

## Research Team

The HCD research team includes the core team, primarily responsible for the database itself, and a team of country specialists.

### Core team

#### French Institute for Demographic Studies

France Meslé, Director

Markéta Pechholdová, Coordinator

Jacques Vallin

#### Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research

Dmitri Jdanov, Director

Inna Danilova, Database Manager

Domantas Jasilionis

Vladimir M. Shkolnikov

### Country specialists

Magali Barbieri, Carlo-Giovanni Camarda, Inna Danilova, Aina Faus-Bertomeu, Agnieszka Fihel, Rosa Gomez Redondo, Pavel Grigoriev, Andoria Ionita, Domantas Jasilionis, Hernan Manzelli, France Meslé, Yui Ohtsu, Nadine Ouellette, Markéta Pechholdová, Olga Penina, Svitlana Poniakina, Adrien Remund, Pavlo Shevchuk, Jacques Vallin

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## Contact

✉ causesofdeath@demogr.mpg.de

🌐 www.causesofdeath.org

### INED

133, boulevard Davout

75020 Paris, France

🌐 www.ined.fr/en



### MPIDR

Konrad-Zuse-Straße 1

18057 Rostock, Germany

✉ info@demogr.mpg.de

🌐 www.demogr.mpg.de/en/



# HCD

**The Human  
Cause-of-Death  
Database**

Free access to coherent time  
series of cause-specific mortality

A joint project of



MAX-PLANCK-INSTITUT  
FÜR DEMOGRAFISCHE  
FORSCHUNG

MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE  
FOR DEMOGRAPHIC  
RESEARCH

## Background

The Human Cause-of-Death Database (HCD) is a joint project of the French Institute for Demographic Studies (INED) in Paris, France and the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR) in Rostock, Germany, based at the MPIDR.

The main goal of the HCD is to provide access to detailed high-quality data on cause-specific mortality to a broad audience of users. In contrast to other existing databases on causes of death, the HCD provides time series with constant classification of causes, based on ICD-10. For comparability purposes, we provide mortality data classified according to a short list and an intermediate list of causes of death, identical for all countries. In addition, a detailed list is provided, but it varies according to available data in each country.

**The following features make the HCD particularly attractive to its users:**

- Continuous data series with constant cause-of-death classification;
- Availability of basic age-standardized indicators;
- Detailed documentation;
- Free and easy access to all data;
- A uniform and easy to use format of data files.

We hope that HCD will facilitate comparative analysis of mortality by cause across countries and regions.

## The HCD website

Available at [www.causesofdeath.org](http://www.causesofdeath.org)

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Human Cause-of-Death Database. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Home, Data by country, Zipped Data, and Formats. Below the navigation, a banner states: "The Human Cause-of-Death Database is a joint project of the French Institute for Demographic Studies (INED) in Paris, France and the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR) in Rostock, Germany, based at the MPIDR. We seek to provide free and open access to time series of cause-specific mortality for researchers, students, journalists, policy makers, and others interested in analysis of cause-of-death patterns. In contrast to other databases on causes of death, we provide time series with causes of death classified according to a constant (fixed) list classification of causes of death. The main goal of the database is to document trends of cause-specific mortality and to facilitate research on these topics." A sidebar on the right contains sections for Registration, Login, About the Project, Background, Overview, History, What's New, Guidelines, People, Research Team, Acknowledgements, and Links. It also mentions the Human Mortality Database and the French Institute for Demographic Studies. At the bottom, there's a footer with logos for INED and MPIDR, and a copyright notice: "Joint project of the INED and the MPIDR, based at the MPIDR".

### Types of data

#### Detailed data by cause of death

HCD includes sex and age-specific death counts and death rates, crude death rates and standardized death rates by cause of death, after redistribution of ill-defined causes of death (according to country-specific methods described in the Background and Documentation for each country). Causes of death are classified according to three lists: short, intermediate, and full.

### Population exposures and birth counts

The usual source for these data is the Human Mortality Database ([www.mortality.org](http://www.mortality.org)). Please note that in some cases we correct infant mortality and, respectively, birth counts.

## Countries

Country	Cause-of-Death Series
Belarus	1965-2010
Czech Republic*	1994-2013
England and Wales*	2001-2013
Estonia	1955-2012
France*	2000-2011
Germany*	1998-2013
Japan*	1995-2013
Latvia	1956-2012
Lithuania	1956-2012
Moldova	1965-2012
Poland	1970-2013
Romania	1980-2012
Russia	1965-2014
Spain	1980-2012
Ukraine	1965-2013
USA*	1999-2013

\*Currently, we have several countries with short data series started when ICD-10 was introduced in the country and restricted only to short and intermediate lists of causes. We are working on data reconstruction for these countries, and in near future these data will be replaced by longer and reconstructed time series with constant classification of causes.

### Example: HCD country data page

The screenshot shows the country data page for Russia. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Home, Data by country, Zipped Data, and Formats. Below the navigation, a section titled "Russia" contains tables for "Death Counts and Death Rates" and "Population Exposures and Birth Counts". The "Death Counts and Death Rates" table has columns for "Death counts by age", "Full list", "Intermediate list", and "Short list". It includes rows for "Age-specific death rates" (1965-2014), "Crude death rates" (1965-2014), "Standardized death rates" (1965-2014), and "Ill-defined death counts" (1965-2014). The "Population Exposures and Birth Counts" table has columns for "Population exposures" and "Available data". It includes rows for "Population exposures" (1965-2014) and "Birth counts" (1965-2014). On the right side, there's a sidebar with sections for "ABOUT DATA FOR RUSSIA", "Background and Documentation", "References", "CAUSE-OF-DEATH LISTS", "Population Exposures and Birth Counts", "OTHER MORTALITY DATA FOR RUSSIA", "GENERAL", and "Contact us". At the bottom, there's a note: "All country data in one zip file here" and "Country page last updated: 2016-01-21".