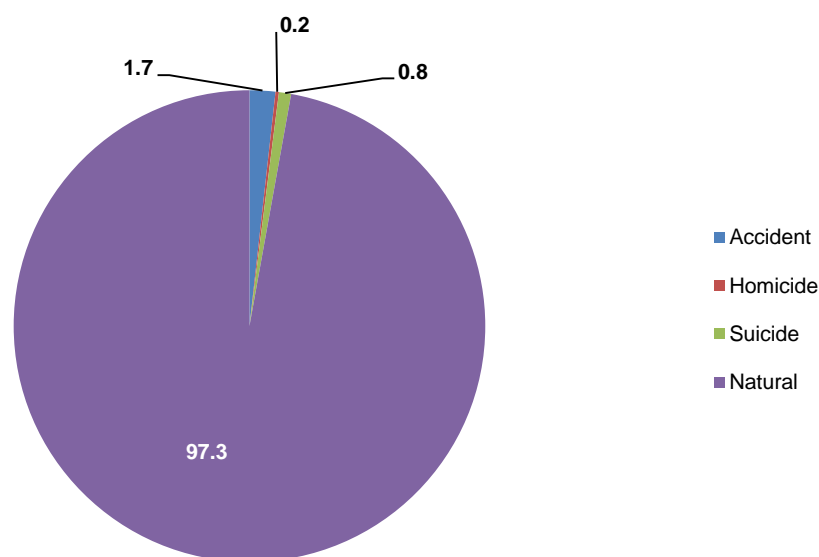


Causes of deaths, 2020

Tirana, 20 May 2021: The number of deaths registered in Albania In 2020, is 27,605 deaths, marking 25.8 % deaths more, compared to the previous year. The number of deaths by sex is 15,504 for men and 12,101 deaths reported for women.

The crude mortality rate for 2020 is 972.7 deaths per 100 thousand population versus to 768,6 in 2019. Referring to the causes of death, the largest proportion, 97.3 % is due to “natural causes”.

Fig. 1 Deaths by Main Causes, 2020 (%)



In 2020, deaths from the "Circulatory system diseases" account for 52.2 % of the total deaths. This group of diseases continues to be the main cause of death, with a mortality rate of 508,0 per 100 thousand population, with a 23.2 % decrease compared to the previous year.

Within the “Circulatory system diseases”, the mortality from “chronic heart disease” accounts for the largest proportion (33.1 %), followed by “cerebrovascular diseases” with 26.4 % and “ischemic heart disease” with 24.0 %.

Group deaths from "Symptoms, signs and ill-defined conditions" is the second group with the highest number of deaths (17.0 %). Compared with the last year 24.6 % more life losses were registered. In this group, 90.8 % of cases include deaths over the age 70 years old and the specific cause of death "death from old age" accounts.

Deaths from "Neoplasms" account for 13.0 % of total deaths, ranking as the third major group referring to the number of related deaths. Compared to year 2019, were recorded 0.2% more losses life from this group of diseases. In the "Neoplasms" group, the highest proportion is occupied by "neoplasms of the digestive system" with 35.1 %, and the "neoplasms of the respiratory system" with 24.5 %.

The number of deaths caused by the group "Respiratory Diseases" is almost 4.5 times higher compared to 2019, due to COVID-19, About 8.9 % of total deaths are due to this group and the mortality rate for 100 thousand inhabitants is 86.5 deaths.

Tab.1 Main Causes of Deaths by Disease Groups, 2020

Disease group	2020	
	number	%
Diseases of the bloodstream	14,422	52.2
Symptoms, signs and diseases not well defined	4,699	17.0
Tumors	3,588	13.0
Respiratory diseases	2,454	8.9
Traumatic damage and poisoning	721	2.6
Endocrine Disease of Nutrition	370	1.3
Diseases of the central nervous system and the organs of the senses	319	1.2
Diseases of the urogenital organs	317	1.1
Diseases of the digestive tract	271	1.0
Mental illness	145	0.5
Complications of burden, birth and postnatal period	106	0.4
Diseases that occur in the period around birth	84	0.3
Infectious and parasitic diseases	33	0.1
Diseases of food and blood forming organs	29	0.1
Congenital anomalies	24	0.1
Diseases of the bone and joint system	17	0.1
Diseases of skin and skin tissue disorders in the skin	4	0.0
Total	27,605	100.0

