



STATISTICS ON CAUSES OF DEATH, MALAYSIA, 2025

MALAYSIA RECORDED 198,992 DEATHS IN 2024, WITH ISCHAEMIC HEART DISEASES REMAINED AS THE PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH AT 17,421 DEATHS (13.0%)

PUTRAJAYA, 18th DECEMBER, 2025 – Ischaemic heart diseases remained as the principal causes of death in 2024, accounting for 17,421 deaths or 13.0 per cent of the medically certified deaths. There were 198,992 deaths recorded in 2024 of which 133,844 (67.3%) were medically certified deaths and 65,148 (32.7%) were non-medically certified deaths. Number of medically certified deaths increased from 60.7 per cent (119,652 deaths) to 67.3 per cent (133,844 deaths) in 2024.

For the first time, the Department of Statistics, Malaysia has released the report on *Statistics on Causes of Death, Malaysia, 2025* using the *International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 11th Revision (ICD-11)* published by the World Health Organization (2022). Malaysia is among the earliest countries in the Asia-Pacific region to publish Causes of Death statistics using ICD-11.

This report presents statistics on causes of death in Malaysia for 2024 by demographic characteristics at the national, state and administrative district levels. The statistics support health policy formulation, programme planning, research and assessment of the health system, resource allocation and efforts to promote healthier lifestyles among the population.

Commenting on the report, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin, Chief Statistician, Malaysia said, "There were 12,112 male deaths (15.3%) was caused by Ischaemic heart diseases, while Pneumonia was the principal causes of deaths for females at 6,776 (12.4%). Ischaemic heart diseases also was the principal causes of death for Malay and Indians which recorded 10,291 deaths (13.9%) and 2,161 deaths (17.6%) respectively, in 2024. Meanwhile, Chinese and Other Bumiputera recorded Pneumonia as the principal causes of death at 4,231 deaths (12.7%) and 1,016 deaths (9.7%), respectively".

In comparison, Pneumonia was the second highest causes of death with 15,332 deaths or 11.5 per cent followed by Diabetes mellitus (6,929 deaths; 5.2%) and Transport accidents (4,428 deaths; 3.3%). Statistics showed that deaths caused by Neoplasms (Cancer) have increased since 2001 from 5,231 deaths to 19,180 deaths in 2024. Malignant Neoplasms of digestive organs recorded the highest deaths among other cancers at 5,825 deaths, followed by Malignant neoplasms of middle ear, respiratory or intrathoracic organs (2,987 deaths) and Malignant neoplasms of breast (2,173 deaths).

The Chief Statistician said, Ischaemic heart diseases is mainly influenced by unhealthy lifestyle practices and diet. This was supported by a statement from Ministry of Health Malaysia that Ischaemic heart diseases occurs when the blood vessels that supply blood to the heart muscle become hardened and narrowed. Major risk factors include smoking, high cholesterol level, high blood pressure, diabetes and age. Additionally, there are other contributing factors, such as obesity, sedentary lifestyle and family history. Pneumonia deaths which contributes by the post pandemic effect as respiratory infections in the community, especially for individuals with weakened immune systems or pre-existing health conditions. In addition to Ischaemic heart diseases and Pneumonia, some other non-communicable diseases such as Diabetes mellitus and Kidney Failure were also caused by unhealthy lifestyle practices and diet.

The Chief Statistician also said, the principal causes of death for population aged 60 years and over and 0-14 years was Pneumonia which recorded 11,989 deaths (13.9%) and 244 deaths (5.6%). Other than that, Transport accidents was the principal causes of death for population aged 15-40 years which recorded 2,547 deaths

(20.0%), while population aged 41-59 years recorded Ischaemic heart diseases at 17.6 per cent (5,380 deaths).

Commenting further, 13 states recorded Ischaemic heart diseases as principal causes of death while three other states namely Perak, Sabah and Sarawak recorded Pneumonia as the principal causes of death. Selangor recorded the highest deaths of Ischaemic heart diseases at 3,038 deaths followed by Johor (2,620 deaths) and Kedah (2,349 deaths).

