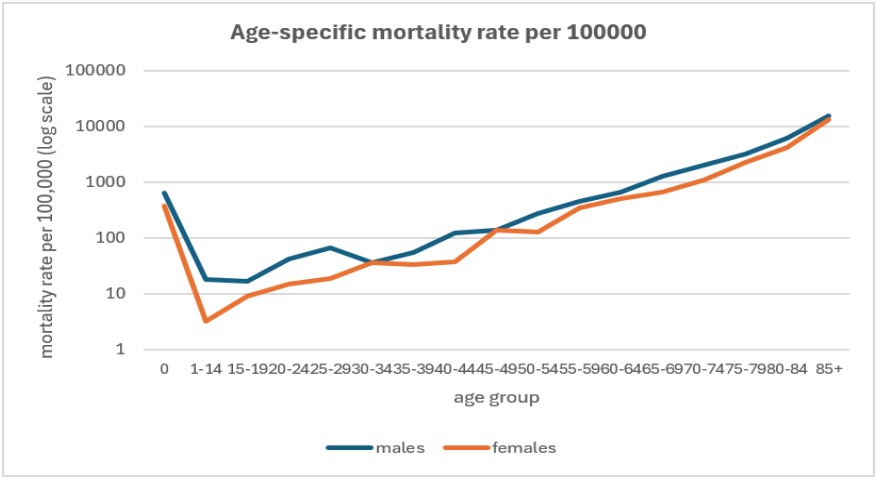


Figure 2



Figures 3



Main Causes of Death

Circulatory diseases which includes ischaemic heart disease, cerebrovascular disease and heart failure were responsible for 26.8% of all resident deaths in 2025. Neoplasms were the next commonest overall cause of death, responsible for 25.6% of all deaths. Respiratory conditions were responsible for 16.5% of deaths and dementia 8.7% of all deaths. Top causes of death vary by gender as seen in figure 4 and 5 with external causes of death being commoner in males, while dementia deaths were commoner in females.

Figure 4

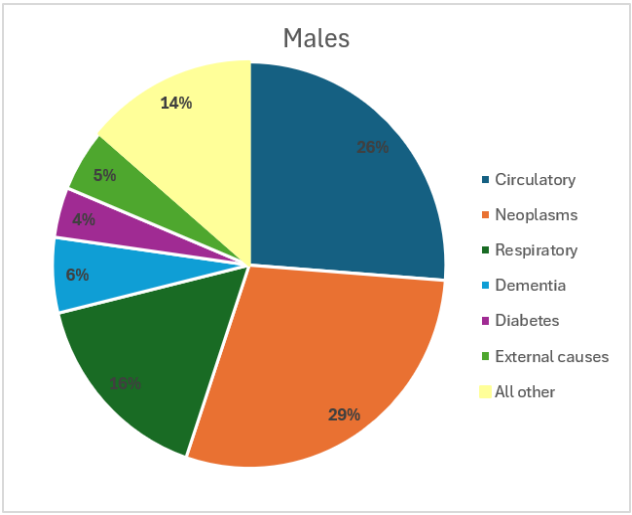
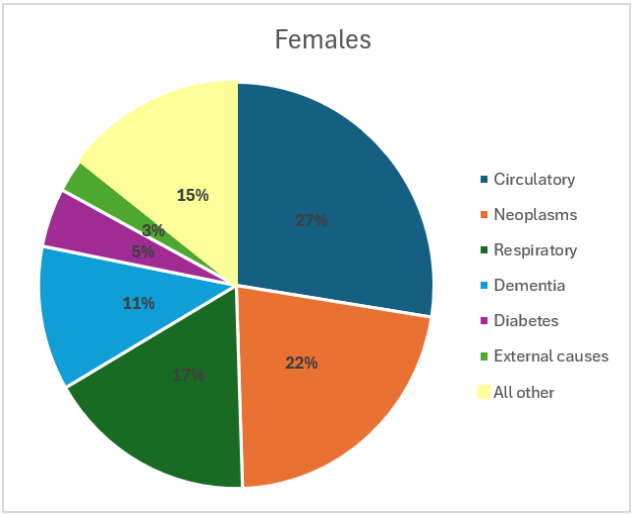
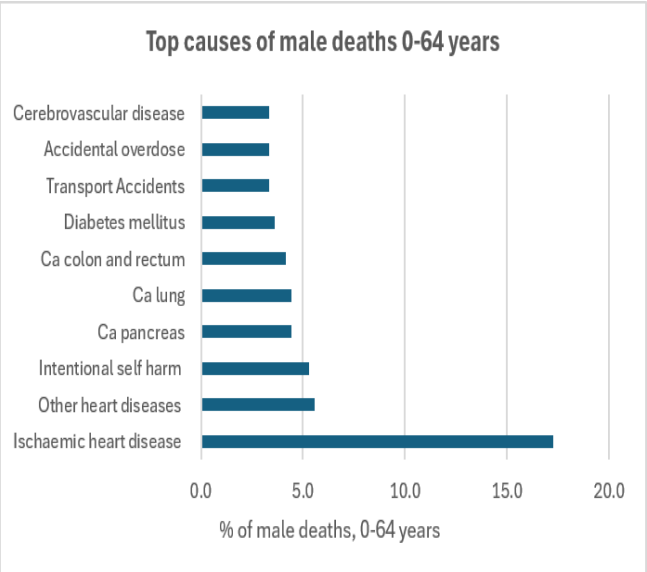


