

# Cancer, Cardiovascular Disease, Diabetes and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease in Europe, 1950-2015

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In Sweden, data on deaths are available from 1951 to 2015 in the WHO mortality database.

Of the four major causes of death considered, Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) is the most important, followed by all malignant neoplasms and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). However, since 2005, mortality rates from cancer are higher than from cardiovascular disease, in women. Mortality rates from cancer and cardiovascular disease are higher in men than in women. For COPD, mortality rates are comparable between genders. An increase in mortality from all forms of cancer has been observed since the 1950s, followed by a decline starting in the mid-1970s. For cardiovascular disease, a decline in mortality is observed from 1960 approximately. For COPD, there is a slight decrease in mortality for men and a slight increase for women over the available data period (1987-2015). Mortality from diabetes remains difficult to interpret.

Lung and breast cancers are the commonest causes of cancer death. For colorectal cancer and haematological malignancies, the trends in mortality rates are similar to all cancer mortality: an increase from 1951 to the mid-1970s followed by a decrease from the mid-1970s to 2015. For lung cancer, the same trend is observed in men, however in women, lung cancer mortality continues to increase from the mid-1970s to 2015. On the other hand, remarkable declines in mortality from stomach cancer are observed in both genders over the period studied. A slight decline can also be observed for mortality from breast cancer.

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