



Factsheet – Statistical activity and published results

National Cancer Statistics (NKS)

Description

The National Cancer Statistics (NKS) provide information on the situation and trends in cancer mortality and new cancer cases in Switzerland. These are composite statistics based on data from existing surveys. Different indicators describe the burden of cancer by cancer site.

Methodology

Methodology used:

Composite statistics based on:

- Data on new cases from the cantonal and intercantonal cancer registries (CCR). The CCRs were established gradually and have covered all cantons in Switzerland since the Federal Act and Ordinance on the Registration of Cancerous Diseases (CRA and CRO) came into force in 2020: GE (1970), VD (1974), NE (1974), ZH (1980), SG (1980), AR/AI (1980), BS/BL (1981), VS (1989), GR (1989), GL (1992), TI (1996), JU (2005), FR (2006), LU (2010), OW/NW (2011), UR (2011), ZG (2011), TG (2012), AG (2013), BE (2014), SO (2019), SZ (2020), SH (2020), cf. [map of cancer registries in Switzerland](#)
- Data on new cases and causes of death from the [Childhood Cancer Registry](#) (ChCR)
- Data on causes of death from the [Causes of Death Statistics](#) (CoD, FSO)
- Data on the permanent resident population from the [Population and Households Statistics](#) (STATPOP, FSO), the [Annual Population Statistics](#) (ESPOP, FSO) up to and including 2010.

Variables used:

New cases by cancer site (ICD-O-3) / Deaths by cancer site (ICD-10) by:

- Age
- Sex
- Canton of residence (place of residence under civil law) at the time of diagnosis / death

Date of survey:

Since 1981

Periodicity of publication

Annual, 5-year periodic reporting

Statistics available since 1983 from [NICER](#) Institute / National Agency for Cancer Registration ([NACR](#)), since 1998 from FSO

Degree of regionalisation:

At national and language region level:

- German-speaking Switzerland (predominantly German-speaking cantons): AG, AI, AR, BE, BL, BS, GL, GR, LU, NW, OW, SG, SH, SO, SZ, TG, UR, ZG, ZH
- French-/Italian-speaking Switzerland (predominantly French-speaking cantons and Ticino): FR, GE, JU, NE, VD, VS, TI

Linkages

No data linkage is carried out for the production of National Cancer Statistics (NKS).

Quality of statistical data:

Coverage for incidence data in French-speaking Switzerland and Ticino has been complete since 2006 and in German-speaking Switzerland since 2020 (cf. exceptions and

details on data quality on the [methods page](#)).

In the Causes of Death Statistics, the causes of death of Swiss nationals who died abroad are often not recorded. For both the incidence and mortality statistics, modifications in the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) and the International Classification of Oncology (ICD-O) are made approximately every 10 to 20 years, causing breaks in the time series. For example, in 1995 the transition from ICD-8 to ICD-10 took place as well as an adjustment of the coding rules to comply with international standards. Compliance with the World Health Organization's standards means data can be compared at international level.

Policy on revisions

1995: Transition from ICD-8 to ICD-10
2020: Implementation of the Cancer Registration Act (CRA)

Legal bases

Swiss Federal Statistics Act of 9 October 1992 (FStatA, SR 431.01)
Cancer Registration Act (SR 818.33) and Cancer Registration Ordinance (SR 818.331)

Organisation

Federal Statistical Office (FSO) in collaboration with NACR, CCR and ChCR
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