

Statistics on Causes of Death 2019

In 2019, 88,822 registered people died in Sweden, of which 44,761 women and 44,061 men. Cardiovascular diseases caused the most deaths, followed by tumour diseases. These were the leading causes of death for both men and women. Fewer people died of cardiovascular disease compared to previous years, the largest decrease being observed among women.

Lowest number of deaths since 1977

In 2019, 88,822 people died in Sweden. This is the lowest number of deaths in the population during a single year since 1977. When compared with an average for the preceding three-year period, 2016–2018, the decrease in number of deaths in 2019 was 3.3 percent. This decrease is more pronounced for women than for men - 4.5 compared to 2.0 percent.

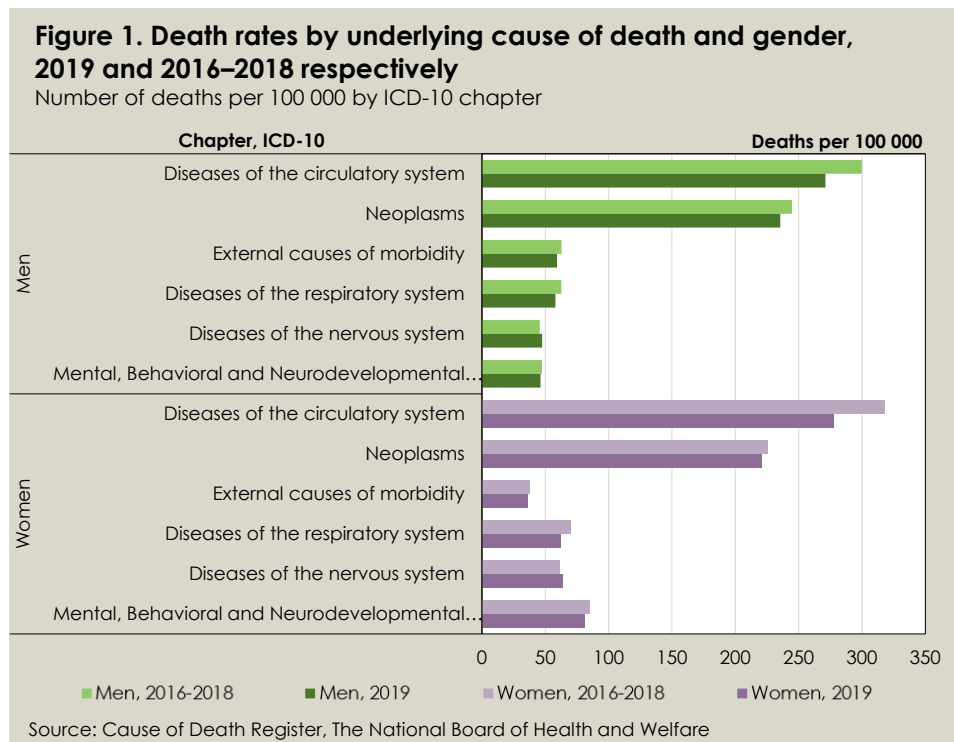
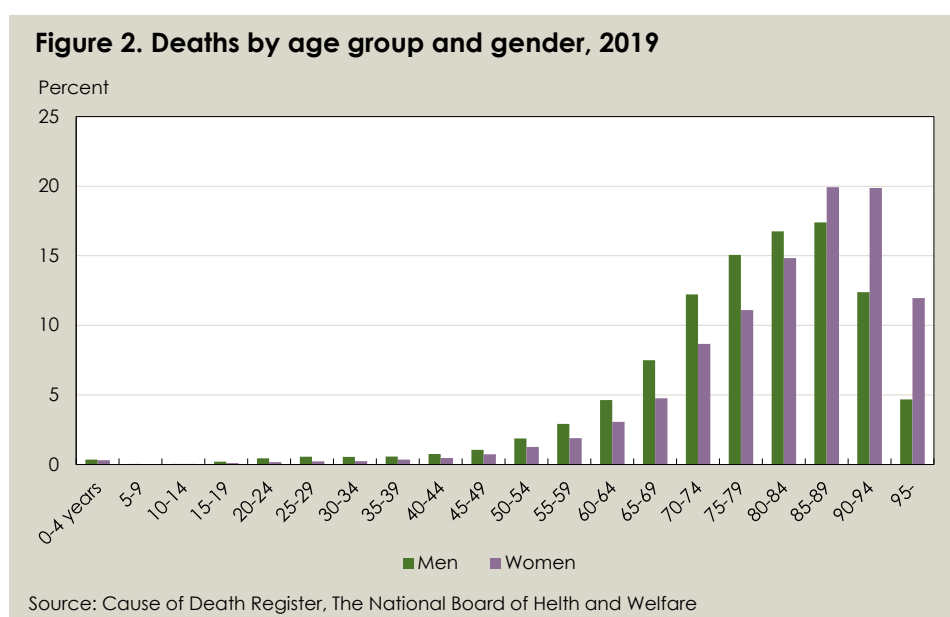


