



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Fewer deaths due to cardiovascular diseases

In 1999 more than 140 thousand people residing in the Netherlands died. The percentage of people who died of cardiovascular diseases fell again that year. The number of deaths from lung cancer among men fell while among women it increased. The number of people who died from a fall increased by more than 10% last year. The number of people dying of pneumonia has doubled in the last decade. The number of AIDS deaths remained stable last year. These figures come from the cause of death statistics published by Statistics Netherlands.

Cardiovascular diseases main cause of death

Nearly 50 thousand people died of cardiovascular diseases in 1999, which still makes it the number one cause of death. However, the percentage share of cardiovascular diseases diminished again last year. In the last two decades it fell from 45% in 1980 to 35% in 1999. This is mainly because fewer people die of an acute heart attack. In 1980 nearly one in six people died of it, whereas in 1999 this was down to one in ten.

Cancer deaths stable

Cancer claimed 38 thousand lives in 1999, making it the second largest cause of death after cardiovascular diseases. The mortality rate from cancer is stable. In 1999 some 27% of deaths was caused by cancer, the same percentage as in 1980.

More deaths from pneumonia

In 1999 over 14 thousand people died from respiratory diseases. Half of them caused by pneumonia. The number of pneumonia deaths has increased remarkably since 1990: from 3500 to 6500.

Differences between men and women

The main cause of death among men is an acute heart attack, followed by lung cancer and strokes. Lung cancer makes up over 30% of all cancer deaths among men. In 1999 fewer men died of lung cancer than in 1998, continuing the trend of the last ten years.

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The main cause of death among women is a stroke, followed by an acute heart attack and breast cancer. The number of women who died of lung cancer has been increasing rapidly since 1980. Lung cancer is now second, after breast cancer, in the total number of cancer deaths.

Deadly fall

In 1999 over 1700 people fell and died, which is 200 more than in 1998. Women die twice as often from falling as men do, mainly because there are more elderly women than men. Deaths from falling occur mostly among very old women.

Number of AIDS deaths levelling off

The figures by Statistics Netherlands further show that the number of AIDS-related deaths in 1999 was virtually the same as in 1998. In 1999 there were 137 people in the Netherlands who died of AIDS. Since 1995 the number of AIDS deaths had been falling, but this seems to be levelling off now. The largest number of AIDS deaths was recorded in 1994, when 444 people died of it. In the Netherlands there has been a registration of AIDS patients since 1982. The disease claimed over 2600 lives ever since in the Netherlands.

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