Figure 5

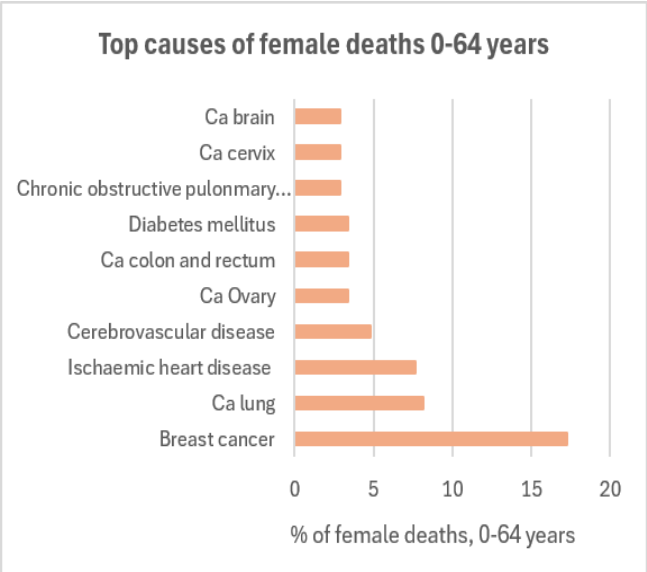


The main causes of death vary by age group and gender. In the younger age groups 0-64 years, males account for 359 deaths whilst females account for 208 deaths; Main causes of death also vary with heart disease, intentional self harm and lung cancer being commoner in males and breast cancer, lung cancer and ischaemic heart disease being commoner in female (figure 6 &7 respectively)

Figures 6



Figures 7



In the older age groups 65+, male deaths account for 1824 deaths, while females account for 1849 deaths. Causes of death are very different from those observed in the younger age groups. The commonest causes of death in males aged 65 years and over in 2025 was ischaemic heart disease followed by lung cancer and chest infections (figure 8), while in females the commonest causes of death were dementia, followed by chest infections and ischaemic heart disease (figure 9).

