

Statistics on Causes of Death 2025

A total of 92,333 people registered as residents in Sweden died in 2025. Of these, 46,223 were women and 46,110 were men. Causes of death vary by age. Among people aged 40–84, neoplasms were the most common cause of death, while among those aged 85 and over, cardiovascular diseases were the most common. Mortality varies between Sweden's counties and, in 2025, was highest in Norrbotten County for both women and men, and lowest in Gotland County for women and Uppsala County for men. Mortality, adjusted for population size and age structure, has decreased over time for both women and men. In 2025, mortality rates were the lowest ever recorded.

Deaths in 2025

In 2025, 46,223 women and 46,110 men died, slightly more than in 2024 for both sexes. However, when expressed as mortality rates, the 2025 figures were the lowest ever recorded. Table 1 shows the ten most common causes of death, with heart diseases, malignant neoplasms and dementia dominating. Dementia is a somewhat more common cause of death among women, whereas chronic ischaemic heart disease and acute myocardial infarction are considerably more common among men.

Table 1. Ten most common underlying causes of death in 2025.

The mortality rates are age-standardised and expressed per 100,000 inhabitants.

Underlying cause of death	Mortality rate	Number	Median age
Women			
Alzheimer's disease (G30)	44.5	2773	87
Unspecified dementia (F03)	42.0	2748	90
Malignant neoplasm of bronchus and lung (C34)	33.7	1904	78
Heart failure (I50)	30.8	2038	90
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease [COPD]	30.3	1786	82
Chronic ischaemic heart disease (I25)	25.6	1644	89
Malignant neoplasm of breast (C50)	23.1	1320	78
Atrial fibrillation and flutter (I48)	21.1	1396	90
Malignant neoplasm of pancreas (C25)	19.5	1101	78
Acute myocardial infarction (I21)	18.6	1117	83

Underlying cause of death	Mortality rate	Number	Median age
Men			
Chronic ischaemic heart disease (I25)	63.8	2797	82
Malignant neoplasm of prostate (C61)	47.5	2114	83
Heart failure (I50)	39.9	1634	87
Acute myocardial infarction (I21)	38.7	1831	78
Alzheimer's disease (G30)	35.9	1577	85
Unspecified dementia (F03)	35.4	1459	87
Malignant neoplasm of bronchus and lung (C34)	32.9	1607	78
Other ill-defined and unspecified causes of mortality (R99)	27.5	1335	75
Atrial fibrillation and flutter (I48)	26.7	1086	87
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease [COPD]	25.6	1187	81