For more information, visit INSTAT webpage: <http://www.instat.gov.al/>

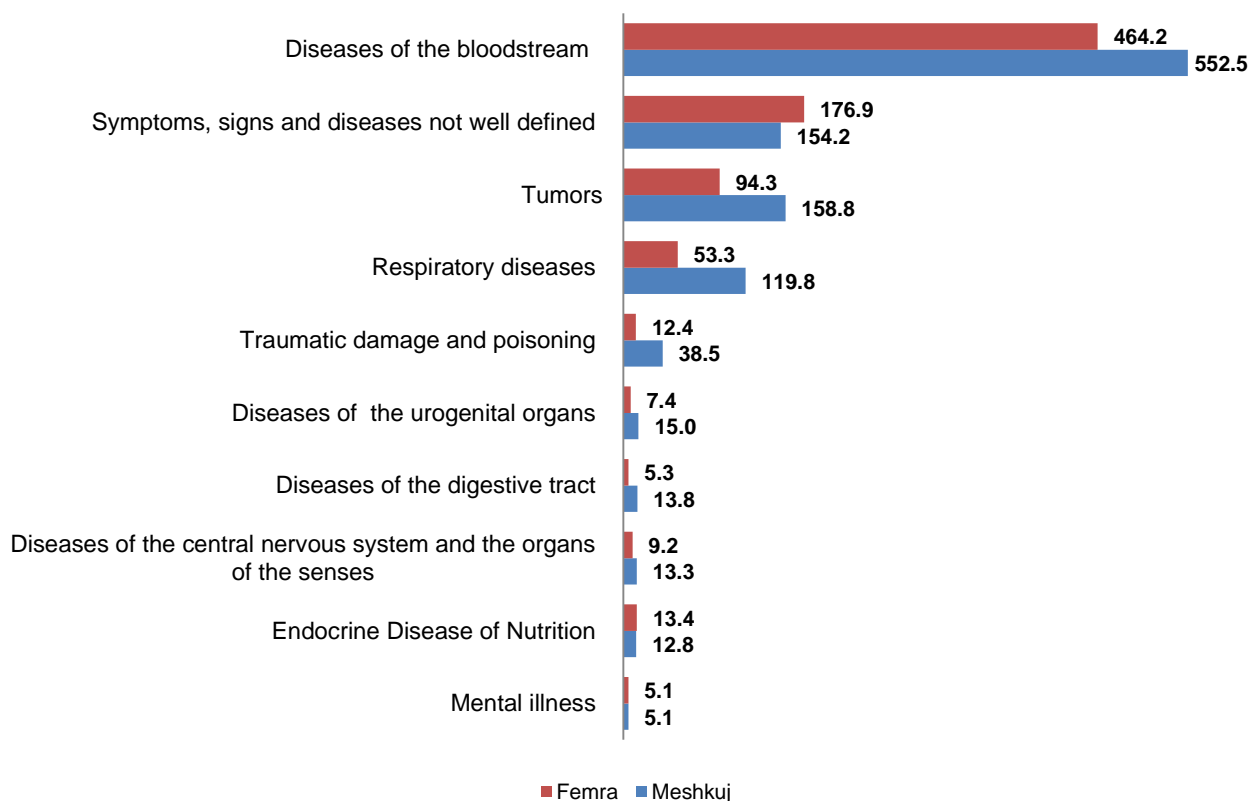
Deaths by sex

Group of disease "Circulatory system diseases" are the main cause of deaths in both men and women with a respective mortality rate of 464.2 among women and 552.5 among men per 100 thousand population. From 14,422 deaths by this group of disease, 45.8 % are women and 54.2 % men.

"Tumor" group diseases are the leading cause of death in men with a mortality rate of 158.8 per 100 thousand inhabitants, while for women 94.3 per 100 thousand. Women have the highest mortality rate in the group of "Symptoms, signs and diseases not well defined", 176.9 per 100 thousand inhabitants.

For "Respiratory diseases", the mortality rate per 100 thousand inhabitants is higher in men compared to women, 119.8 versus 53.3 deaths.