Figure 8

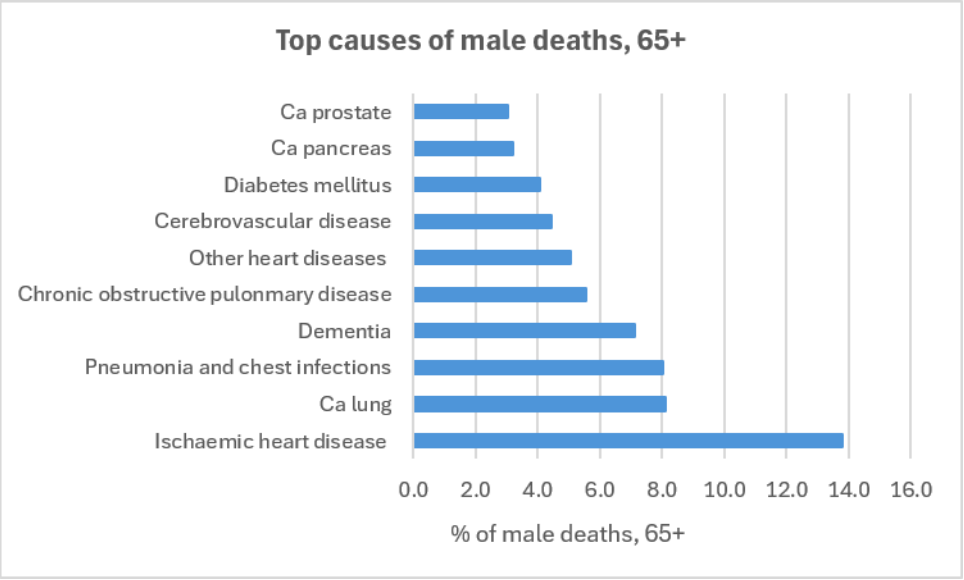
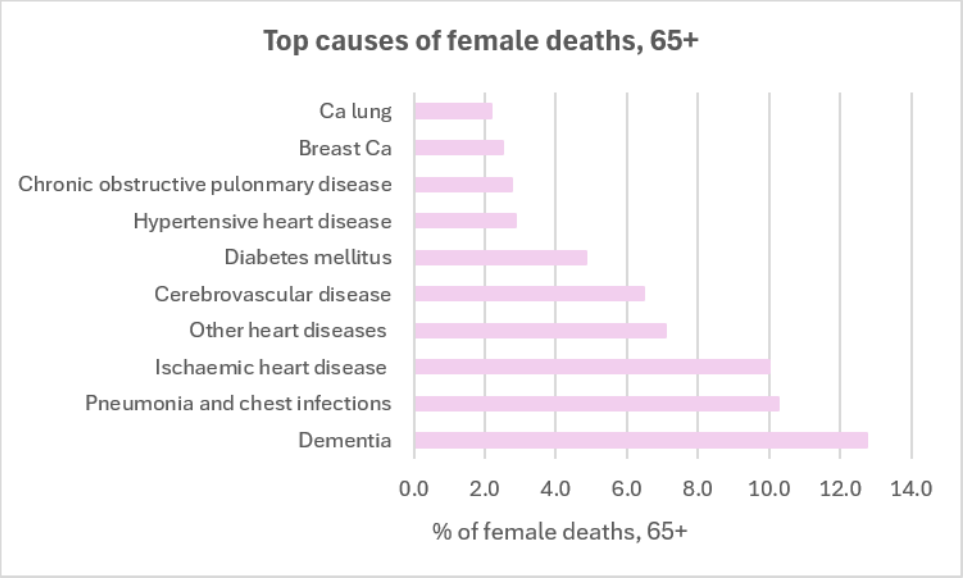


Figure 9



Methodological notes

Background

The information used to compile this report 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.
All mortality data on the Maltese Islands is compiled by the Malta National Mortality Registry of the Directorate for Health Information and Research of the Ministry for Health.
https://dhir.gov.mt/en/registries/deaths/
A more detailed Annual Mortality Report is produced on a yearly basis and will be available on Mortality Reports - The Directorate

Classification used

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.
International Classification of Diseases (ICD)

Additional sources of information

National Statistics Office of Malta was the source for mid-year population data for 2025 by gender. **https://nso.gov.mt/**

Definitions

Crude Death Rate: This is equal to the total number of registered deaths divided by the total resident mid-yearly population of that year multiplied by 100,000.

Age-specific rate: This is calculated by dividing the number of events (e.g., deaths) occurring in a specific age stratum by the total mid-period population of that same age group, often multiplied by a constant (e.g., 1,000 or 100,000) to express the rate per unit population.