

Statistics on causes of death 2016

In 2016, approximately 91,000 people died in Sweden. Cardiovascular diseases and neoplasms are the most common causes of death. The number of people who were killed due to assault decreased in comparison to 2015. Among young men, these deaths are still at a relatively high level.

Cardiovascular disease and neoplasms are the most common causes of death

Cardiovascular diseases and neoplasms were the most common causes of death among both men and women in 2016. However, the share of all deaths that is due to cardiovascular diseases has decreased in recent years. In 2000, cardiovascular diseases accounted for more than 46 percent, while in 2016 it accounted for less than 35 percent of all deaths. Two groups that have increased significantly during the same period are mental and behavioural disorders as well as diseases of the nervous system, where different types of dementia and Alzheimer's disease are predominant.

Table 1. Causes of death by ICD chapter, all ages, 2016

Number of deaths per 100,000 inhabitants. Median age for respective cause of death in parenthesis

Cause of death	Both sexes	Women	Men
Diseases of the circulatory system	319 (86 years)	331 (88 years)	306 (82 years)
Neoplasms	237 (76 years)	226 (76 years)	248 (76 years)
Other	134 (83 years)	141 (86 years)	128 (79 years)
Mental and behavioural disorders	65 (88 years)	84 (89 years)	47 (86 years)
Diseases of the respiratory system	63 (83 years)	66 (84 years)	60 (82 years)
Diseases of the nervous system	50 (83 years)	57 (85 years)	44 (81 years)
Injuries and poisonings	49 (70 years)	37 (82 years)	61 (63 years)
All causes of death	918 (83 years)	941 (85 years)	895 (80 years)

Source: The Swedish cause of death register, the National Board of Health and Welfare

Injuries and poisoning more common among younger people

Among younger people, injuries and poisoning dominate as a cause of death. Two causes of death that are common in this age group are suicide and accidental poisoning including overdose. There are significantly more deaths among men compared with women in younger age groups. At the age of 15–39, deaths are generally more than twice as common among men (65 per 100,000 inhabitants) than among women (29 per 100,000 inhabitants).

Table 2. Causes of death by ICD chapter, 15–39 years, 2016

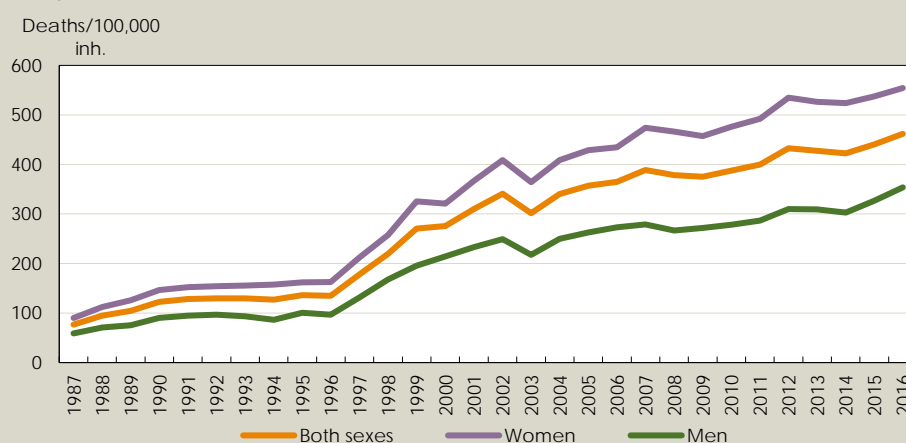
Number of deaths per 100,000 inhabitants. Median age for respective cause of death in parenthesis

Cause of death	Both sexes	Women	Men
Injuries and poisonings	30 (28 years)	13 (28 years)	45 (29 years)
Neoplasms	7 (33 years)	7 (34 years)	7 (32 years)
Other	4 (32 years)	3 (31 years)	4 (32 years)
Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified	2 (30 years)	2 (30 years)	3 (29 years)
Diseases of the circulatory system	2 (35 years)	1 (35 years)	3 (35 years)
Diseases of the nervous system	1 (30 years)	1 (29 years)	2 (31 years)
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	1 (30 years)	1 (28 years)	1 (32 years)
All causes of death	47 (30 years)	29 (30 years)	65 (30 years)

Source: The Swedish cause of death register, the National Board of Health and Welfare

Continued increase of dementia

The number of deaths due to dementia continues to increase. One reason for this is that significantly more people live longer today. It is also among people 85 years or older that this cause of death has increased the most. However, this does not explain the whole increase, and even when the age distribution is taken into account, a clear increase can be seen.