Figure 1 above illustrates how the decrease is distributed among the six leading causes of death. The strongest decrease was observed in *Diseases of the circulatory system*, which includes cardiovascular diseases. Mortality in these diseases has been steadily declining in recent decades. Compared to the period 2016–2018, the number of cardiovascular diseases per 100,000 inhabitants in 2019 decreased by 12.5 percent for women and 9.6 percent for men. *Diseases of the respiratory system* are also showing a relatively large decline – 11.7 percent for

women and 7.4 percent for men. The change is marginal for other groups of causes of death.

Women live longer than men

Women generally live longer than men. Of those who died, the average age was 82.0 years for women and 77.2 years for men in 2019. This was also visible in the age distribution shown in Figure 2 below. Up to the 80–84 years age group, a higher proportion of men die than women. For women, most deaths occurred at the age of 90. The corresponding age for men was 86 years.



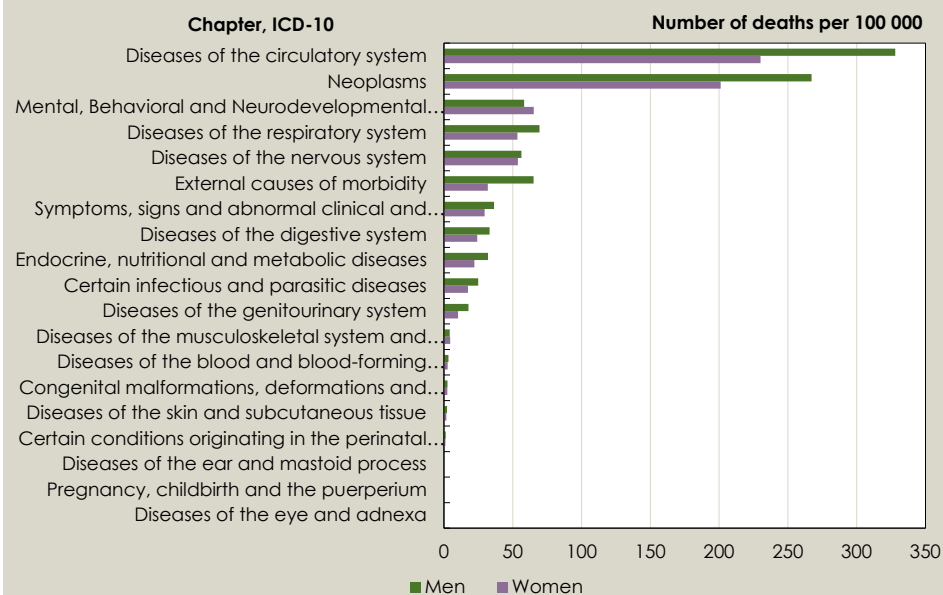
Even with age-standardised figures, which take into account the age distribution of men and women, the death rate is higher among men than among women. In 2019, the age-standardised death rates were just over 1,000 among men and 750 for women per 100,000 inhabitants. This means that men's age-adjusted death rates were 33.3 percent higher than for women.

Cardiovascular diseases most common

Cardiovascular disease death was the leading cause of death for both men and women. In 2019, this group accounted for the underlying cause of death in just over 31 percent of all deaths for both women and men. The second most common cause of death was tumours, which accounted for 25 and 28 percent of all deaths among women and men respectively.

Figure 3. Death rates by underlying cause of death and gender, 2019

Age-standardised death rates per 100 000 by ICD-10 Chapter



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

As can be seen in Figure 3, the age-standardised death rates are higher for men compared to women in almost all groups. Except for *Mental Illnesses and Behavioural Disorders*, where death rates are higher among women. Common diseases in this group are different types of dementia.

More information

You can find more tables, graphs and information here:

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