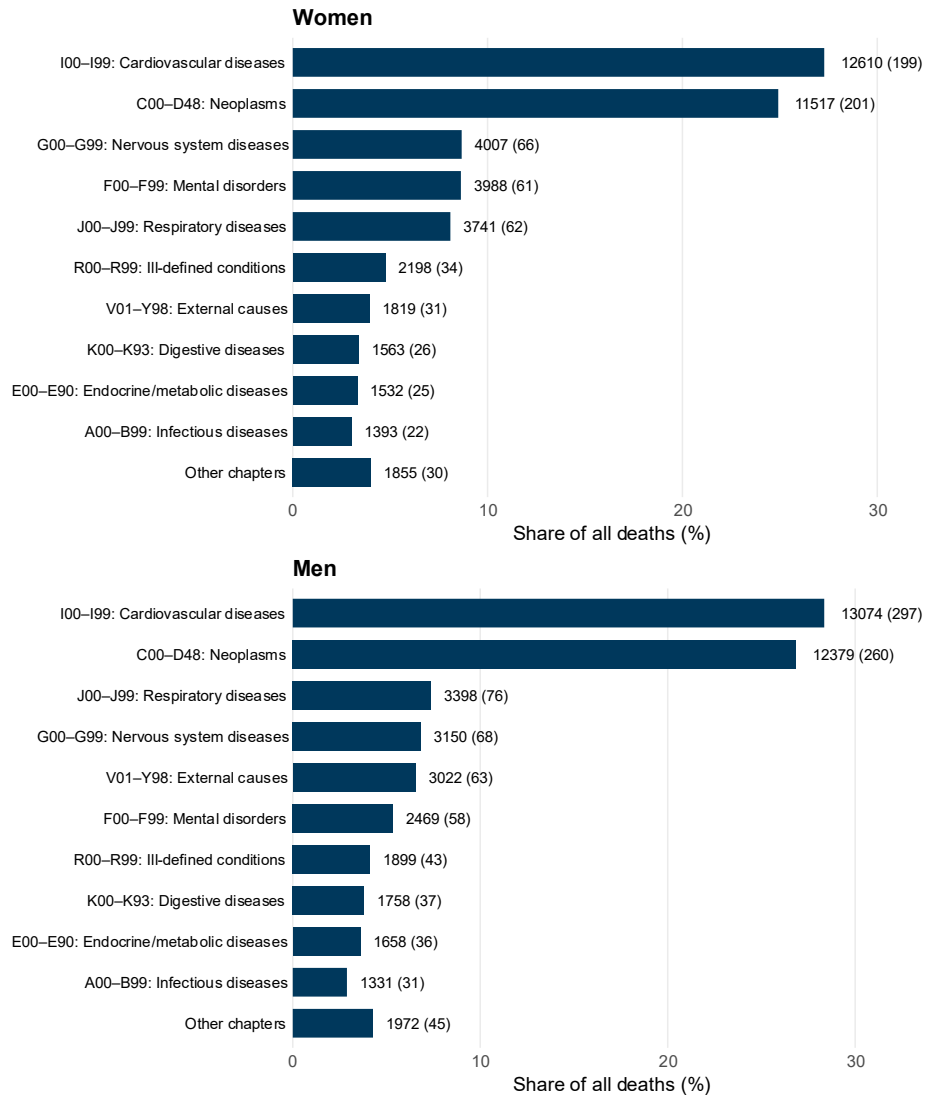
Source: The Cause of Death Register, National Board of Health and Welfare

To provide a broader overview of deaths and how they have changed over time, they are grouped here according to ICD-10 chapters.¹ Information on specific causes of death is available in Table 4a in the Excel appendix to this publication. Figure 1 shows that cardiovascular diseases and neoplasms accounted for more than half of all deaths in 2025, among both women and men.

¹ The tenth revision of the WHO's *International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems*.

Figure 1. Deaths in 2025, by ICD-10 chapter

Share of deaths in 2025 by ICD-10 chapter, for the ten chapters with the highest number of deaths. The figures show the number of deaths, with age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 inhabitants in parentheses. Chapter names have been abbreviated; for the full chapter names, see the Excel appendix.



