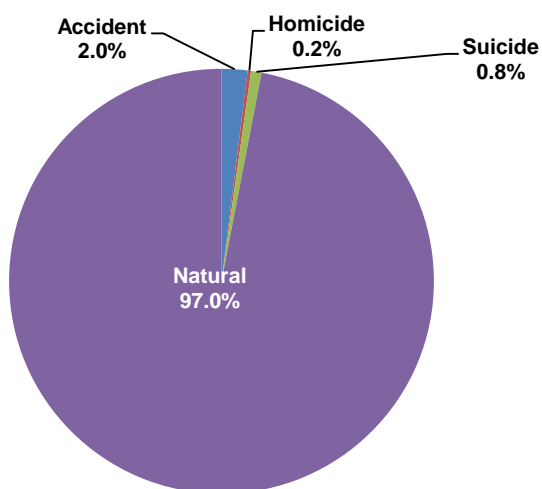


Causes of deaths, 2022

Tirana, 26 May 2023: In 2022, the number of deaths registered in Albania is 23,998 deaths, marking a decrease of 21.3 % deaths, compared to the previous year. The number of deaths by sex is 12,921 for men and 11,077 deaths reported for women.

Referring to the main causes of death, 97.0 % of the total registered deaths were natural (natural causes).

Fig. 1 Deaths by main causes, 2022 (in %)



Deaths from the group of diseases "Circulatory system diseases" account for the largest share in the total number of registered deaths, and remain to be the main cause of deaths. In 2022, more than half of deaths (54.5 %) has this cause of death. "Chronic heart diseases" (42.2 %), " Cerebrovascular diseases " (22.5 %) and "Ischemic heart diseases" (22.3 %) account for the largest share of deaths in the "Circulatory system diseases". Compared to the previous year, deaths from this group of diseases have decreased by 18.2%.

The disease group "Symptoms, signs and diseases not well defined" comprise the second group with the highest share of deaths (20.3 %). Compared to last year, 4.9 % fewer lives were lost. Deaths in the age group over 70 years old comprise 82.3 % of deaths for this disease group and the main cause is "Death from old age".

The disease group "Tumors" ranking as the third group of diseases with the largest share of registered deaths, 13.5 % of total deaths. Compared to previous year, 5.7 % fewer lives were lost. "Malignant neoplasm of the digestive system" (36.8 %) and "Malignant neoplasm of the respiratory system" (23.4%) account for the largest share of deaths in this disease group.

Compared to 2021, deaths from the disease group "Respiratory system diseases" comprise for the main share in the total decrease of deaths registered during 2022.

Tab. 1 Main causes of deaths by disease groups, 2022

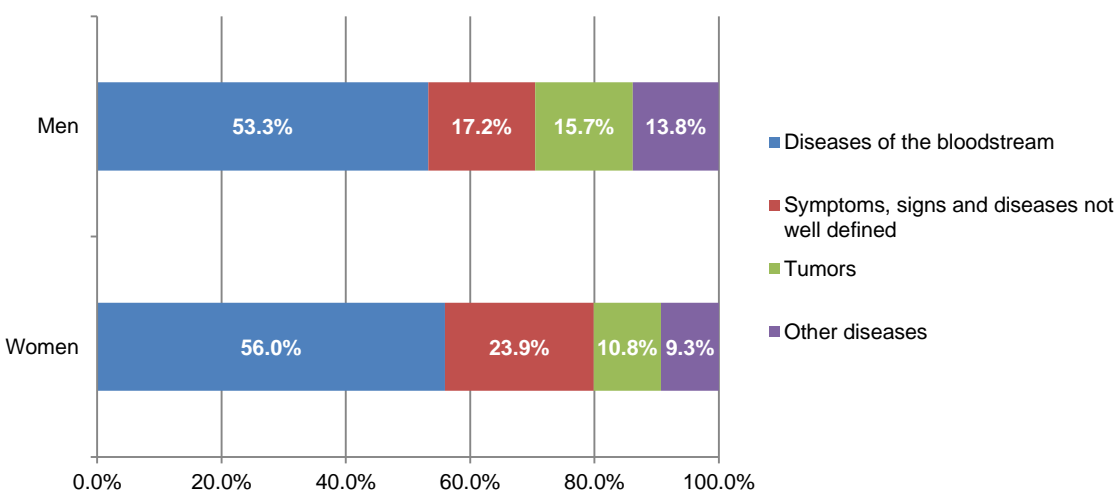
Disease group	2022	
	number	%
Diseases of the bloodstream	13,082	54.5
Symptoms, signs and diseases not well defined	4,868	20.3
Tumors	3,233	13.5
Respiratory diseases	813	3.4
Traumatic damage and poisoning	718	3.0
Diseases of the central nervous system and the organs of the senses	270	1.1
Endocrine Disease of Nutrition	258	1.1
Diseases of the digestive tract	234	1.0
Diseases of the urogenital organs	221	0.9
Mental illness	127	0.5
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	86	0.4
Diseases of blood and blood forming organs	25	0.1
Infectious and parasitic diseases	19	0.1
Congenital anomalies	19	0.1
Complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	17	0.1
Diseases of the bone and joint system	8	0.0
Diseases of skin and skin tissue disorders in the skin	0	0.0
Total	23,998	100.0

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

Deaths by sex

From the total number of deaths, 53.8 % of lost lives were men and 46.2% were women. Both in women and men, the disease group " Circulatory system diseases " constitutes the main cause of death, respectively 53.3 % for men and 56.0 % for women. The disease group "Symptoms, signs and diseases not well defined" constitutes the second main cause of death for both gender, where the percentage of deaths in women is higher than in men, 23.9 % compared to 17.2 %. The third disease group follows "Tumors", with the highest percentage of deaths in men (15.7 %) compared to women (10.8 %).

