

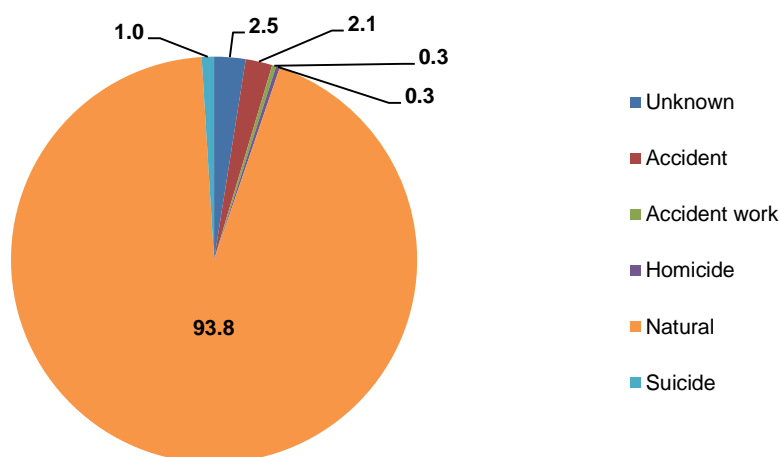
Causes of Death

Tirana, May 22, 2019: In 2018, the number of deaths registered in Albania is 21,804, marking 428 deaths less than in the previous year (or 1,9%). The number of deaths by sex is 11,667 for men (0.5% more than in 2017) and 10,137 deaths reported for women (4,6% less than in 2017).

The crude mortality rate for 2018 is 760.6 deaths per 100 thousand population compared to 773.7 in 2017.

Referring to the causes of death, the largest proportion (93.8%) is due to 'natural causes', followed by 'accidents' with 2.1%.

Fig. 1 Deaths by Main Causes, 2018 (%)



* Unknown refers to deaths without a determined cause.

In 2018, deaths from the "Circulatory system diseases" account for 53.2% of the total deaths. This group of diseases continues to be the main cause of death, with a mortality rate of 404.7 per 100 thousand population with a 2.7% decrease compared to the previous year.

Within the "circulatory system diseases", the mortality from "cerebrovascular diseases" accounts for the largest proportion (31,7%), followed by "chronic heart disease" with 27.2% and "ischemic heart disease" with 24.3%.

Deaths from "neoplasms" account for 16.9% of total deaths, ranking as the second major group referring to the number of related deaths. The mortality rate from these diseases is 128.9 per 100 thousand population with a 1.4% increase compared to 2017. In the "neoplasms" group, the highest proportion is occupied by "neoplasms of the digestive system" with 34.5%, and the "neoplasms of the respiratory system" with 24.1%.

Deaths from "symptoms, signs, and ill-defined conditions" show a 3.4% increase compared to 2017. In this group, 50.0% of cases include deaths over the age of 84 and the specific cause of death "death of old age" accounts for 97.2% of deaths in this group.

Tab. 1 Main Causes of Deaths by Disease Groups, 2017 (ICD Classification 9*)