This report also presents the causes of death at the administrative district level in Malaysia. Ischaemic heart diseases was the principal causes of death in 79 administrative districts (50.6%) from 156 administrative districts. Meanwhile, Pneumonia was the principal causes of death in 67 other administrative districts (42.9%). On the other hand, five more districts recorded Diabetes mellitus as the principal causes of death, while Kidney failure and Heart failure was recorded in two districts, respectively. Metabolic disorders recorded as the principal causes of death in one district.

The Chief Statistician highlighted, among the selected countries, Heart diseases was the principal causes of death for United States of America and Australia in 2023. Meanwhile, Republic of Korea, Japan, Canada and Singapore recorded Cancer as the principal causes of death in the same year. United Kingdom showed a different trend which was Dementia and Alzheimer diseases as the principal causes of death in 2023.

Malaysia has, for the first time, successfully secured the top position globally in the biennial Open Data Inventory (ODIN) 2024/25 report released by Open Data Watch (ODW), surpassing 197 other countries. This achievement marks a significant leap from its 67th position in the ODIN 2022/23 assessment.

OpenDOSM NextGen is a medium that provides data catalogue and visualisations to facilitate users' analysis and can be accessed through <https://open.dosm.gov.my>.

Chart 1: Deaths and crude death rate, Malaysia, 2011-2024

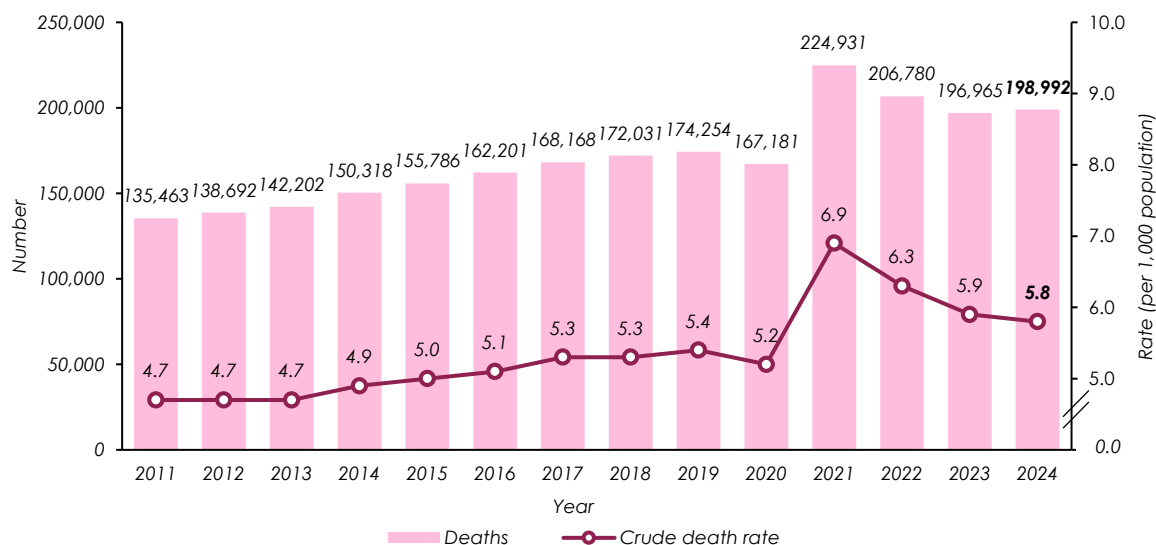
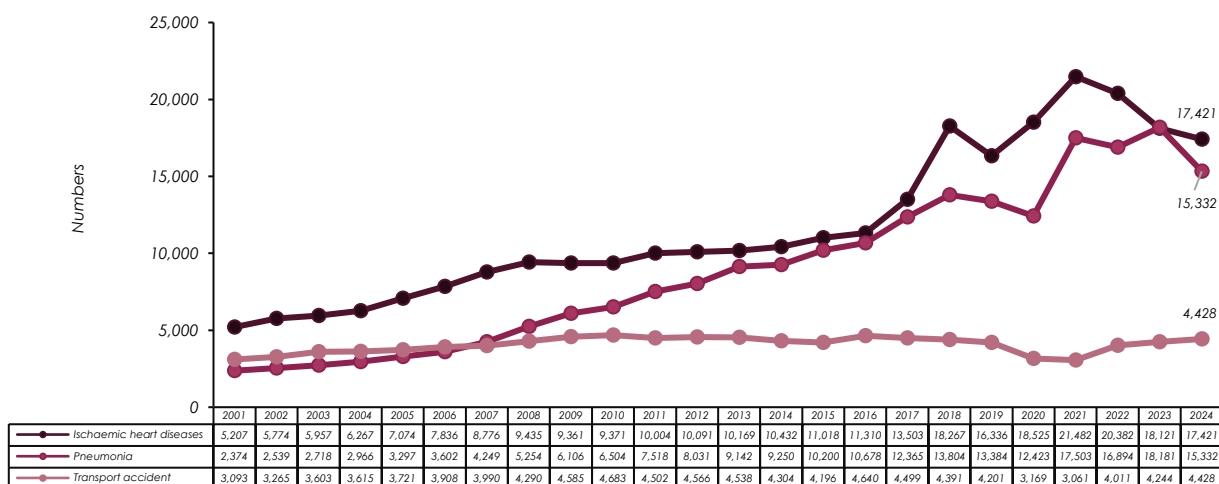


