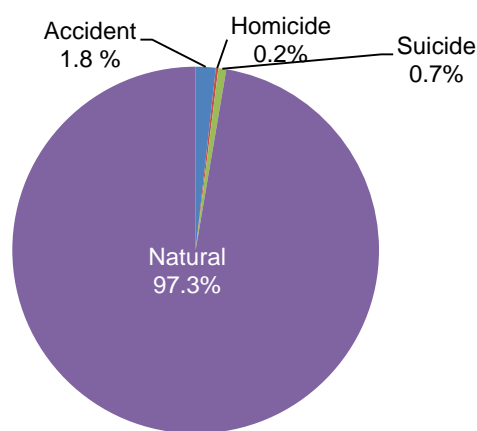


Causes of deaths, 2021

Tirana, 03 June 2022: The number of deaths registered in Albania In 2021, is 30,507 deaths, marking an increase of 10.5 % deaths, compared to the previous year. The number of deaths by sex is 16,883 for men and 13,624 deaths reported for women.

The crude mortality rate for 2021 is 1,085.0 deaths per 100 thousand population versus to 972.7 in 2020. Referring to the causes of death, the largest proportion, 97.3 % is due to “natural causes”.

Fig.1 Deaths by Main Causes, 2021 (%)



In 2021, deaths from the "Circulatory system diseases" account for 52.4 % of the total deaths. This group of diseases continues to be the main cause of death, with a mortality rate of 568.6 per 100 thousand population, with a 10.8 % increase compared to the previous year.

Within the “Circulatory system diseases”, the mortality from “chronic heart disease” accounts for the largest proportion (37.2 %), followed by “cerebrovascular diseases” with 23.7 % and “ischemic heart disease” with 22.8 %.

Group deaths from "Symptoms, signs and diseases not well defined" is the second group with the highest number of deaths (16.8%). Compared with the last year 9.0 % more life losses were registered. In this group, 91.1 % of cases include deaths over the age 70 years old and the specific cause of death is "death from old age".

The number of deaths caused by the group "Respiratory Diseases" is almost 1.5 times higher compared to 2020 and is the third main group referring to the cause of death. About 11.8 % of total deaths are due to this group and the mortality rate for 100 thousand inhabitants is 128.4 deaths.

Deaths from "Neoplasms" account for 11.2 % of total deaths, ranking as the fourth group referring to the number of related deaths. Compared to year 2020, were recorded 4.4% less losses life from this group of diseases. In the "Neoplasms" group, the highest proportion is occupied by "neoplasms of the digestive system" with 35.2 %, and the "neoplasms of the respiratory system" with 23.7 %.

Tab.1 Main Causes of Deaths by Disease Groups, 2021

Disease group	2021	
	number	%
Diseases of the bloodstream	15,986	52.4
Symptoms, signs and diseases not well defined	5,120	16.8
Respiratory diseases	3,611	11.8
Tumors	3,430	11.2
Traumatic damage and poisoning	814	2.7
Diseases of the central nervous system and the organs of the senses	319	1.0
Diseases of the urogenital organs	297	1.0
Endocrine Disease of Nutrition	294	1.0
Diseases of the digestive tract	216	0.7
Mental illness	156	0.5
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	100	0.3
Complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	49	0.2
Diseases of blood and blood forming organs	37	0.1
Congenital anomalies	31	0.1
Infectious and parasitic diseases	26	0.1
Diseases of the bone and joint system	19	0.1
Diseases of skin and skin tissue disorders in the skin	2	0.0
Total	30,507	100.0

Deaths by sex

Group of disease "Circulatory system diseases" are the main cause of deaths in both men and women with a respective mortality rate of 523.0 among women and 614.6 among men per 100 thousand population.