Source: The Cause of Death Register, National Board of Health and Welfare

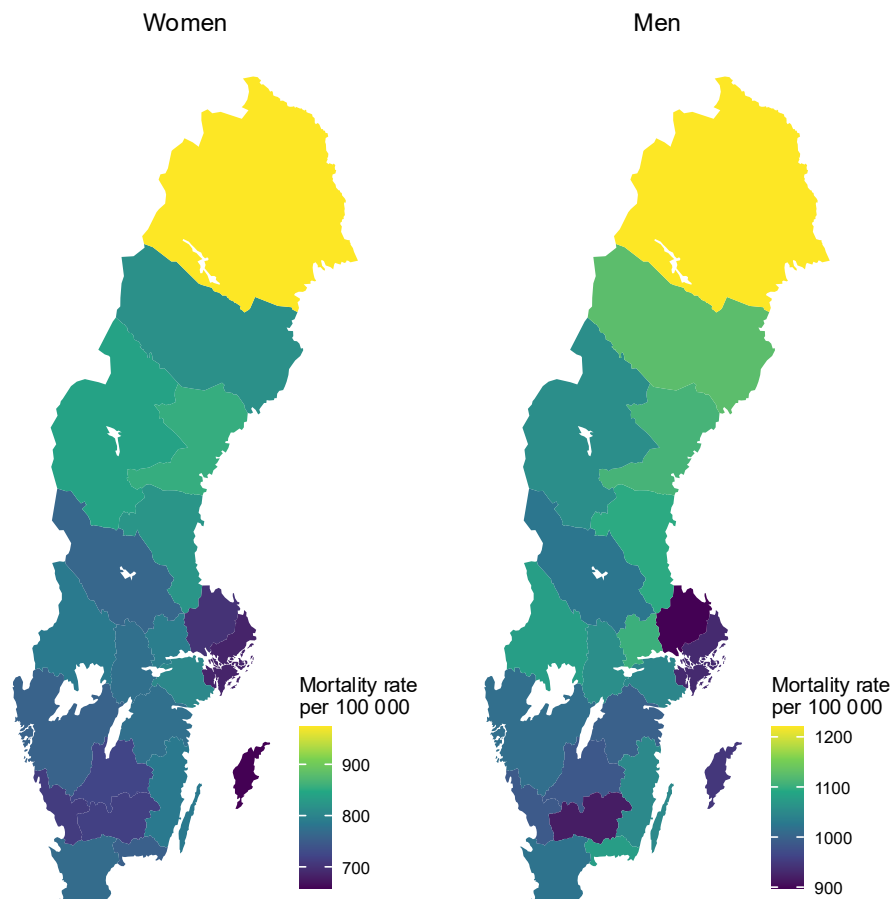
The figure also shows that, with the exception of deaths due to mental and behavioural disorders (F00–F99), men consistently have higher age-standardised mortality rates than women. Dementia as a cause of death is found in two different ICD-10 chapters. If these are combined into a separate category (ICD-10 codes F01, F03, G30 and G31), dementia is the third most common cause of death among both women and men.

Regional variation

Figure 2 shows how mortality rates vary across Sweden's counties. Among women, mortality rates were highest in Norrbotten County (973 per 100,000) and lowest in Gotland County (658 per 100,000), a relative difference of 48 percent. Among men, Norrbotten County had the highest mortality rate (1,220 per 100,000), while Uppsala County had the lowest (898 per 100,000), a relative difference of 36 percent. Tables 7A and 7B in the Excel appendix show that the regional differences in overall mortality are to a considerable extent attributable to differences in mortality from cardiovascular diseases.

Figure 2. Age-standardised mortality rates by county, 2025

Note the different colour scales in the figure..