Chart 2: The principal causes of death, Malaysia, 2000-2024



Note:

Data for 2024 is using International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 11th Revision (ICD-11) while data 2000-2023 used International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision (ICD-10).

Chart 3: Top three principal causes of death by selected age group, Malaysia, 2024

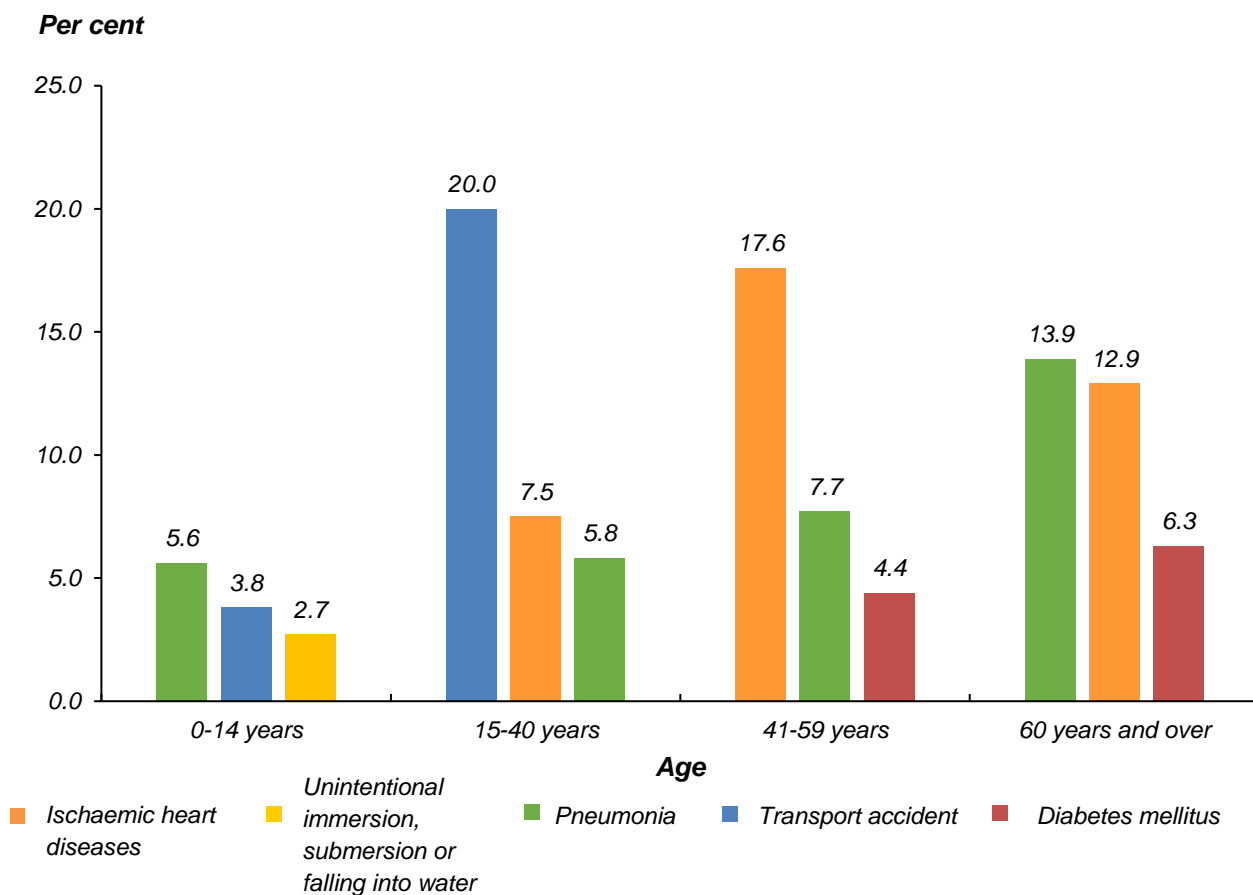


Chart 4: Top three Principal causes of death by ethnicity, 2024

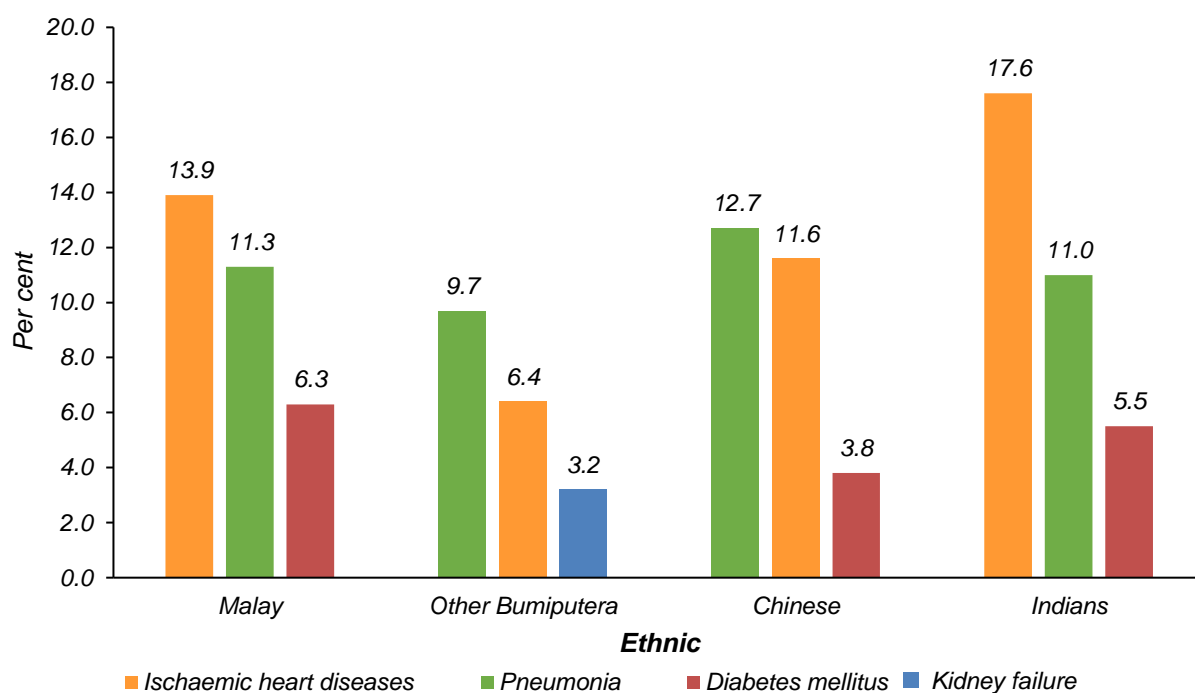


Table 1: *Principal causes of death for selected country, 2022-2023*

Country	2022	2023
<i>United States of America</i>	<i>Heart diseases</i>	<i>Heart diseases</i>
<i>Republic of Korea</i>	<i>Cancer</i>	<i>Cancer</i>
<i>Japan</i>	<i>Cancer</i>	<i>Cancer</i>
<i>United Kingdom</i>	<i>Dementia and Alzheimer diseases</i>	<i>Dementia and Alzheimer diseases</i>
<i>Canada</i>	<i>Cancer</i>	<i>Cancer</i>
<i>Australia</i>	<i>Ischaemic heart diseases</i>	<i>Ischaemic heart diseases</i>
<i>Singapore</i>	<i>Cancer</i>	<i>Cancer</i>

Source: National Statistics Office and Ministry of Health in selected countries

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