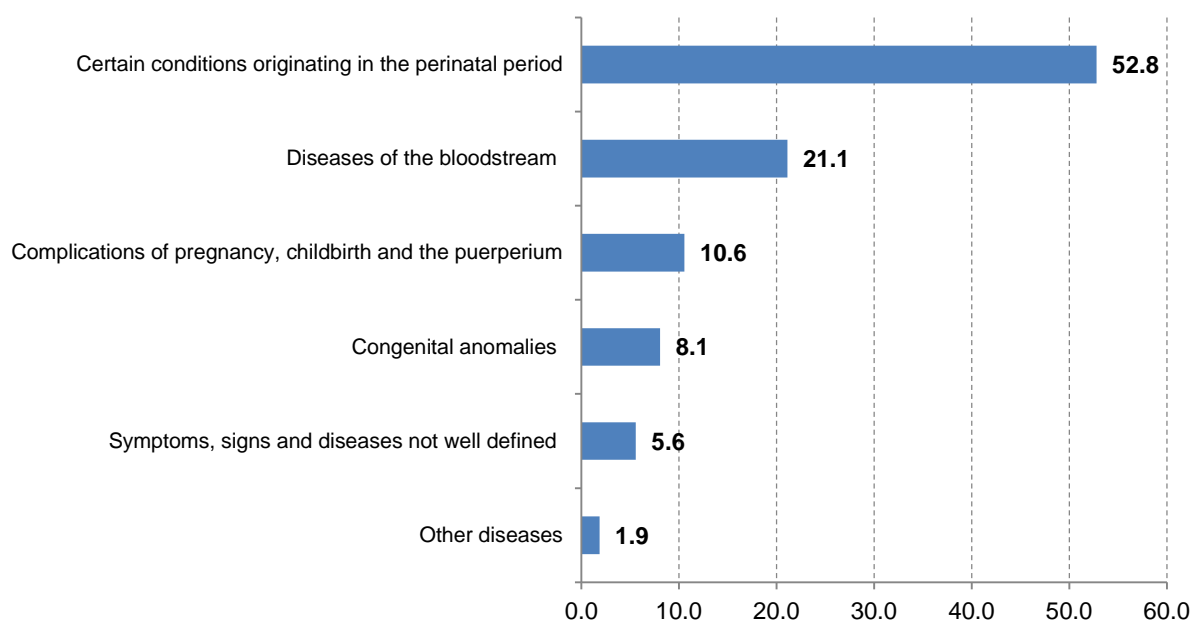
Fig.2 Main disease group of deaths by gender, 2022



Infant mortality

In 2022, the number of infant mortality is 161. The infant mortality rate is 6.5 per 1 thousand live births versus 8.4 per 1 thousand deaths for live births in 2021. The main causes of infant mortality (under 1 year old) are "Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period " with 52.8 % and " Circulatory system diseases " accounting for 21.1 % of total deaths in this age group.

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

Fig. 3 Infant mortality by main causes, 2022 (in %)

Death by age group

For the age group *0-19 years old*, the largest share of deaths is related to the group of diseases "Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period" (29.8 %) and "Circulatory system diseases" (28.1%). "Circulatory system diseases" (31.6 %) and "Traumatic damage and poisoning" (30.1 %) constitute the groups with the largest share in the deaths caused for the age group *20-44 years old*.

For the age groups *45-64, 65-79 and 80+ years old*, the main group remains "Circulatory system diseases".

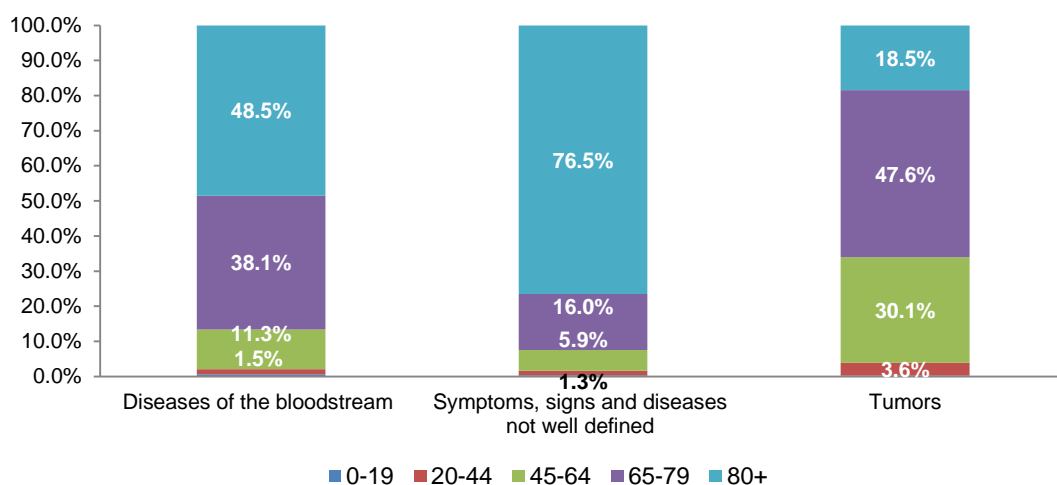
Tab.2 Deaths by diseases group and age group, 2022 (in %)