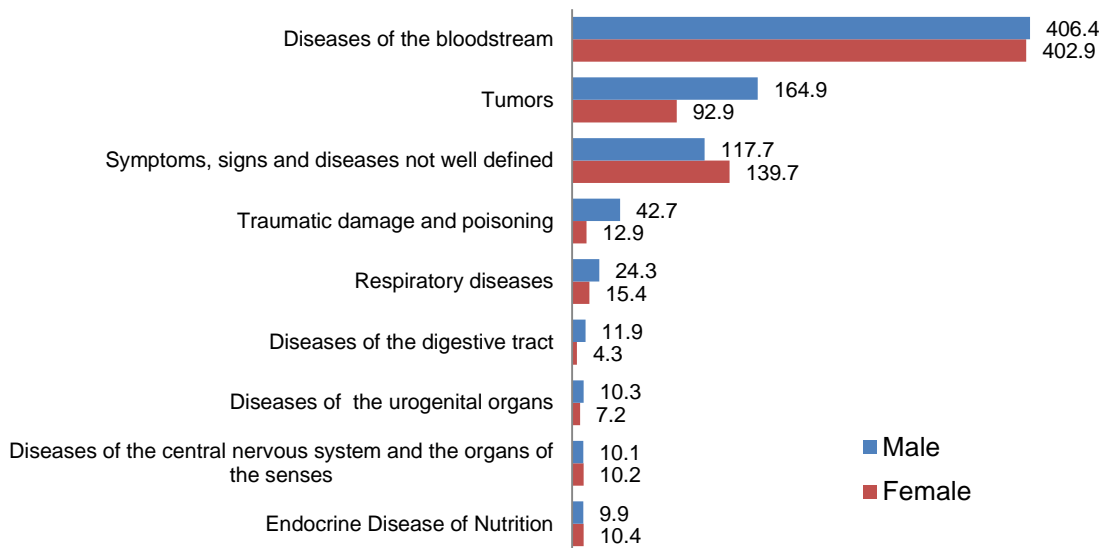
	Number	%
Diseases of the circulatory system	11,599	53.2
Neoplasms	3,695	16.9
Symptoms, signs, and ill-defined conditions	3,689	16.9
Injury and poisoning	798	3.7
Diseases of the respiratory system	568	2.6
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs	291	1.3
Diseases of the digestive system	291	1.3
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases, and immunity disorders	251	1.2
Diseases of the genitourinary system	233	1.1
Mental disorders	108	0.5
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	107	0.5
Complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium	70	0.3
Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs	38	0.2
Infectious and parasitic diseases	28	0.1
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	28	0.1
Congenital anomalies	9	0.0
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	1	0.0

**International classification of deaths*

Deaths by sex

"Circulatory system diseases" are the main cause of deaths in both men and women with a respective mortality rate of 406.3 and 402.9 per 100 thousand population. In contrast, "neoplasms" mortality is higher among men than women with a mortality rate of 164.9 and 92.9 per 100 thousand population, respectively.

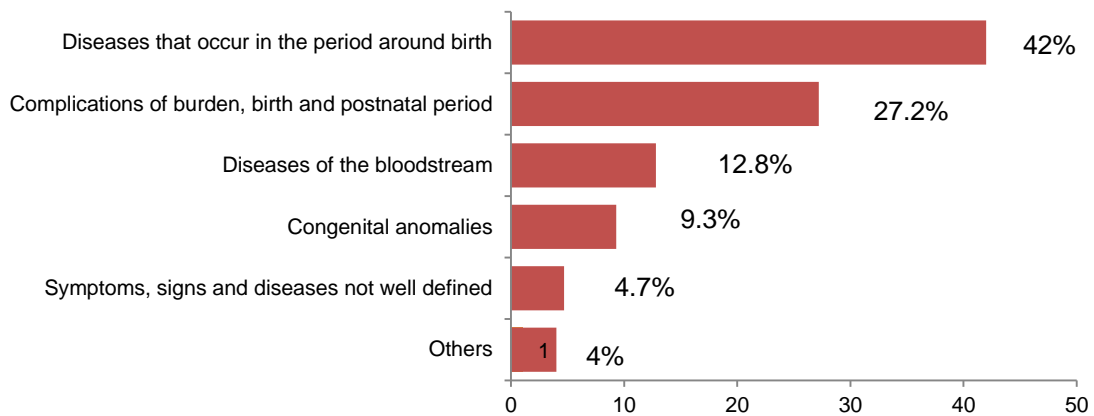
Fig. 2 Crude mortality rate by disease group and gender (per 100 thousand population)



Infant mortality

In 2018, the infant mortality rate is 8.9 per 1 thousand live births versus 8.0 per 1 thousand deaths for live births in 2017. The slight increase of this indicator is dedicated to the decreased number of births during 2018, by 6.3% compared to 2017. The main causes of infant mortality (under 1 year old) are "Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period" with 42.0% and "Complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium" accounting for 27.2% of total deaths in this age group.

