



Causes of death and stillbirth statistics (CoD)

Description

The causes of death statistics provide information on mortality trends and causes of death and stillbirth in Switzerland. It allows to draw important conclusions on the health of the population and on trends over time, to point out emerging developments and to indicate preventive or curative measures that are likely to extend the life expectancy of the population.

Available since:

First reference year of this statistic: 1876

Available in electronic form since 1969

Data available 12 months after the end of the reference year

Features registered:

Deceased persons in the permanent resident population

Causes of death (ICD-10) by:

age

sex

civil status

occupation

commune of residence (civil domicile)

nationality

Methodology

The cause of death statistics is a mandatory comprehensive survey based on data from civil registries (central database "Infostar") and death certificates issued by doctors. Its findings are published in the form of absolute figures per 100,000 residents (permanent resident population at mid-year according to the population and households statistics, STATPOP).

Matching of data coming from the following sources: birth and health status of liveborn infants statistics, hospital medical statistics.

Degree of regionalisation:

Commune

Periodicity:

Annual

Reference period:

Calendar year

Statistical quality of data:

This ongoing survey makes possible to establish long time series.

Good international comparability because of standardisation (WHO).

Almost complete data coverage (about 2% of missing cause of death data).

Weak points in the statistic:

Changes made every 10 to 20 years to the World Health Organisation's International Classification of Diseases (ICD) cause breaks in the time series.

The causes of death of persons who are domiciled in Switzerland but who died abroad

are often unknown.

Revision:

1995: transition from ICD-8 to ICD-10 and adjustment of the coding rules to the international standard.

2006: introduction of the electronic enquiry (e-Survey eCOD)

Legal bases

Federal Statistics Act of 9 October 1992 (RS 431.01)

Ordinance of 30 June 1993 on the Conduct of Federal Statistical Surveys (RS 431.012.1)

The Swiss Civil Code of 10 December 1907 (RS 210)

Organization

Federal Statistical Office (FSO)

Information service: +41 58 463 67 00

gesundheit@bfs.admin.ch

Prof. Dr. Rolf Weitkunat, +41 58 485 6724, rolf.weitkunat@bfs.admin.ch