Source: The Cause of Death Register, National Board of Health and Welfare

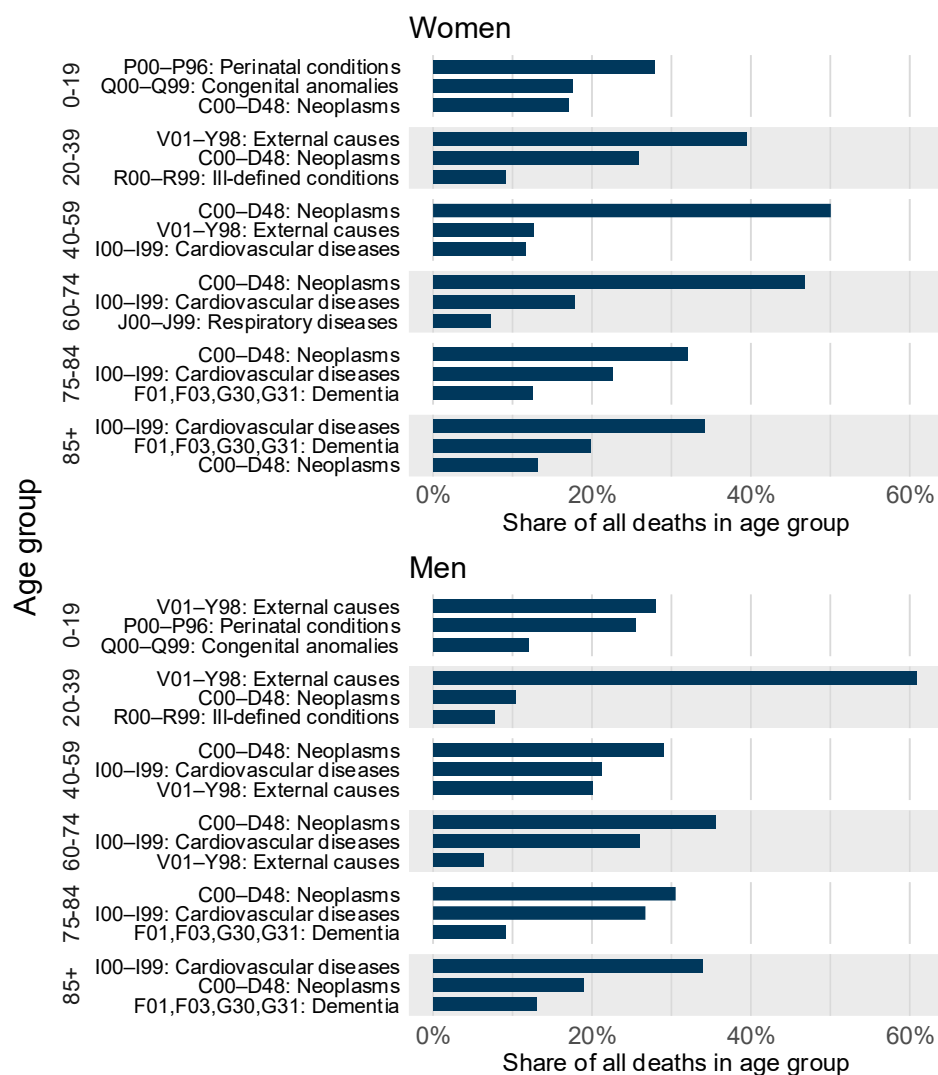
Variation by age

Mortality increases markedly with age, and causes of death also vary between age groups. Figure 3 shows how the most common causes of death differ by age. In the 20–39 age group, external causes, such as accidents and

suicide, account for a substantial proportion of deaths. Among people aged 40–84, deaths are dominated by neoplasms, while among those aged 85 years or older, cardiovascular diseases are the predominant causes of death.

Figure 3. The three most common causes of death by age group

Causes of death by age group. For each age group, the three most common causes of death are shown, together with the percentage of all deaths in the group accounted for by these causes. Chapter names have been abbreviated; for the full chapter names, see the Excel appendix.



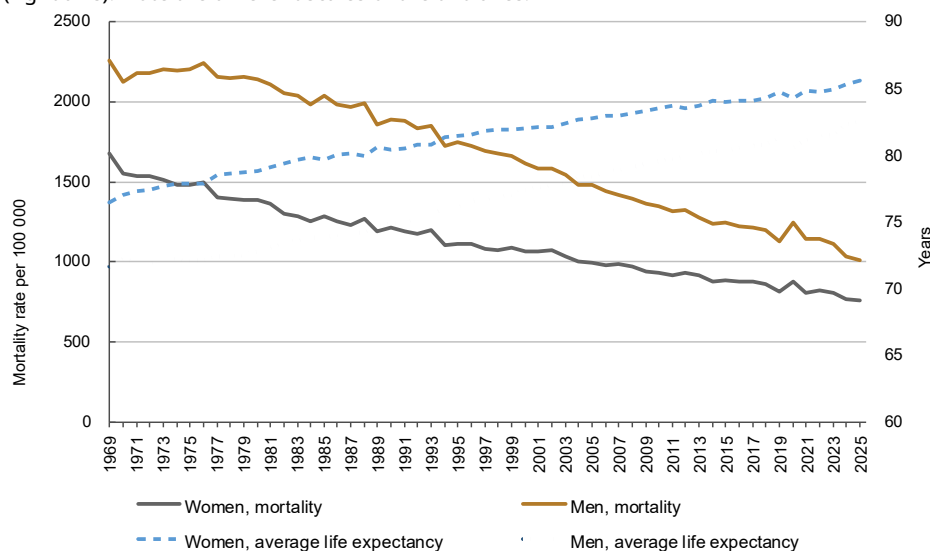
Source: The Cause of Death Register, National Board of Health and Welfare