Disease group	Age group				
	0-19	20-44	45-64	65-79	80+
Infectious and parasitic diseases	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.03
Tumors	2.8	19.1	29.4	18.6	5.18
Endocrine Disease of Nutrition	0.0	0.5	0.8	1.7	0.77
Diseases of blood and blood forming organs	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.10
Mental illness	0.0	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.59
Diseases of the central nervous system and the organs of the senses	2.1	3.3	1.3	1.5	0.69
Diseases of the bloodstream	28.1	31.6	44.8	60.2	55.08
Respiratory diseases	0.7	1.5	2.6	3.9	3.41
Diseases of the digestive tract	0.0	1.3	2.6	1.2	0.39
Diseases of the urogenital organs	0.0	0.3	0.8	1.2	0.82
Complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	6.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Diseases of skin and skin tissue disorders in the skin	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Diseases of the bone and joint system	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.02
Congenital anomalies	5.3	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.00
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	29.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.01
Symptoms, signs and diseases not well defined	5.3	10.3	8.7	9.4	32.33
Traumatic damage and poisoning	19.3	30.1	8.2	1.7	0.57
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Analyzed according to the cause of death, the disease group "Symptoms, signs and diseases not well defined" constitutes the main cause of death for the age group over 80 years old (76.5 %). In the disease group "Circulatory system diseases", approximately half of the deaths belong to the age group over 80 years old (48.5 %). Meanwhile, in the disease group "Tumors", approximately half of the loss of life belongs to the age group 65-79 years old (47.6 %).

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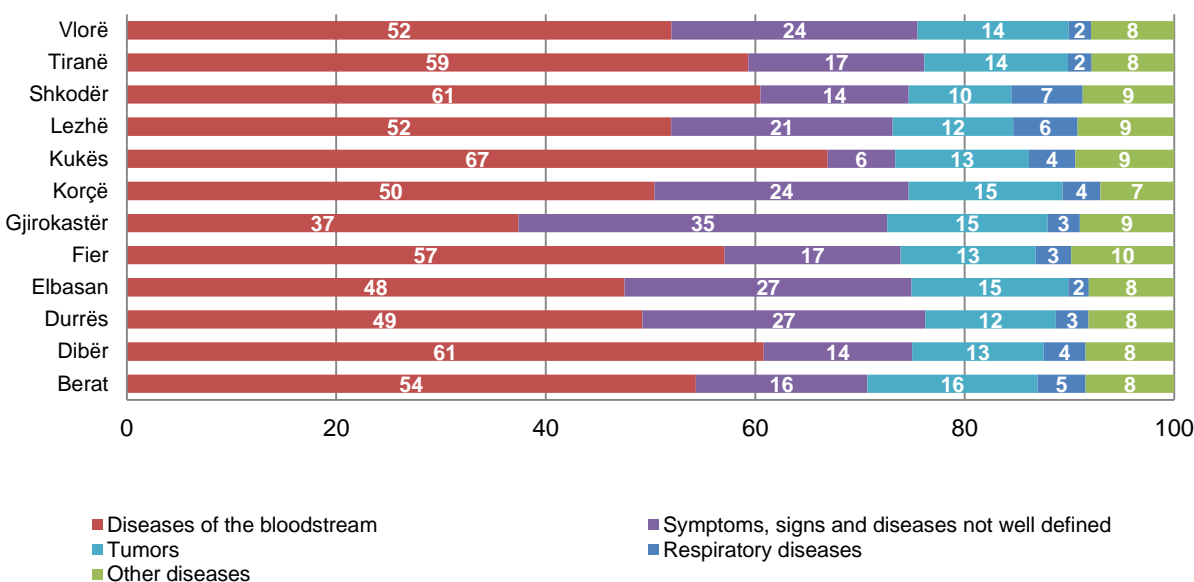
Fig.4 Deaths by main disease group and age group, 2022



Death by prefectures

Analyzed for each prefecture, the figure below shows the percentages of deaths according to the main group of diseases. In 2022, the mortality according to the main disease groups for each prefecture maintains almost the same structure, where the largest number of deaths is caused by the disease group “Circulatory system diseases” followed by “Symptoms, signs and diseases not well defined” and “Tumors”.

Fig. 5 Death by disease group and by prefectures, 2022 (in %)



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.