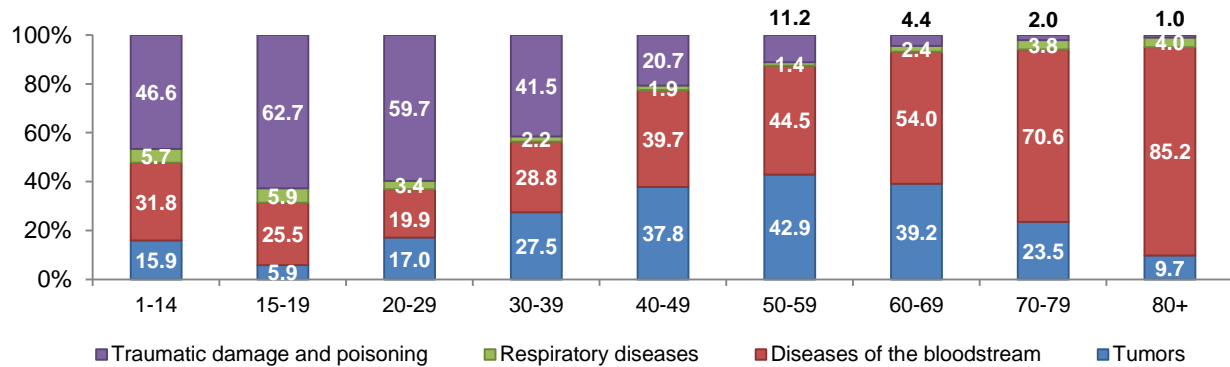
Fig. 3 Infant mortality by main causes (%)



Death by age group

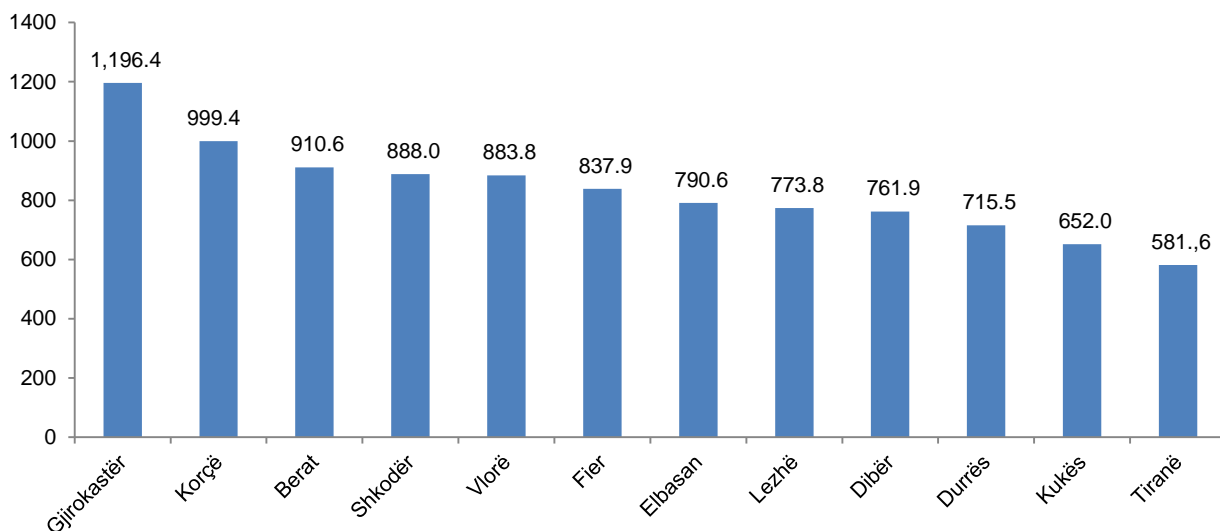
"Circulatory system diseases" are the main cause of death among persons over 70 years old accounting for over 70% of deaths in these age groups. Deaths from "neoplasms" account for over 40% of deaths in the 50-59 years old age group, followed by persons aged 40-69, where these diseases account for 35% of deaths. "Injury and poisoning" account for the largest proportion of deaths among 15-39 years old individuals.

