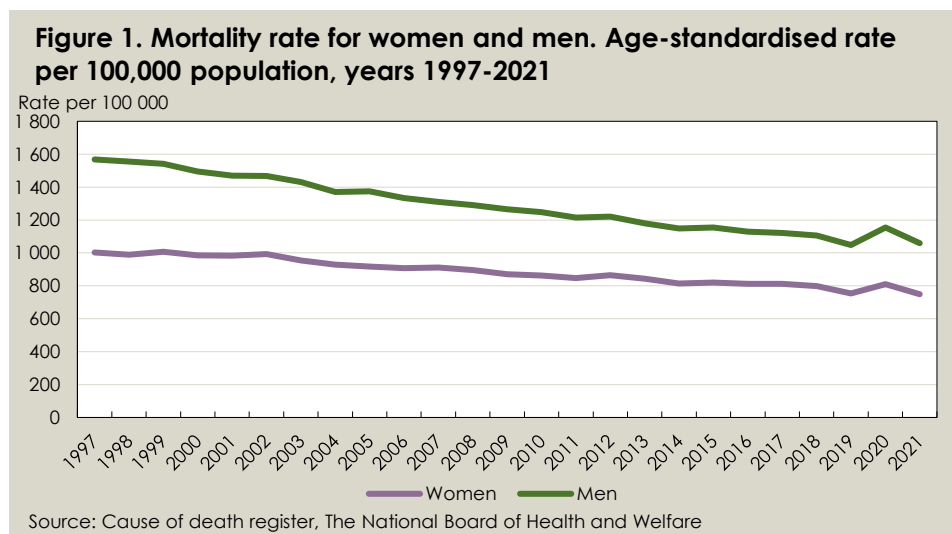


Statistics on Causes of Death 2021

In 2021, 92,085 people died in Sweden; this included 45,524 women and 46,561 men. The long-term trend in mortality has gone down for both women and men. Cardiovascular diseases were the leading cause of death, followed by neoplasms. Covid-19 was the fourth leading cause of death for men, and sixth leading cause of death for women.

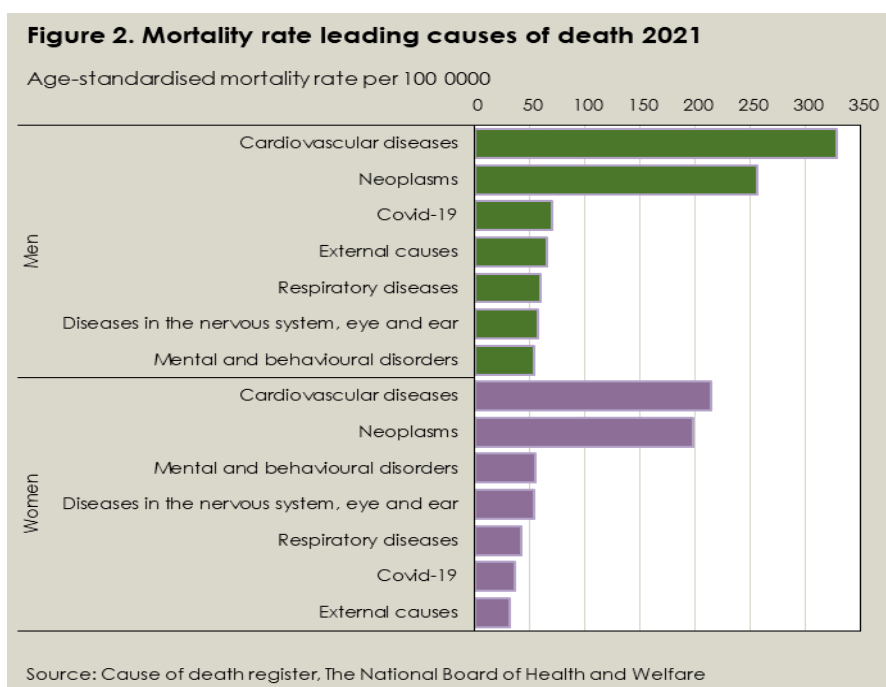
Lower mortality over time

Mortality has gone down for both women and men. Figure 1 shows the age-standardised mortality rate between 1997 and 2021. In 1997, the age-standardised mortality for men was 1,568 per 100,000 in the population, and 1,002 per 100,000 for women. In 2021, this was 1,060 and 749 for men and women, respectively. This translates to a long-term lowered mortality of 32 and 25 percent, respectively. The variation in mortality in recent years is due to the unusual low mortality in 2019 and the raised mortality, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, in 2020 (Figure 1).