Fig. 2 Crude mortality rate by disease group and gender (per 100 thousand population), 2020

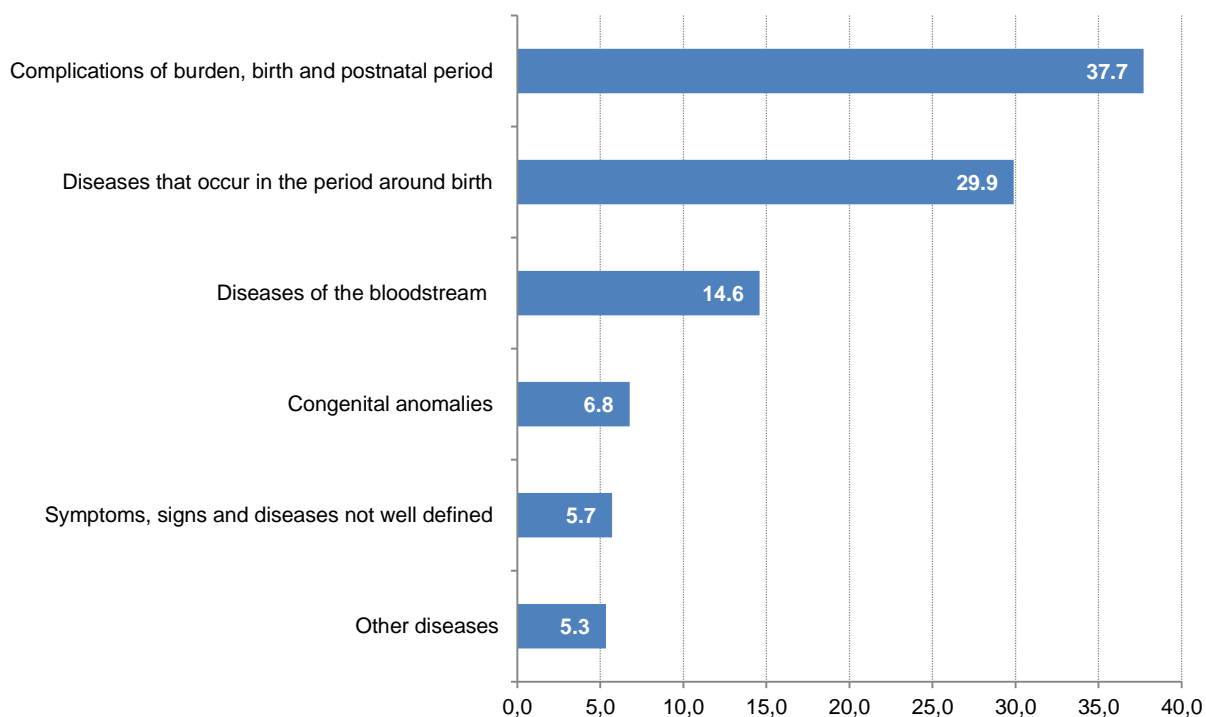


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Infant mortality

In 2020, the number of infant mortality is 281, marking a decrease of 4.1%, compared to 2019. The infant mortality rate is 10.0 per 1 thousand live births versus 10.3 per 1 thousand deaths for live births in 2019. The main causes of infant mortality (under 1 year old) are "Complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium" with 37.7 % and "Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period" accounting for 29.9 % of total deaths in this age group.

Fig.3 Infant mortality by main causes (%), 2020



Death by age group

For the 0-19 age group, the highest number of deaths is related to specific disease groups as "Complications in pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period" (27.4%) and "Diseases that appear in the period around childbirth" (21.7%). "Traumatic injuries" (28.9%) and "Diseases of the circulatory system" (26.4%) are the group with the highest weight in deaths caused to the age group 20-44 years.

For the age groups 45-64, 65-79 and 80+ years old, the main cause remains diseases of the circulatory system.

For more information, visit INSTAT webpage: <http://www.instat.gov.al/>

Also for the age group 80 years and older, about a third of deaths are related to old age.

Tab.2 Deaths by diseases group and agegroup, (in %), 2020

Disease group	Agegroup				
	0-19	20-44	45-64	65-79	80+
Infectious and parasitic diseases	0.30	0.70	0.10	0.20	0.10
Tumors	3.60	19.10	26.60	16.60	5.70
Endocrine Disease of Nutrition	0.80	0.40	1.10	1.90	1.10
Diseases of lood and blood forming organs	0.00	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10
Mental illness	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.50	0.60
Diseases of the central nervous system and the organs of the senses	2.30	4.00	1.30	1.40	0.70
Diseases of the bloodstream	19.10	26.40	42.00	55.90	55.30
Respiratory diseases	3.40	6.30	12.40	12.10	5.50
Diseases of the digestive tract	0.50	2.00	2.50	1.00	0.40
Diseases of the urogenital organs	0.30	1.50	1.10	1.50	0.90
Complications of burden, birth and postnatal period	27.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diseases of skin and skin tissue disorders in the skin	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00
Diseases of the bone and joint system	0.00	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.00
Congenital anomalies	5.20	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diseases that occur in the period around birth	21.70	0.00	0,0	0,0	0.00
Symptoms, signs and diseases not well defined	5.70	9.90	6.10	7.20	29.00
Traumatic damage and poisoning	9.60	28.90	6.20	1.50	0.60

