

# Statistics on Causes of Death 2022

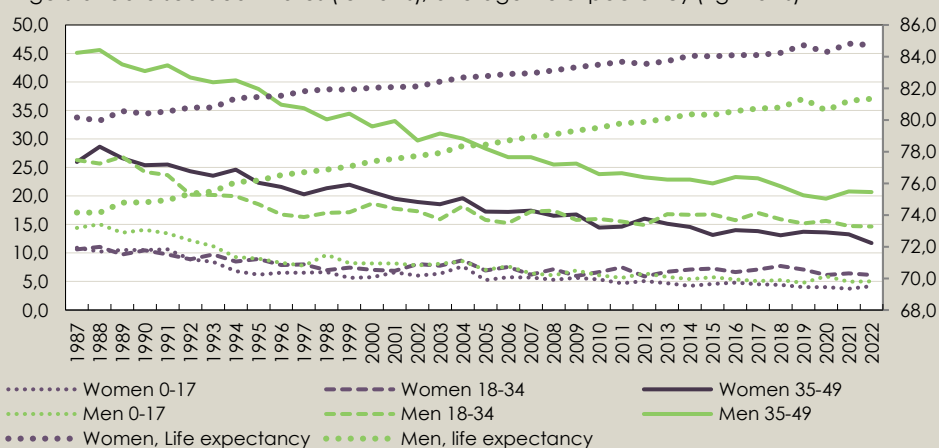
**94,823 persons registered in Sweden died during 2022. Of these, 47,265 were women and 47,558 were men. Overall mortality decreased during the period 1987 to 2022. The mortality rates decreased most among the young in terms of percentage, but most among the elderly in terms of numbers. Deaths caused by accidental falls, representing the majority of all accidents, have increased among older men.**

## Mortality has decreased in all age groups

Figures 1a and 1b visualise the total mortality from 1987 to 2022 for individuals younger than 50 years of age and 50 years or older, respectively, by sex and age group (note the span of the vertical axes in the figures). Mortality decreased during this period of time among both women and men and across all age groups, while average life expectancy increased for both sexes. The mortality rates decreased most among the young in terms of percentage, but most among older age groups in terms of numbers. The largest percentual reduction could be observed for 0–17-year-olds, where the standardised mortality rate per 100,000 inhabitants decreased from 14.4 to 5.0 for men and from 10.9 to 4.2 for women, representing decreases of 65.2 and 61.8 per cent, respectively (Figure 1a). In numbers, large decreases in mortality rates could be observed for 35–49-year-olds, from 45.1 to 20.7 for men (54.1 per cent) and from 26.0 to 11.7 for women (54.8 per cent).

**Figure 1a. Total mortality per 100 000 inhabitants, women and men, 49 years and younger. 1987-2022.**

Age-standardised death rates (left axis), average life expectancy (right axis)

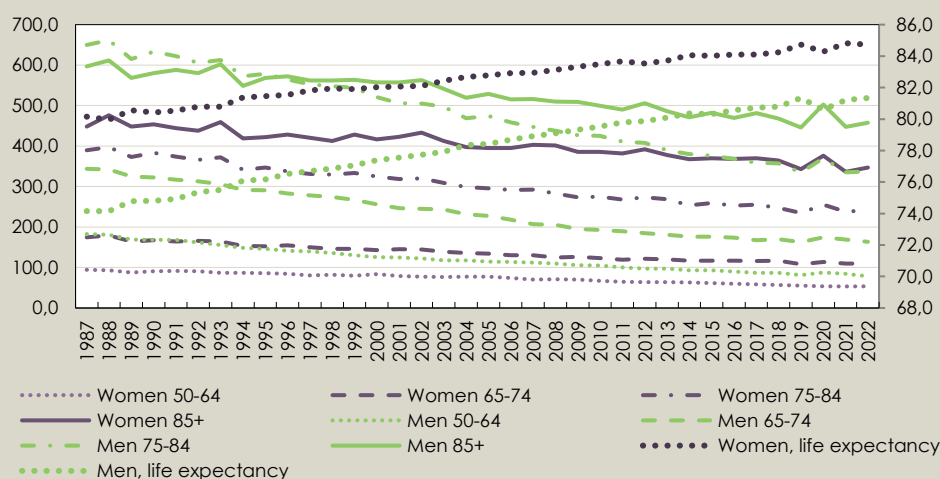


Source: cause of death register, the National Board of Health and Welfare; Statistics Sweden, Statistical database, life expectancy table for 0-year-olds, whole nation

The largest decrease in numbers could, during the period, be observed for persons aged 75–84. The mortality rates in this group decreased from 649.9 to 337.4 for men and from 389.9 to 241.9 for women, which represents 48.1 per cent and 38.0 per cent, respectively (Figure 1b).

**Figure 1b. Total mortality per 100,000 inhabitants, women and men, 50 years and older. 1987–2022.**

Age-standardised mortality rates (left axis), average life expectancy (right axis)



Source: Cause of Death Register, National Board of Health and Welfare; Statistics Sweden, Statistical database, life expectancy table for 0-year-olds, whole nation

Generally, men in Sweden have higher mortality and a shorter life expectancy in comparison with women. During the period 1987 to 2022, however, a larger decrease in mortality could be observed among men. A decrease particularly notable among men aged 75-84. Hence, the differences between the sexes pertaining to both mortality and life expectancy have decreased.