Fig. 4 Specific weight of major disease groups within each age group (%)



According to the counties, the highest crude mortality rate (per 100 thousand population) is registered in Gjirokastra and Korça, and the lowest in the county of Tirana and Kukës.

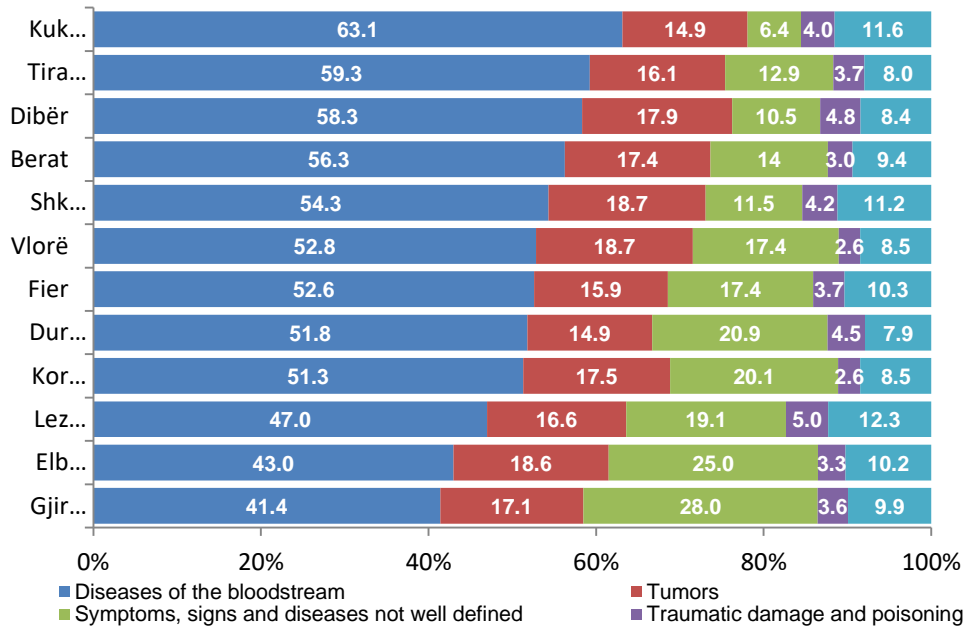
Fig. 5 Crude mortality rate by county (per 100 thousand population)



According to the major groups of diseases, "Circulatory system diseases" reach the highest figure in the Kukës county and the lowest figure in the Gjirokastra county, with 63.1% and 41.4% of the number of deaths, respectively.

Referring to the "Neoplasms" disease group, the highest proportion of deaths is recorded in the county of Shkodra and Vlora with 18.7% each, and the lowest in Kukës and Durrës counties (14.9%).

Fig. 6 Death by disease group and by prefectures, in (%)



Methodology

Cause of death is the disease or symptom that has caused or contributed to death, as well as the circumstances of the accident that caused these trauma (Described in the death certificate). The source of the data is the General Directorate of Civil Status.

International Classification "ICD-9" is the international classification of causes of death, which codifies the diseases by grouping them into 17 major disease groups. The coding of the cause of death is done by the physician and represents the most complete official statistical source of the diseases that are the cause of death.

Death implies the enduring disappearance of all signs of life at any time after a live birth (termination of vital functions without the possibility of resuscitation). This definition does not include fetal death.

Mortality expresses the deaths as a component of the population change, which happens to every member of the population.

Cause-specific death rate: Shows the number of deaths attributable to a specific cause per 100,000 population in a given year.

Mortality rate (also called crude mortality rate): Indicates the number of deaths per 100 thousand population in a given year.

Maternal Death is the death of a woman that happens during the pregnancy period or within 42 days after pregnancy termination, whatever the prolongation or localization, by any cause determined or aggravated by the pregnancy or from the aid provided for the pregnancy but not accidental or unexpected.

Infant mortality: Indicates the number of deaths for children aged under 1 year as a ratio to the number of live births of that year, expressed per 1000 live births.