Death by prefectures

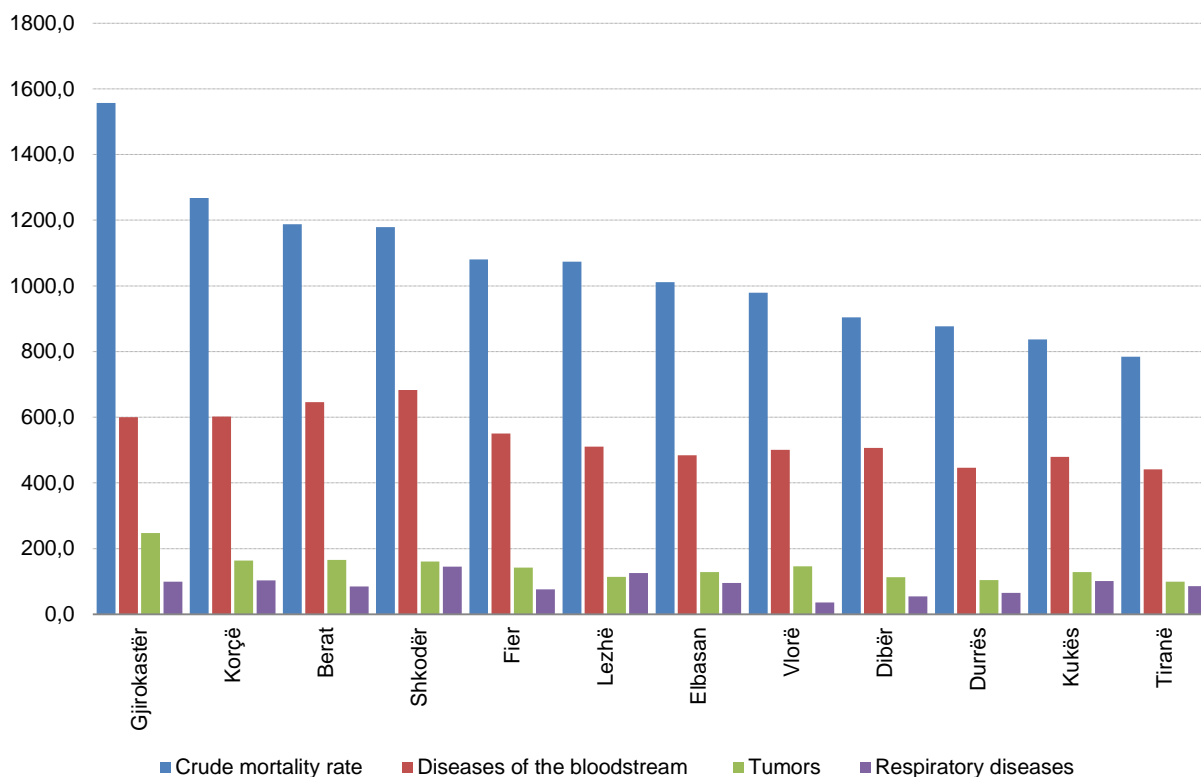
By prefectures, the highest gross death rate is observed in the Gjirokastra region with 1556.9 per 100 thousand inhabitants, while the lowest in the Tirana region with 784.1 deaths.

Referring to the "Tumor" disease group, the same structure is seen, respectively, in the region of Gjirokastra with 247.0 deaths, while in the region of Tirana with 99.0 deaths per 100 thousand inhabitants of the respective regions.

Shkodra region marks the highest value of the gross mortality rate for the group "Diseases of the circulatory system" with 682.8, while Tirana region marks the lowest value with 441.2 per 100 thousand inhabitants.