Leading causes of death

Figure 3 shows the age-standardised mortality rate for the seven most leading causes of death grouped by ICD chapter. Cardiovascular diseases and neoplasms are the two largest groups of diseases causing death for both women and men. Covid-19 and death from external causes such as accidents are more common among men than women.



Change over time for common causes of death

Table 1 shows the age-standardised mortality for six common causes of death in 2001 and 2021 and change in percentage between this period. Death due to cardiovascular diseases decreased by more than 50 percent for both women and men. Even death due to diseases of the respiratory system decreased, as well as death due to neoplasms. However, death due to diseases of the nervous system, the eyes, and ears (chapters 6, 7, 8 in ICD10) showed an opposite pattern, with a twofold increase in mortality between 2001 and 2021 (Table 1). Some common diseases of the nervous system include Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease.

Table 1. Mortality rate leading causes of death, years 2001 and 2021 and percentage change between years

Age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000 in population and percentage change	Men			Women		
	2001	2021	%	2001	2021	%
Chapter according to ICD-10						
Cardiovascular diseases	684	328	-52	440	214	-51
Diseases of the respiratory system	107	59	-45	62	42	-32
Neoplasms	349	257	-27	239	198	-17
External causes	78	66	-16	36	32	-9
Mental and behavioural disorders	52	53	2	53	55	5
Diseases of the nervous system, and diseases of the eye and ear	28	57	101	25	53	116
Covid-19*	-	70	-	-	37	-

* First case of Covid-19 as cause of death registered in March 2020.

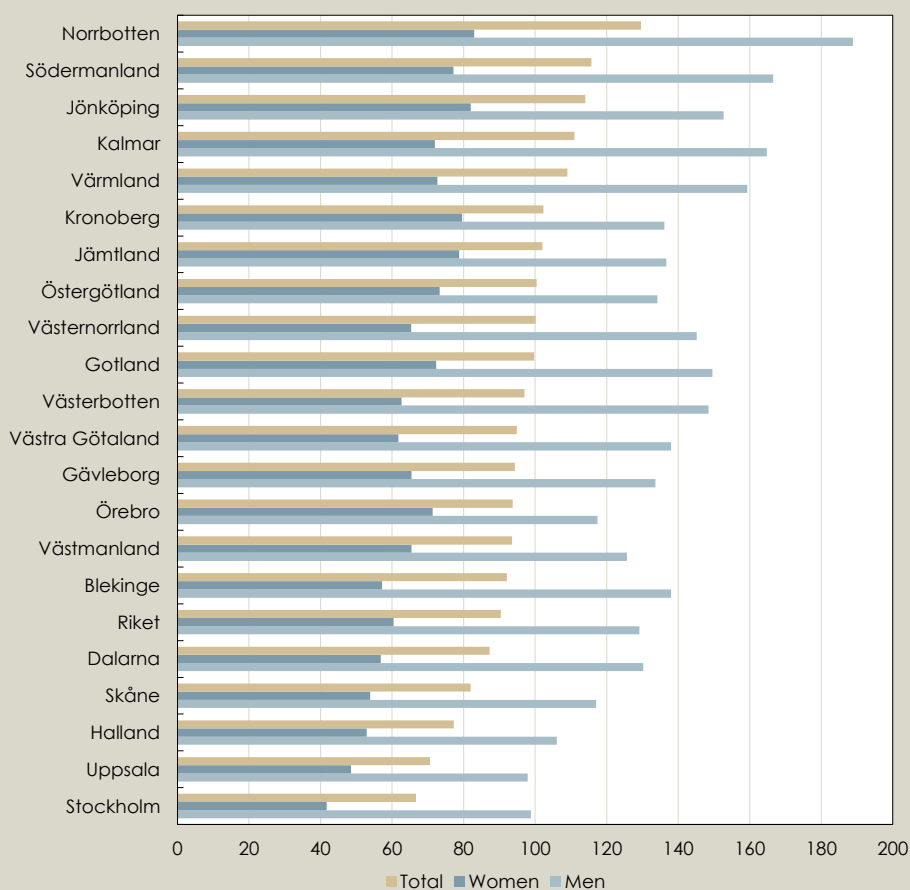
Source: Cause of death register, The National Board of Health and Welfare

Regional differences in cause of death

Ischemic heart diseases accounts for about one third of all deaths in cardiovascular diseases. Figure 3 shows the age-standardised mortality by region for ischemic heart diseases (ICD10: I20-I25). The lowest mortality in this group of diseases was observed for men in the Uppsala region (97.9 per 100,000); for women, the lowest mortality was observed in the Stockholm region (41.7 per 100,000). The Norrbotten region showed the highest mortality in ischemic heart diseases for both women and men. The total mortality rate was 129.6 per 100,000, which is about double the rate observed in the Stockholm region (66.7 per 100,000).