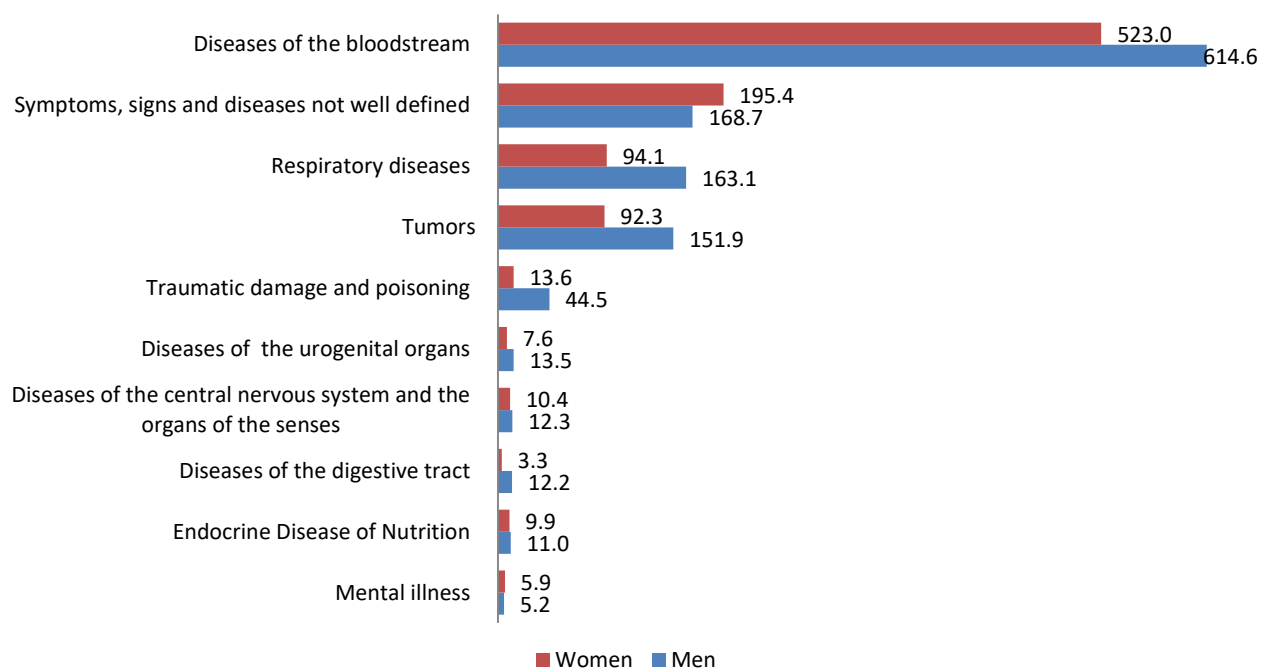
From 15,986 deaths by this group of disease, 46.2 % are women and 53.8 % men.

For more information, visit INSTAT webpage: <http://www.instat.gov.al/>

For "Respiratory diseases", the mortality rate per 100 thousand inhabitants is higher in men compared to women, 163.1 versus 94.1 deaths.

Women have the highest mortality rate in the group of "Symptoms, signs and diseases not well defined", 195.4 per 100 thousand inhabitants. "Tumor" group diseases are the leading cause of death in men with a mortality rate of 151.9 per 100 thousand inhabitants, while for women 92.3 per 100 thousand population.

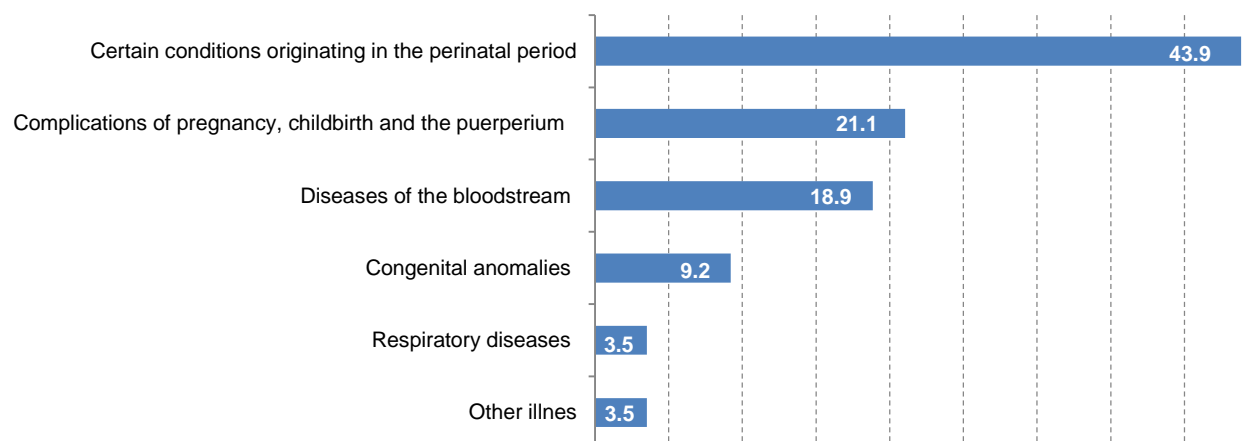
Fig. 2 Crude mortality rate by disease group and gender (per 100 thousand population), 2021