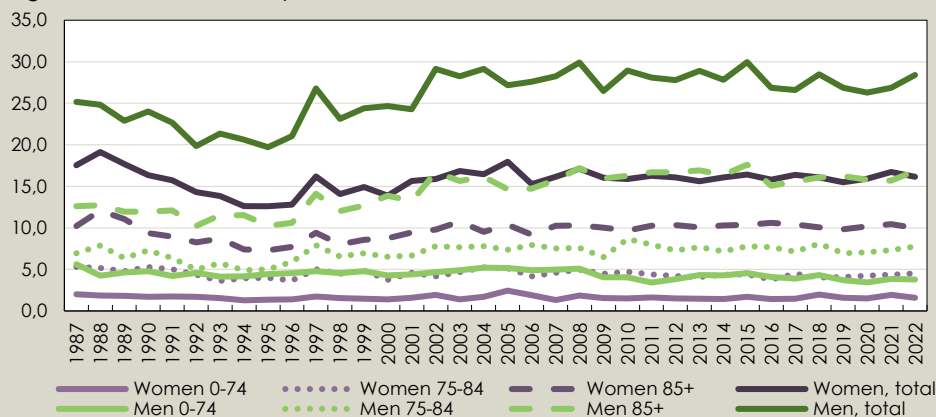
## Deaths caused by accidental falls increased among older men

In 2022, 1,170 men and 1,037 women died due to accidental falls (28.4 men and 16.1 women per 100,000 inhabitants). This represents 63.5 and 72.5 per cent of all deaths due to accidents for men and women, respectively.

The mortality rates for accidental falls are higher in older ages. In 2022, the mortality rates for persons aged 85 and older were 16.8 for men and 10.0 for women per 100,000 inhabitants, which can be compared with 3.8 and 1.6 for men and women younger than 75 years. Mortality rates have been relatively stable over time, with minor reductions among women and men younger than 75 years (Figure 2). An increase can, however, be observed especially among men aged 85 and older. Since 1987, the mortality rates for men in this age group have increased from 12.6 to 16.8, representing a percentual increase of 33.6 per cent. The largest percentual decrease can be seen for men younger than 75, for which the mortality rate decreased from 5.6 to 3.8 (a decrease of 32.5 per cent).

**Figure 2. Deaths in fall accidents per 100,000 inhabitants, women and men, 1987–2022.**

Age-standardised mortality rates



\*The statistics on accidental falls include cause code X59 – Exposure to unspecified factor. This benefits the comparability of the statistics over time, but also adds some uncertainty in the interpretation as the cause code does not provide information on the event itself. Exposure to unspecified factor causing fracture (X59.0) could probably with greater certainty be interpreted as a fall accident considering that fractures often are associated with falls, in comparison with Exposure to unspecified factor resulting in other and unspecified type of injury (X59.9). In 2022, 50% of all accidental falls were classified as X59, and the majority of these (76%) resulted in a fracture.

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

The most common fall accidents during 2022 included Exposure to unspecified factor (49,9 per cent), Fall, unspecified (38,4 per cent), followed by Fall on and from stairs and steps (3,8 per cent) and Other fall on same level (3,6 per cent). Generally, the localisation of the injury was most often on the hip and thigh (38,8 per cent) or on the head (35 per cent). More information on accidental falls can be found in the fact box.

### More on accidental falls

Accidental falls, being external causes of death, are classified as the underlying cause of death in the register, i.e., the disease or injury which initiated the chain of morbid events leading directly to death, or the circumstances of the accident or violence which produced the fatal injury. A chain of events can hence describe the course of events from the fall to death (see also Statistics on Multiple Causes of Death – Art. no: 2023-5-8523, National Board of Health and Welfare). An accidental fall can also contribute to the death without it being a part of the chain of events. In some of these cases, the fall will also be classified as the underlying cause of death.

Among persons with an accidental fall in the chain of events, 30,3 per cent had Injuries to the head (S00-S09) as the last event in the chain, 12,4 per cent had General symptoms and signs (R50-R69), 11,4 per cent had Other forms of disease (I30-I52), and 8,5 per cent had Other diseases of the respiratory system (J95-99). The most common chains of events were Fall, unspecified → intracranial injury (8,8 per cent), and Exposure to unspecified factor → intracranial injury (5,3 per cent).

**About the statistics**

**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. In this fact sheet, underlying cause of death is always presented.

**Mortality rate** is a measure used to compare mortality between groups that are different in numbers, usually expressed as number of deaths per 100,000 persons in the population.

**Age-standardised mortality rate** accounts for age differences between groups.

**More information**

You can find more tables, graphs and information here:

[www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistik-och-data/statistik/statistikammen/dodsorsaker](http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistik-och-data/statistik/statistikammen/dodsorsaker) (in Swedish).

If you would like to use our statistical database (in English), please visit:

[https://sdb.socialstyrelsen.se/if\\_dor/val\\_eng.aspx](https://sdb.socialstyrelsen.se/if_dor/val_eng.aspx)

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