



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Over 5 thousand people died of unnatural causes

The causes of death figures published by Statistics Netherlands on 2000 show that about 5.2 thousand people died of unnatural causes. The total number of people who died was over 140 thousand. This means that about 1 in 25 people died of unnatural causes such as accidents, suicide, murder or homicide.

Two thirds died an accidental death

The great majority of deaths by unnatural causes come from accidents. Over 2 thousand persons died because of an accident in the private sphere. Over 1 thousand persons died after a traffic accident, and almost 100 persons after an accident at work. Another 1.5 thousand persons committed suicide and there were 180 murder or homicide deaths.

Most deadly accidents in the private sphere

Most deadly accidents occur in the private sphere. The number of people who die as a result of an accident in the private sphere has been increasing in recent years. In the year 2000 over 2000 persons died as a result, mostly of accidents in and around the home. Women more often fall victim to deadly accidents in the private sphere. They are mostly women over 80. In most cases they die after a fall. Accidents in the private sphere are also the main cause of unnatural death for children under 15.

Mostly men and young people in traffic accidents

In 2000 over 1000 people died in traffic accidents. Three quarters of the victims were men. Young people are also overrepresented among the victims of traffic accident: one in three was aged between 15 and 30. They are mainly young men under 20 who died on their light motor bikes, and men aged between 20 and 30 driving a car.

Men commit more suicides

In 2000 some 1,5 thousand persons committed suicide and died. Two thirds of them were men. In the age category between 30-70 more peo-

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ple die as a result of suicide than as a result of traffic accidents. There has been a steady decline in suicide victims since 1996, from 12.5 per 100.000 inhabitants to 11.6.

Hanging most common suicide method

Almost 40% of the people who committed suicide ended their lives by hanging themselves. It is the most frequently used method both by men and women. Other frequently used methods are taking medicines and/or alcohol, and jumping in front of a train. Relatively speaking equal numbers of men and women jump in front of trains. Women are taking medicines and/or alcohol twice as often as men with fatal results.

Murder or homicide

Two thirds of the 180 deadly victims of murder or homicide is a man. Half of the male victims was killed by firearms. Women are more often strangled or stabbed to death.

For more information please contact. Jan Latten, tel. (070) 337 5232.

Unnatural deaths by cause and sex, 2000

| | Total | Men | Women |
|-----------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Total | 5169 | 3023 | 2146 |
| Accidents | 3360 | 1830 | 1530 |
| Of which. | | | |
| Private sphere | 2179 | 935 | 1244 |
| Traffic | 1085 | 801 | 284 |
| Work | 96 | 94 | 2 |
| Suicides | 1500 | 999 | 501 |
| Murder/homicide | 180 | 120 | 60 |
| Other /unknown | 129 | 74 | 55 |

Source: Statistics Netherlands