Infant mortality

In 2021, the number of infant mortality is 228. The main causes of infant mortality (under 1 year old) are "Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period " with 43.9 % and "Complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium " accounting for 21.1 % of total deaths in this age group. (Referring the Methodology, page 7)

For more information, visit INSTAT webpage: <http://www.instat.gov.al/>

Fig.3 Infant mortality by main causes (%), 2021

Death by age group

For the 0-19 age group, the highest number of deaths is related to specific disease groups as "Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period" (27.5%) and "Diseases of the circulatory system" (25.3%). For the age group 20-44 years, "Diseases of the circulatory system" (32.5%) and "Traumatic injuries" (26.4%) are the group with the highest weight in deaths caused. For the age groups 45-64, 65-79 and 80+ years old, the main cause remains diseases of the circulatory system.

Tab.2 Deaths by diseases group and agegroup (in %), 2021

Disease group	Agegroup				
	0-19	20-44	45-64	65-79	80+
Infectious and parasitic diseases	0.0	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.0
Tumors	2.5	15.1	22.5	14.5	4.7
Endocrine Disease of Nutrition	0.0	0.3	0.8	1.3	0.8
Diseases of blood and blood forming organs	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1
Mental illness	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.7
Diseases of the central nervous system and the organs of the senses	2.8	2.9	0.7	1.2	0.9
Diseases of the bloodstream	25.3	32.5	45.1	55.4	54.3
Respiratory diseases	3.6	9.7	14.6	16.0	7.8
Diseases of the digestive tract	0.3	1.2	2.1	0.7	0.2
Diseases of the urogenital organs	0.0	1.1	0.9	1.3	0.7
Complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	13.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Diseases of skin and skin tissue disorders in the skin	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Diseases of the bone and joint system	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.1
Congenital anomalies	7.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	27.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Symptoms, signs and diseases not well defined	5.2	9.1	5.4	7.2	29.2
Traumatic damage and poisoning	12.4	26.4	6.8	1.6	0.5

For more information, visit ISTAT webpage. <http://www.istat.gov.it>

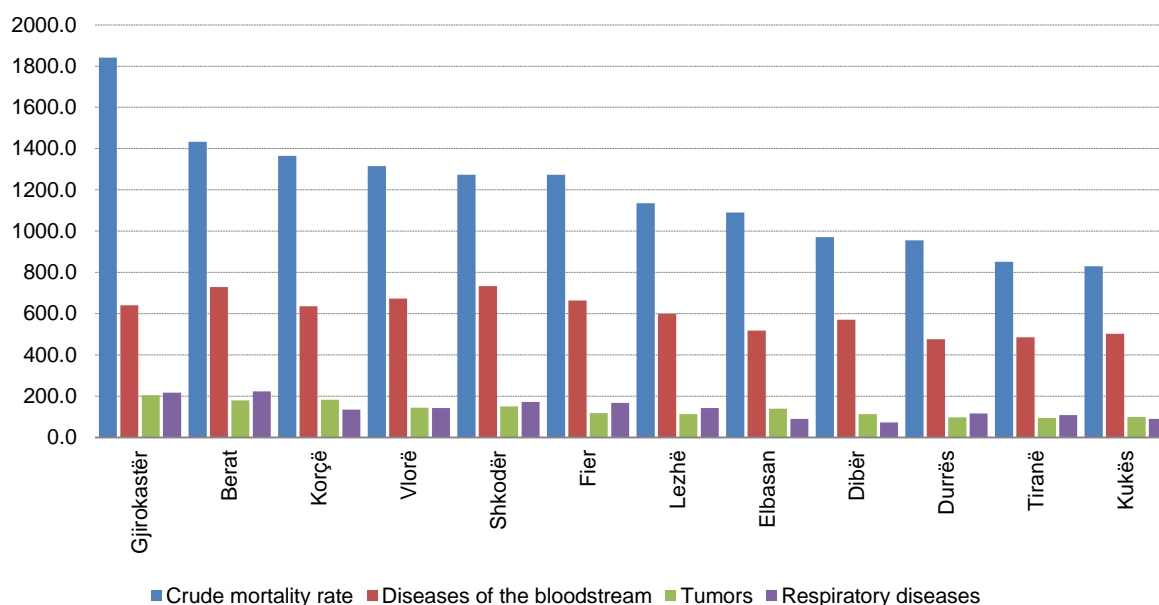
Death by prefectures

By prefectures, the highest gross death rate is observed in the Gjirokastra region with 1,841.0 per 100 thousand inhabitants, while the lowest in Kukës region with 829.1 deaths.

