Corrected press release: 14 230-149/26

2025: cardiovascular diseases and cancer most common causes of death in Austria

Overall mortality and cancer mortality declining

Correction notice dated 22 July 2026: A percentage figure in line 5 of the summary has been corrected. The correction is highlighted in grey in the text. The old figure is shown in brackets.

Vienna, 2026-07-15 – According to Statistics Austria, a total of 87 902 people died in Austria in 2025. Due to steadily rising life expectancy, both men and women are dying more frequently from diseases that are more common in old age. The 2 most common causes of death in 2025 were diseases of the circulatory system (33%) and cancer (25%), which together accounted for [old: two-thirds] almost 60% of all deaths. 7% died from diseases of the respiratory system, 6% from injuries and poisonings and 4% from diseases of the digestive system.

“Mortality in Austria has fallen significantly between 2015 and 2025. Taking the population structure into account, fewer people died from cardiovascular diseases and cancer than they did 10 years ago. Nevertheless, the absolute number of cancer deaths has risen, as more people are now living to an advanced age,” says Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics at Statistics Austria.

Most common age-specific causes of death: cardiovascular diseases in old age, cancer in middle age, cancer and suicides in younger age

More than half of all deaths in 2025 (51 662 deaths, or 59%) occurred among people aged 80 and over (see table 1). In this age group, 41% of deaths were attributable to diseases of the circulatory system. Around 1 in 6 people in this age group (17%) died of cancer. Diseases of the respiratory system, mental health conditions and nutritional or metabolic diseases were also significant causes of death, albeit by a considerable margin. Around 1% of those aged over 80 died as a result of falls (see table 2).

Around 39% of all deaths occurred in the 40 to 80 age group. In this group, cancer was the most common cause of death.

Among adolescents and young adults aged between 10 and 40 (together accounting for under 2% of all deaths), suicide, cancer and accidents were the most common causes of death. Among the few deaths of children aged between 1 and under 10 years (59 deaths in 2025, or 1 per thousand of all deaths), congenital malformations were the most common cause of death alongside cancer. Among infants (235 deaths in 2025, or 3 per thousand of all deaths), complications at birth and congenital malformations were the most common causes of their early death.

Around 4 comorbidities per deceased person

In addition to the underlying causes of death, the death certificate lists other conditions that contributed to the death. In 2025, there were on average around 4 contributing conditions per death, slightly more among men than among women (4.0 vs. 3.7). The underlying conditions with the highest number of comorbidities were AIDS (6.0), diabetes (5.6) and COVID-19 (5.3). People who died as a result of falls also had, on average, more than 5 comorbidities (see table 3).

The most common comorbidity was hypertension, which was recorded in more than a quarter (26%) of all deaths. Unspecified heart failure was noted in 14% of deaths; pneumonia, atrial fibrillation, senility or general heart disease were each recorded in 10% (see table 4).

Table 1: Deaths in 2025 by gender and age

Gender	All age groups	0 years	1 to 9 years	10 to 39 years	40 to 79 years	80 years and over
Men and women	**87 902**	235	59	1 370	34 576	51 662
Men	**44 069**	131	36	933	21 037	21 932
Women	**43 833**	104	23	437	13 539	29 730

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Statistics on causes of death.

Table 2: Age-specific causes of death in 2025 (as a percentage of deaths)

Underlying cause of death (underlying condition, ICD-10 code)	All age groups	0 years	1 to 9 years	10 to 39 years	40 to 79 years	80 years and over
All causes of death (A00–Y89)	**100.0**%	**100.0**%	**100.0**%	**100.0**%	**100.0**%	**100.0**%
Diseases of the cardiovascular system (I00–I99)	33.4%	1.3%	3.4%	7.3%	23.0%	41.2%
Malignant neoplasms (C00–C97)	24.9%	-	18.6%	13.5%	37.1%	17.2%
Diseases of the respiratory system (J00–J99, U05.9)	6.8%	0.4%	1.7%	2.4%	7.1%	6.8%
Mental disorders (F01–F99)	5.7%	-	-	5.4%	3.4%	7.3%
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases (E00–E90)	4.8%	1.7%	10.2%	3.1%	5.1%	4.6%
Diseases of the nervous system and sensory organs (G00–H95)	4.1%	1.7%	13.6%	3.6%	3.6%	4.5%
Diseases of the digestive organs (K00–K92)	3.7%	-	5.1%	4.1%	5.1%	2.7%
Suicide and self-harm (X60–X84, Y87.0)	1.5%	-	-	19.1%	2.4%	0.5%
Accidents caused by falls (W00–W19)	1.2%	-	1.7%	1.5%	0.9%	1.4%
Accidents involving means of transport (V01–V99, Y85)	0.5%	-	6.8%	7.9%	0.7%	0.1%
Congenital malformations, deformities and chromosomal abnormalities (Q00–Q99)	0.2%	30.6%	15.3%	2.0%	0.3%	0.0%
Perinatal conditions (P00–P96)	0.2%	58.3%	-	-	-	-
Other (all other ICD codes)	12.9%	6.0%	23.7%	30.1%	11.3%	13.6%

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Causes of Death Statistics. – The codes in brackets refer to the International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD, 10th Revision, 2013 version); selected ICD groups are shown. – Includes persons resident in Austria who died abroad.