Mortality rates have decreased over time

The number of deaths per 100,000 inhabitants and year has decreased over time for both women and men, which means that the life expectancy has increased. This can be linked to a number of factors at both the societal and system level, as well as the individual level [1]. In 1969, the age-standardised mortality rates were 1,678 per 100,000 for women and 2,259 per 100,000 for men (Figure 4). The corresponding mortality rates in 2025 were 757 and 1,013 for women and men, respectively, the lowest mortality rates ever recorded. This corresponds to a decrease of 55 percent for both women and men during the period 1969–2025.

Figure 4. Mortality rate and life expectancy, 1969–2025, women and men

Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 inhabitants (left axis) and life expectancy at birth (right axis). Note the different scales of the two axes.



Source: The Cause of Death Register, National Board of Health and Welfare; and Life table by sex and age. Year 1960-2025, Statistics Sweden (SCB).

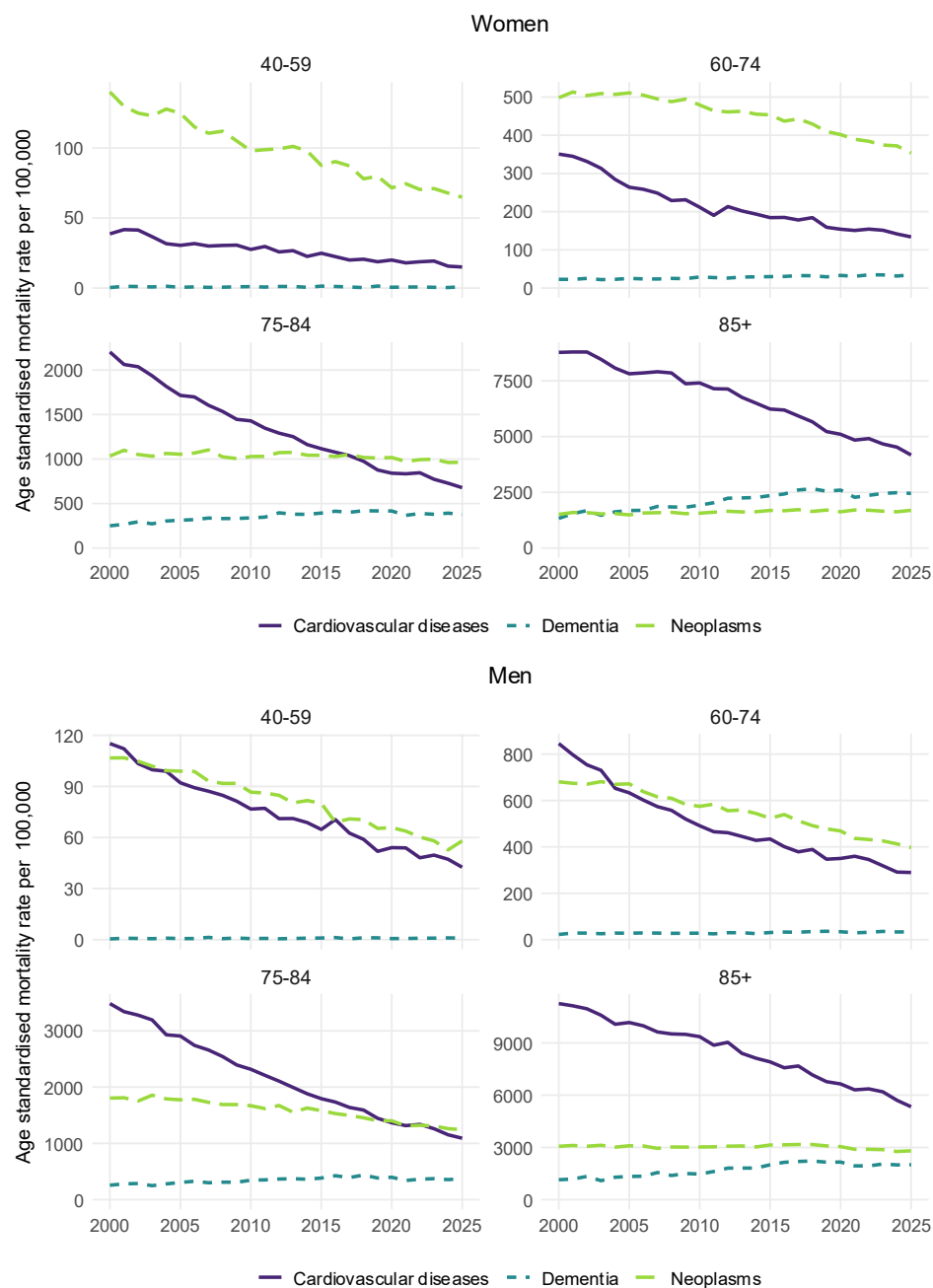
Causes of death have changed at different rates