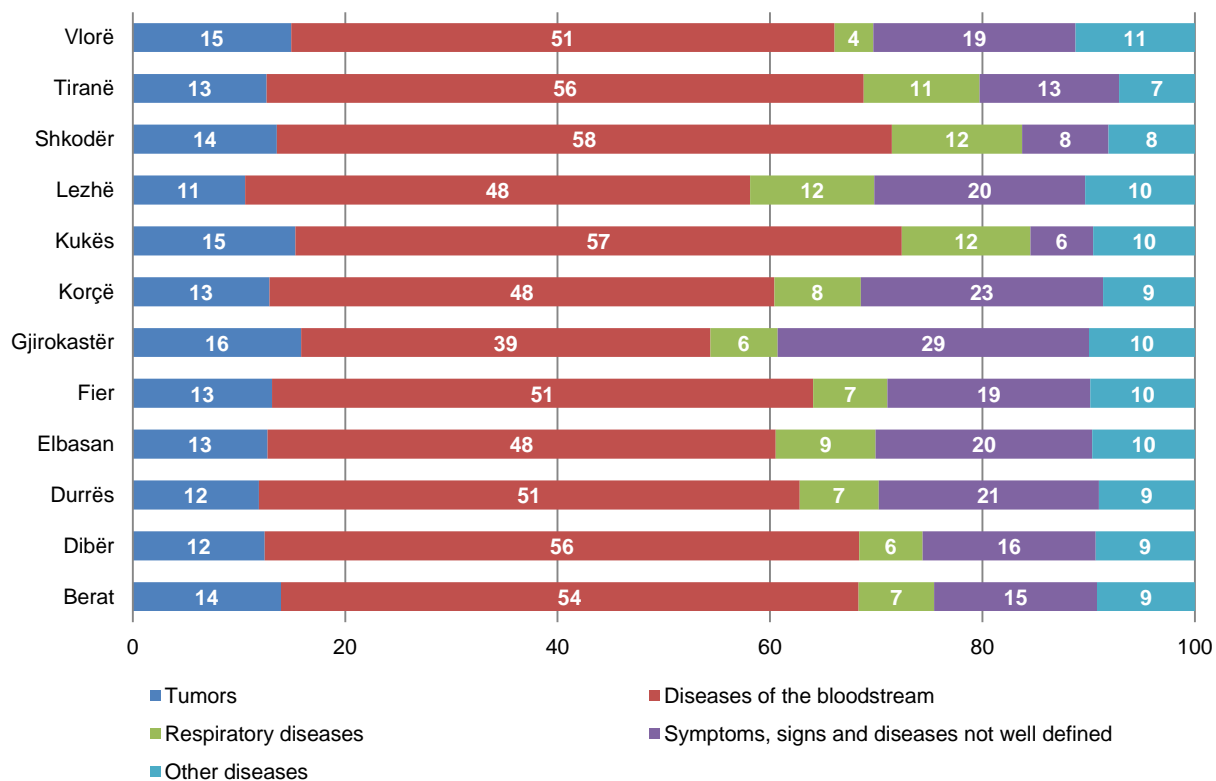
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Fig.4 Crude mortality rate by major disease groups and prefecture (per 100 thousand population), 2020



In 2020, the mortality according to the main disease groups for each region maintains almost the same structure, where the largest number of deaths is caused by the disease group 'Diseases of the circulatory system' followed by 'Tumors'.

Fig.5 Death by disease group and by prefectures, in (%), 2020



Methodology

Causes of death data

Data on deaths are provided by the General Directorate of Civil Status according to basic demographic characteristics and specific causes of death. The data on causes of deaths are based on the information of the "death files" completed by the doctor. Then, the data are cleaned and processed by analysing some additional variables as: the word description of the disease, age and sex, and finally codified according to the international classification ICD-9.

International Classification "ICD-9" is the international classification of causes of death, which codifies the diseases by grouping them into 17 major disease groups. The coding of the cause of death is done by the physician and represents the most complete official statistical source of the diseases that are the cause of death.

Definitions

Cause of death is the disease or symptom that has caused or contributed to death, as well as the circumstances of the accident that caused these trauma (Described in the death certificate). The source of the data is the General Directorate of Civil Status.

Death implies the enduring disappearance of all signs of life at any time after a live birth (termination of vital functions without the possibility of resuscitation). This definition does not include fetal death.

Cause-specific death rate: Shows the number of deaths attributable to a specific cause per 100,000 population in a given year.

Mortality rate (also called crude mortality rate): Indicates the number of deaths per 100 thousand population in a given year.

Infant mortality: Indicates the number of deaths for children aged under 1 year as a ratio to the number of live births of that year, expressed per 1000 live births.

Data source: General Directorate of Civil Status.