Figure 3. Mortality rate ischemic heart diseases 2021 by region

Age-standardised mortality rate ischemic heart diseases (ICD-10 I20- I25) per 100,000, sorted by total mortality rate.

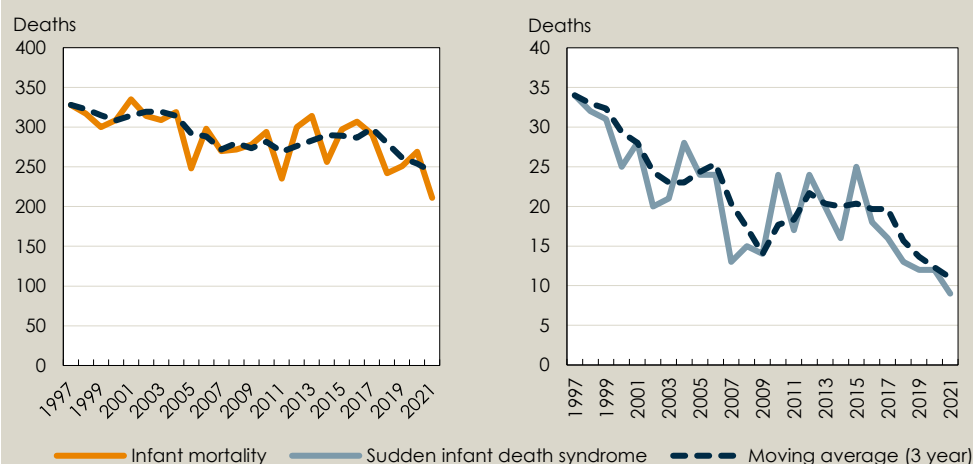


Source: Cause of death register, The National Board of Health and Welfare

Lowest infant mortality in 2021

In figure 4, the left diagram shows infant mortality for the period 1997–2021. Compared to previous years, the lowest number of infant deaths was observed for 2021 (211). Sudden infant death, which is a subgroup of infant death, is shown in figure 4, the right diagram. Sudden infant death has decreased from 1997 (34 deaths) to 2021 (nine deaths).

Figure 4. Infant mortality and sudden infant death syndrome



Note. different axis between diagrams

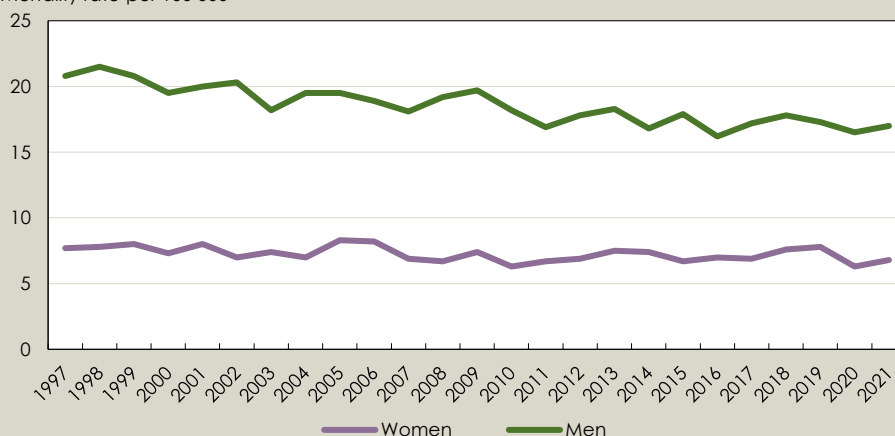
Source: Cause of death register, The National Board of Health and Welfare

Long-term trend in suicide down for men, but twice as common as in women

Figure 5 shows the age-standardised suicide mortality rate for women and men. Suicide is twice as common in men as it is in women. In 2021, the mortality rate for men was 17.0 per 100,000 and for women 6.8. The mortality rate has decreased somewhat from about 21 per 100,000 in 1997, which translates to slightly under one percent per year. The suicide mortality rate for women has been around seven per 100,000 for the whole period. For both women and men, the mortality rate has seen some fluctuations over time. There was a lower suicide mortality rate during 2020; however, some previous years had a similar or lower rate. For example, for women in 2010 (6.3 per 100,000) and for men in 2016 (16.2 per 100,000). Differences to this description of the overall trend in suicide mortality in the population exist for specific subgroups. More detailed statistics are available in the accompanying tables and statistical database.

Figure 5. Suicide mortality rate. Age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000

Mortality rate per 100 000



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

More information

You can find more tables, graphs and information here:

www.socialstyrelsen.se/en/statistics-and-data/statistics/

To use our statistical database, visit:

www.socialstyrelsen.se/en/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistical-database

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