

Standard-documentation Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

Causes of Death Statistics

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Executive Summary

Vital statistics - meaning statistics on civil status (including causes of death statistics, which are part of the statistics on deaths) in the sense of a systematic recording of births, deaths and marriages by the religious communities - date back to the eighteenth century. Since 1945, vital statistics are based upon administrative records of approximately 1 000 civil registries which are based on reports from hospitals, medical examiners and freelance midwives including medical and demographic characteristics and information on cause of death. Vital statistics cover births, marriages, registrations of registered partnerships and deaths (including cause of death). They are a key source of data in population statistics.

Since November 2014 civil register data have been continuously transmitted from the Central Civil Status Register. Since 2015 all civil status cases involving Austrian citizens have to be recorded, even if they occurred abroad (based on the 2013 Civil Registry Act). However, only cases concerning persons with a main residence in Austria are statistically relevant. In all other cases, the persons do not belong to the resident population of Austria and are therefore not included in Austrian vital statistics.

Vital events of persons with a main residence in Austria (mostly with non-Austrian citizenship) taking place abroad are only taken into account if Austrian civil registries become aware of them.

For persons with Austrian residency deceasing abroad, irrespective of their nationality, the inclusion of other data sources has allowed for a more complete statistical coverage from 2009 onwards. Vital statistics have the character of a complete survey of all births, marriages, registered partnerships and deaths taking place in Austria.

Vital statistics are of high quality because the most important information comes from the civil registries, which are highly accurate and reliable due to the documentary nature of their certificates. In addition, the compulsory entry of certificates issued in the Central Civil Status Register ensures statistical completeness.

Statistics on causes of death (CoD-Statistics) are a part of death statistics. The administrative form 2a "Death certificate" as defined by Austrian Civil Registry Law contains information on the underlying cause of death as well as the chain of events leading to death and comorbidity causes of death. In Austria, multi-causal CoD-statistics have been produced since the beginning of 2019, i.e. encoding all diseases indicated on the death certificate in addition to the underlying cause of death . The underlying disease is selected in accordance with an international set of rules and coded by a specifically trained team. Coding is performed according to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). An electronic coding program is used for coding; the output is checked manually by experienced coders. In Austria, the certification of the cause of death is executed by coroners, pathologists or forensic pathologists.

Vital Statistics including Cause of Death Statistics – Main Features	
Subject Matter	Causes of death of persons with a main residence in Austria who died within a calendar year
Population	Deaths
Type of statistics	Secondary statistics (statistics based on administrative data)
Data sources/Survey techniques	Central Civil Status Register (ZPR) of the Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI) as well as information provided by coroners, pathologists and forensic pathologists on causes of death
Reference period or due day	Calendar years
Periodicity	Final results are published annually (usually at the end of June of the following year)
Survey participation (in case of a survey)	-
Main legal acts	<p>Federal Statistics Act (Bundesstatistikgesetz 2000 – BstatG)</p> <p>Civil Registry Act (Personenstandsgesetz 2013): relevant § 9, § 20, § 27, § 28 and § 51</p> <p>Civil Registry Directive (Personenstandsverordnung 2013)</p> <p>Implementation guide for the civil registry work</p> <p>Regulation (EU) No 1260/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 November 2013 on European demographic statistics</p> <p>COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 328/2011 of 5 April 2011 Implementing Regulation (EC) No 1338/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on public health and health and safety at work, as regards statistics on causes of death</p> <p>Research Organization Act (FOG), Federal Law Gazette No. 341/1981 § 2f paras. 6 and 7.</p>
Most detailed regional breakdown	Political district
Availability of results	End of June of the year following the reporting year
Other	-