The most common causes of death in 2025 were cardiovascular diseases, followed by neoplasms and dementia, for both women and men. In 2025, deaths in these three categories together accounted for 67 and 64 percent of all deaths among women and men, respectively. Figure 5 shows trends in these causes of death since 2000 for four age groups. Mortality from cardiovascular diseases decreased substantially in all age groups, among both men and women. Mortality from neoplasms also decreased in most age groups for both men and women, with the exception of women aged 85 years and older. Dementia as a cause of death is very uncommon in the

youngest age group, but in the other age groups mortality rates increased over the period for both sexes.

Figure 5. Mortality rates for cardiovascular diseases, neoplasms and dementia, by age group and sex, 2000–2025

Age-standardised mortality rates by age group, per 100,000 inhabitants. Note the different scales on the y-axes.



Source: The Cause of Death Register, National Board of Health and Welfare

About the statistics

Mortality is the total number of deaths in a given population during a specified time period and is measured here as a **mortality rate**, usually expressed as the number of deaths per year per 100,000 inhabitants. It is used to compare mortality between populations of different sizes. **Age-standardised mortality rates** take differences in the age distribution between populations into account by first calculating age-specific mortality rates and then calculating a weighted average of these rates. For this publication, five-year age groups have been used, and the weights are based on the national average population in 2025.

When a person dies, the cause of death is specified on a **cause-of-death certificate**, which is submitted to the National Board of Health and Welfare. The causes of death are coded by the National Board of Health and Welfare according to the tenth revision of the *International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10)*, and these codes form the basis of the statistics presented here. In some cases, no cause-of-death certificate is received, for example when a death occurs abroad, and these deaths are then coded as **R99**. Of the 1,335 deaths with this cause-of-death code among men in Table 1, almost half occurred abroad.

Underlying cause of death is the disease or injury that initiated the chain of events leading directly to death, or the circumstances of an accident or violent act that caused the fatal injury. This fact sheet reports exclusively on the underlying cause of death.

More information

You can find more tables, graphs and other information here (under Official Statistics, in Swedish): www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistik-och-data/statistik/alla-statistikamnen/dodsorsaker

If you would like to carry out your own searches in the statistical database: https://sdb.socialstyrelsen.se/if_dor/val.aspx

References

1. Folkhälsomyndigheten. (2025). *Folkhälsan i Sverige*. Downloaded from <https://www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se/contentassets/3a11f1932968414bae25a4da486340a4/folkhalsan-sverige-arsrapport-2025.pdf>

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