Figure 1. Deaths with dementia as the underlying cause of death, 65 years or older, 1987–2016

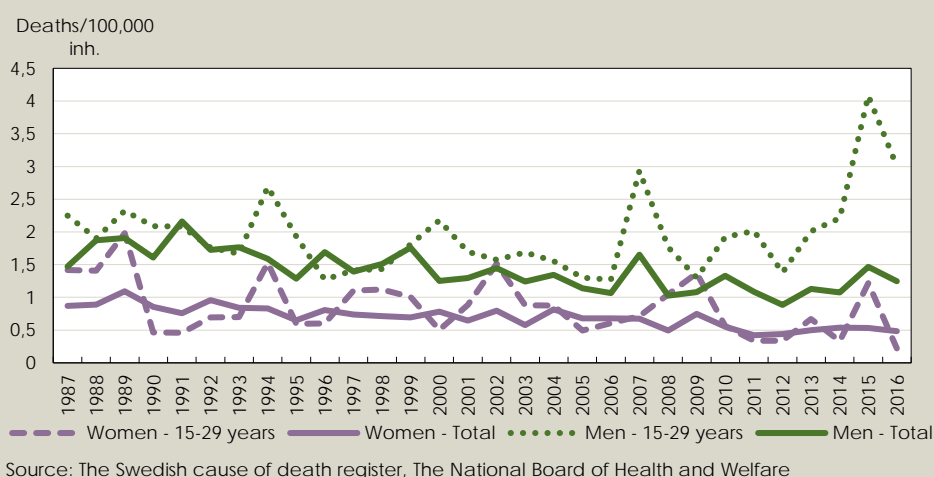
Source: The Swedish cause of death register, The National Board of Health and Welfare

Deaths caused by assault most common among young men

The number of deaths due to assault decreased in 2016 compared with the year 2015. Among young men, these deaths increased by a large percentage over the period 2012–2015. Although the number of deaths in this group in 2016 de-

creased compared to 2015, the number of deaths in this group is still high, historically. However, there are still relatively few deaths. In 2016, 29 men aged 15-29 died as a result of assault.

Figure 2. Deaths due to assault, all ages and 15–29 respectively, 1987-2016



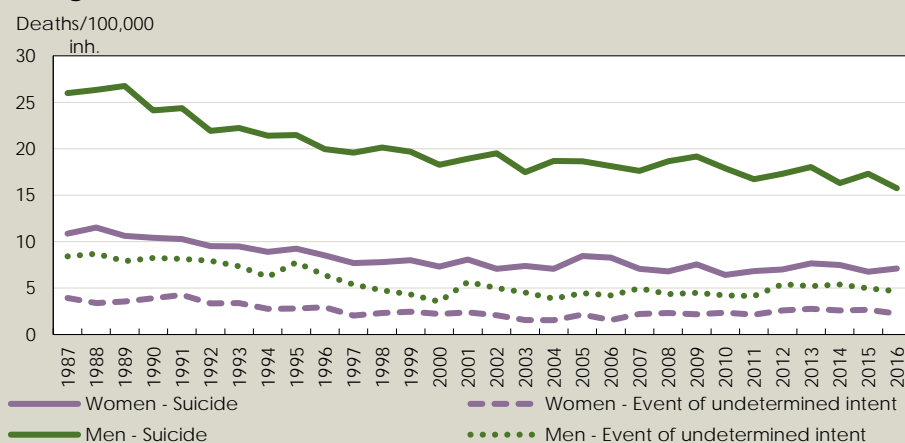
Deaths due to assault by sharp objects are most common, followed by firearms. However, the statistics show age and gender differences. For example, deaths related to firearms were more common among younger men, while assaults by sharp object were more common among women.

Decreased number of suicides among men

Suicide is more common among men than women. In 2016, more than 780 deaths among men and more than 350 among women were classified as suicides. In addition to this, about 230 men and more than 110 women died of events of undetermined intent, which are sometimes included in suicide statistics.

For men, this was a decrease compared to the year 2015 and relative to the population, the number of suicides among men in 2016 was the lowest during the period 1987–2016.

Figure 3. Suicides and deaths due to events of undetermined intent, all ages, 1987–2016



Source: The Swedish cause of death register, The National Board of Health and Welfare

Difficult to report the number of suicides

Every year, there are hundreds of deaths where the intent behind the event that led to the death could not be determined. Among these are deaths that with sufficient information could have been classified as suicide or accident. There may also be deaths due to assault in this group, but these are likely to be very few.

By 2016, more than 1,130 deaths were classified as suicide. In addition to these, more than 340 deaths occurred due to events of undetermined intent. As the proportion of suicide in this second group is unknown, it is difficult to say exactly how many suicides occur in Sweden each year.

More information

You can find more tables, graphs and information in the following Excel file (in Swedish, but with English list of terms):

<http://socialstyrelsen.sosdmz.se/publikationer2017/2017-9-11>

If you want to use our statistical database:

<http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistics/statisticaldatabase/causeofdeath>

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