



Factsheet – Statistical activity and published results

Causes of Death and Stillbirth Statistics (CoD)

Description

The Causes of Death Statistics provide an overview of mortality trends and causes of death and stillbirth in Switzerland. They allow the identification of trends over several decades and of preventive or curative measures that are likely to have a positive impact on life expectancy within the population. First reference year of the statistics: 1876. Available in electronic format since 1969. Data is currently made available 12 months after the end of the reference year.

Methodology

Methodology used:

The Causes of Death Statistics are based on a mandatory, comprehensive survey and use data from the civil registries (central database 'Infostar') and reporting by medical doctors. Findings are published in the form of absolute figures per 100 000 residents (permanent resident population at mid-year according to the Population and Household Statistics [STATPOP]). Linking of data from the following sources: Infant Mortality and Newborn Health Statistics, Hospital Medical Statistics

Variables used:

- Deceased persons from the permanent resident population
- Causes of death (ICD-10 code)
- Age
- Sex
- Civil status
- Occupation
- Commune of ordinary residence
- Nationality

Date of survey:

Ongoing

Periodicity:

Annual

Degree of regionalisation:

Switzerland

Linkages

No data linkage is carried out for the production of the Causes of Death Statistics.

Quality of statistical data:

The ongoing nature of the survey enables longitudinal time series. Compliance with the World Health Organization's standards means data can be compared at international level. An almost complete dataset (approx. 2% missing data on causes of death).

Shortcomings of the statistics: Changes made every 10 to 20 years to the WHO's International Classification of Diseases (ICD) cause breaks in the time series. The causes of death of persons whose ordinary place of residence is Switzerland but who died abroad are often unknown.

Policy on revisions

Methodological revisions:

	1995: transition from ICD-8 to ICD-10 and adjustment of the coding rules to the international standard 2006: introduction of the electronic survey (e-Survey eCOD) 2024: introduction of the new certificate of causes of death in line with WHO standard format
Legal bases	Federal Statistics Act (FStatA) of 9 October 1992 (SR 431.01) and Ordinance of 30 June 1993 on the Conduct of Federal Statistical Surveys (SR 431.012.1) Swiss Civil Code of 10 December 1907 (SR 210)
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