Research Team

The HCD research team includes the core team, primarily responsible for the database itself, and a team of country specialists.

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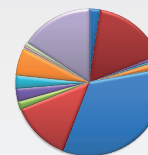
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HCD

The Human Cause-of-Death Database

Free access to coherent time series of cause-specific mortality

A joint project of

ined

INSTITUT NATIONAL
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MAX-PLANCK-INSTITUT
FÜR DEMOGRAFISCHE
FORSCHUNG

MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE
FOR DEMOGRAPHIC
RESEARCH

Background

The Human Cause-of-Death Database (HCD) is a joint project of the French Institute for Demographic Studies (INED) in Paris, France and the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR) in Rostock, Germany, based at the MPIDR.

The main goal of the HCD is to provide access to detailed high-quality data on cause-specific mortality to a broad audience of users. In contrast to other existing databases on causes of death, the HCD provides time series with constant classification of causes, based on ICD-10. For comparability purposes, we provide mortality data classified according to a short list and an intermediate list of causes of death, identical for all countries. In addition, a detailed list is provided, but it varies according to available data in each country.

The following features make the HCD particularly attractive to its users:

- Continuous data series with constant cause-of-death classification;
- Availability of basic age-standardized indicators;
- Detailed documentation;
- Free and easy access to all data;
- A uniform and easy to use format of data files.

We hope that HCD will facilitate comparative analysis of mortality by cause across countries and regions.

The HCD website

Available at www.causesofdeath.org

Types of data

Detailed data by cause of death

HCD includes sex and age-specific death counts and death rates, crude death rates and standardized death rates by cause of death, after redistribution of ill-defined causes of death (according to country-specific methods described in the Background and Documentation for each country). Causes of death are classified according to three lists: short, intermediate, and full.

Population exposures and birth counts

The usual source for these data is the Human Mortality Database (www.mortality.org). Please note that in some cases we correct infant mortality and, respectively, birth counts.

Countries

Country	Cause-of-Death Series
Belarus	1965-2010
Czech Republic*	1994-2013
England and Wales*	2001-2013
Estonia	1955-2012
France*	2000-2011
Germany*	1998-2013
Japan*	1995-2013
Latvia	1956-2012
Lithuania	1956-2012
Moldova	1965-2012
Poland	1970-2013
Romania	1980-2012
Russia	1965-2014
Spain	1980-2012
Ukraine	1965-2013
USA*	1999-2013

Currently, we have several countries with short data series started when ICD-10 was introduced in the country and restricted only to short and intermediate lists of causes. We are working on data reconstruction for these countries, and in near future these data will be replaced by longer and reconstructed time series with constant classification of causes.

Example: HCD country data page