

27 May 2004

Coverage
United Kingdom
Theme
Health and Care

Circulatory diseases and cancer remain the main causes of death

Health Statistics Quarterly Summer 2004

The main causes of death in England and Wales in 2003 were circulatory diseases and cancer, accounting for 38 per cent and 25 per cent of all deaths respectively, according to new statistics published today by the Office for National Statistics. Respiratory diseases accounted for 14 per cent.

Health Statistics Quarterly 22 contains new and up-to-date statistics on births, deaths and other health-related topics. In this issue there are new statistics on deaths by cause in England and Wales in 2003 and an annual update on congenital anomalies notified in England and Wales in 2002. The feature articles are on: geographical comparisons of cancer survival indicators; the impact of introducing the tenth revision of the International Classification of Diseases on trends in death from circulatory diseases in England and Wales and a comparison of the recording of 30 common childhood conditions in the Doctors' Independent Network and General Practice Research Databases.

New statistics in this issue – deaths registered in 2003:

This report gives the numbers of deaths registered in England and Wales in 2003 by age and sex, and for selected underlying causes of death. Some key findings include:

- 539,151 deaths were registered in 2003 compared with 535,356 registered in 2002, an increase of 0.7 per cent.

Issued by
National Statistics
1 Drummond Gate
London SW1V 2QQ

Telephone
Press Office 020 7533 5702
Email press.office@ons.gov.uk
Public Enquiries 0845 601 3034

Internet
www.statistics.gov.uk

Next publication date
19 August 2004

Health Statistics Quarterly 22, Summer 2004

The Stationery Office Price £21.00 ISBN 0 11 621720 0

Available free on the National Statistics website:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=6725>



- The number of male deaths increased by 0.02 per cent and female deaths by 1.3 per cent between 2002 and 2003.
- The infant mortality rate in 2003 was 5.3 deaths registered per 1,000 live births, the same as in 2002.
- More males than females died from cancer (28 and 23 per cent respectively) and Ischaemic heart disease (22 and 16 per cent respectively), while more females than males died of cerebrovascular diseases (13 and nine per cent respectively). The proportions dying of respiratory diseases were similar (13 per cent of males and 14 per cent of females).

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. Headline statistics on deaths registered in England and Wales in 2003 were first published in an ONS news release on 13 May 2004.
2. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the press office.
3. **National Statistics** are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference. © Crown copyright 2004.