Table 3: Causes of death and comorbidities in 2025

Underlying cause of death (underlying condition, ICD-10 codes)	Number of deaths	Number of recorded comorbidities	Comorbidities by cause of death
All causes of death (A00–Y89)	**87 902**	**338 090**	**3.8**
AIDS (HIV disease) (B20–B24)	34	203	6.0
COVID-19 (U07–U10)	540	2 839	5.3
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases (E00–E90)	4 185	21 711	5.2
Diabetes mellitus (E10–E14)	3 081	17 276	5.6
Alcohol-related disorders (F10)	680	3 187	4.7
Drug dependence, substance abuse (F11–F16, F18–F19)	182	830	4.6
Ischaemic heart disease (I20–I25)	11 061	51 378	4.6
Other ischaemic heart diseases (I20, I23–I25)	7 251	37 188	5.1
Influenza (J09–J11)	1 067	5 446	5.1
Accidents (V01–X59, Y85–Y86)	3 248	15 615	4.8
Accidents due to falls (W00–W19)	1 063	5 532	5.2

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Causes of Death Statistics. – The codes in brackets refer to the International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD, 10th Revision, 2013 version); selected ICD groups are shown. – Includes persons resident in Austria who died abroad.

Table 4: Comorbidities of the deceased in 2025

Comorbidities (ICD-10 four-digit codes)	Number of mentions	Percentage of all deceased persons
Essential (primary) hypertension (I10)	23 081	26.3%
Heart failure, unspecified (I509)	12 340	14.0%
Pneumonia, unspecified (J189)	9 358	10.6%
Atrial fibrillation and atrial flutter, unspecified (I489)	9 093	10.3%
Senility (R54)	8 995	10.2%
Heart disease, unspecified (I519)	8 754	10.0%
Dementia, unspecified (F03)	8 126	9.2%
Atherosclerotic heart disease (I251)	8 045	9.2%
Secondary malignant neoplasm of unspecified site (C799)	7 135	8.1%
Chronic kidney disease, unspecified (N189)	6 983	7.9%

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Causes of Death Statistics. – The codes in brackets refer to the International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD, 10th Revision, 2013 version); selected ICD groups are shown. – Includes persons resident in Austria who died abroad. – Multiple responses are possible.

For detailed results and further information please refer to our website.

Information on methodology and definitions:

The results of the 2025 cause of death statistics relate to all deaths occurring in Austria between 1 January and 31 December 2025 and also include deaths occurring abroad of persons with their main residence in Austria. However, the cause of death is unknown for persons who died abroad. Deaths occurring in Austria of persons resident abroad are not included. The regional classification of the published data is based on the last place of residence (main residence).

The legal basis for the collection of data on causes of death is the Civil Status Act 2013 (PStG 2013: Federal Law I No. 16/2013; Section 28(1)). Accordingly, Statistics Austria compiles and processes information on the cause of death from death certificates, which are completed as part of the post-mortem examination. These

must specify the sequence of illnesses that ultimately led to death. The structure of the death certificates is laid down by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Death certificates are sent to the registry office, where the death is registered. These registered deaths are then forwarded to Statistics Austria, where they are recorded, coded and analysed. Coding is carried out in accordance with international guidelines (the so-called International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10)) and identifies the **underlying condition** responsible for the death (the **underlying** cause). An example of this would be COVID-19 as the underlying cause, with complications such as pneumonia or viral myocarditis.

In addition, the death certificate may also list **comorbidities** that contributed to or accelerated the process of death. Examples of this would be diabetes or high blood pressure.

The total number of deaths in a year depends on mortality rates, as well as the size and age structure of the population. Mortality is usually described using **age-standardised mortality rates**. The age-standardised mortality rate indicates how many deaths per 100 000 inhabitants would have occurred based on the prevailing mortality conditions, had the age structure of the population in the relevant reporting period (in this case, figures for the annual average in 2025) corresponded to that of a standard population. This eliminates the distorting influence of the specific age structure on comparisons; in other words, this measure takes into account both the overall growth of the population and its continuous ageing, thereby making it possible to compare different mortality patterns over time. The 2013 standard population published by Eurostat serves as the standard population. This standard population is a hypothetical population with an estimated age structure for the European population, which is used as a uniform basis for calculating comparable age-standardised mortality rates.

Statistics Austria is the central organisation for official data and statistics on society, the economy, the state and the environment in Austria. As a national statistical institute, it is committed to the statutory principles of independence, impartiality and objectivity. Statistics Austria is headed by Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics, and Franz Haslauer, Director General Finance.

Further enquiries:
For information on results and methodology, please contact:
Barbara Leitner, phone: +43 1 711 28-7262, e-mail: barbara.leitner@statistik.gv.at
For interview requests, please contact the press office: presse@statistik.gv.at

Media owner, producer and publisher:
STATISTICS AUSTRIA | Federal Institution under Public Law | Guglgasse 13 | 1110 Vienna | www.statistik.at
Press: phone: +43 1 711 28-7777 | e-mail: presse@statistik.gv.at

© STATISTICS AUSTRIA
All rights are reserved by Statistics Austria. Use is permitted, provided the source is quoted and the content is reproduced accurately.