

# Global - WHO Mortality Database, 1979-2011

**Department of Health Statistics and Information Systems - World Health  
Organization**

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# Overview

## Identification

### ID NUMBER

glob-cghr-whomd-1979-2011-v01

## Overview

### ABSTRACT

The data available for download from this web site are official national statistics in the sense that they have been transmitted to the World Health Organization by the competent authorities of the countries concerned.

The WHO Mortality Data base comprises deaths registered in national vital registration systems, with underlying cause of death as coded by the relevant national authority. Underlying cause of death is defined as “the disease or injury which initiated the train of morbid events leading directly to death, or the circumstances of the accident or violence which produced the fatal injury” in accordance with the rules of the International Classification of Diseases.

The database contains number of deaths by country, year, sex, age group and cause of death as far back from 1950. Data are included only for countries reporting data properly coded according to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD).

### TOPICS

Topic	Vocabulary	URI
Mortality	icd, demographic, cause of death	

## Producers and Sponsors

### PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR(S)

Name	Affiliation
Department of Health Statistics and Information Systems	World Health Organization

## Metadata Production

### METADATA PRODUCED BY

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
Centre for Global Health Research	CGHR	St. Michael's Hospital; University of Toronto	Metadata Producer

### DATE OF METADATA PRODUCTION

2016-06-20

### DDI DOCUMENT VERSION

Version 1.0. This is the very first version of this DDI document

### DDI DOCUMENT ID

glob-cghr-whomd-1979-2011-v01

# Sampling

No content available

# Questionnaires

No content available

## Data Collection

### Data Collection Dates

Start	End	Cycle
2011	2011-11-24	N/A

### Data Collection Mode

Other [oth]

#### DATA COLLECTION NOTES

The data available on this web site comprise deaths registered in national vital registration systems, with underlying cause of death as coded by the relevant national authority. These data are official national statistics in the sense that they have been transmitted to the World Health Organization by the competent authorities of the countries concerned. Each Member State reports population data along with their mortality data, for the population covered by the death registration system. Where this is a subset of the national population, the data is labelled accordingly in the WHO Mortality Database, e.g. Brazil (North and North-east) or Paraguay (reporting areas). However, the completeness of death registration may also be less than 100% for the specified registration population.

For Member States with incomplete vital registration systems, demographic techniques have been used by WHO to estimate the level of completeness of death recording for the specified population to allow the calculation of death rates. These population data are provided along with the deaths data. The proportion of all deaths which are registered in the population covered by the vital registration system for a country (referred to as completeness) has been estimated by WHO for the latest available year and is given in Table 3 available on this website.

Note that vital registration data may be 100% complete for the population covered, but not include full coverage of deaths in the country. The overall level of coverage for the latest available year for each country is also listed in Table 4. Coverage is calculated by dividing the total deaths reported for a country-year from the vital registration system by the total estimated deaths for that year for the national population. The national population estimates used are those of the UN Population Division. Best estimates of death rates by age and sex, adjusted for incompleteness and incomplete coverage), are applied to the national population data to obtain total estimated deaths. WHO estimated coverage for a Member State may be less than 100% due to incompleteness of registration, or to coverage of only some parts of the national population, or to differences between the vital registration population and the UN estimated de-facto population.

Death registration coverage and cross-national differences in coding practices, particularly in the use of codes for ill-defined and unknown causes, must be taken into account to validly compare mortality rates for specific causes across countries. WHO-validated estimates of total deaths by cause, age and sex for WHO regions and subregions for 2004 and 2008 may be downloaded from the Burden of Disease website.

# Data Processing

No content available

# Data Appraisal

No content available