Shkodra region marks the highest value of the gross mortality rate for the group "Diseases of the circulatory system" with 733.5, while Durrës region marks the lowest value with 476.6 per 100 thousand inhabitants.

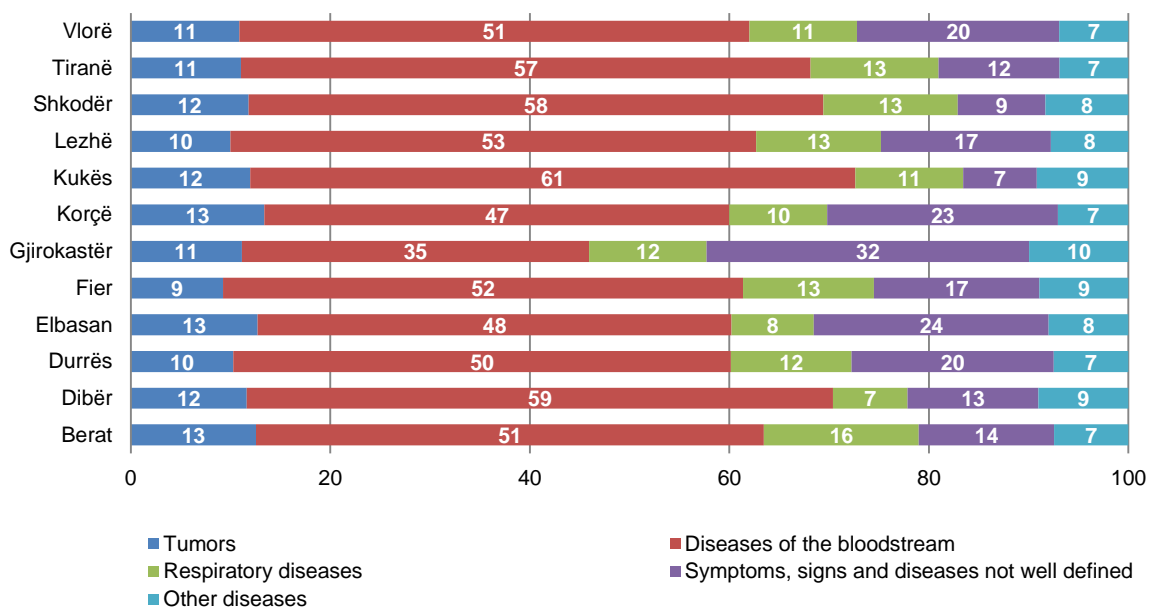
Referring to the "Tumors" disease group, the highest value of the gross mortality rate is observed in the region of Gjirokastrër with 204.7 deaths, while the lowest in the region of Tiranë with 94.0 deaths per 100 thousand inhabitants of the respective regions.

Fig.4 Crude mortality rate by major disease groups and prefecture (per 100 thousand population), 2021



In 2021, the mortality according to the main disease groups for each region maintains almost the same structure, where the largest number of deaths is caused by the disease group 'Diseases of the circulatory system' followed by 'Respiratory diseases' and 'Tumors'.

Fig.5 Death by disease group and by prefectures, in (%), 2021



For more information, visit INSTAT webpage: <http://www.instat.gov.al/>

Methodology

Causes of death data

Data on deaths are provided by the General Directorate of Civil Status according to basic demographic characteristics and specific causes of death. The data on causes of deaths are based on the information of the "death files" completed by the doctor. Then, the data are cleaned and processed by analysing some additional variables as: the word description of the disease, age and sex, and finally codified according to the international classification ICD-9.

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.

Definitions

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.

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.

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.

*Infant mortality*¹: 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.

Data source: General Directorate of Civil Status.

¹ Data on infant mortality rates should not be compared with previous years due to methodologic changes in 2021. Time series before 2021, will be subject of revision after Population and Housing Census 2022.

For more information, visit INSTAT webpage: <http://www.instat.gov.al/>