



**MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA**

MEDIA STATEMENT

**FOR THE PUBLICATION OF STATISTICS ON CAUSES OF DEATH,
MALAYSIA, 2023**

**ISCHAEMIC HEART DISEASES TOP THE LIST IN THE NATION,
ESPECIALLY IN 73 DISTRICTS**

PUTRAJAYA, 30th OCTOBER, 2023 – The Department of Statistics, Malaysia has released the report on Statistics on Causes of Death, Malaysia, 2023 which presents the statistics on causes of death in Malaysia for 2022 by demographic characteristics at national, state and administrative district. These statistics serve as inputs for the formulation of policies and planning of programmes related to health as well as a useful source of reference for researchers and academia. It is important to know the causes of death among Malaysian to encourage the population to improve their lifestyle in the future, assess the effectiveness of the Malaysian health system and the allocation of resources directly to targeted areas and groups.

Commenting on the report, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin, Chief Statistician, Malaysia said, "There were 206,525 deaths recorded in 2022 of which 126,268 (61.1%) were medically certified deaths and 80,257 (38.9%) were non-medically certified deaths. Ischaemic heart diseases was the principal causes of death in 2022, with 20,322 deaths or 16.1 per cent of the medically certified deaths. Ischaemic heart diseases continued as the principal causes of death for the past two decades except in 2021 where COVID-19 infection (due to) top the list. There were 13,817 (18.2%) deaths caused by Ischaemic heart diseases for males, while Pneumonia was the principal causes of deaths for females at 7,201 (14.3%). Ischaemic heart diseases was the principal causes of death for all major ethnic groups

in Malaysia with Malay (17.3%), Chinese (14.7%) and Indians (21.1%) except Other Bumiputera which recorded Pneumonia (11.5%) as the principal causes of death”.

In addition, apart from the main causes of death that commonly occurs in Malaysia, such as Ischaemic heart diseases, Pneumonia, Cerebrovascular diseases and Transport accidents, there is also the uniqueness of causes of death by ethnic for the top 10 causes of death such as Diabetes Mellitus which is more synonymous with death for Malay and Indians, while Cancer is the causes of death among Chinese.

The Chief Statistician said, unhealthy lifestyle practices and diet are among the contributors to death due to Ischaemic heart diseases nowadays. This was supported by Ministry of Health Malaysia which said that Ischaemic heart diseases occurs when the blood vessels that supply blood to the heart muscle become hardened and narrowed. Major risk factors include cigarette smoking, high cholesterol level, high blood pressure, diabetes and age. Additionally, there are other contributing factors, such as obesity, sedentary lifestyle and family history. In addition to Ischaemic heart diseases, some other non-communicable diseases such as Cerebrovascular diseases, Hypertensive diseases and Diabetes mellitus were also caused by unhealthy lifestyle practices and diet. However, Pneumonia which was the second principal causes of death in Malaysia is usually caused by bacterial infection, virus but sometimes it could be due to fungus and parasites. Pneumonia is the inflammation or infection in the lungs.

The Chief Statistician also said, the principal causes of death for population aged 41-59 years and 60 years and over was Ischaemic heart diseases at 20.0 per cent and 16.7 per cent, respectively. Other than that, Transport accidents was the principal causes of death for population aged 15-40 years (19.2%) while Pneumonia was the principal causes of death for population aged 0-14 years (4.0%).

On the other hand, Pneumonia was the second highest causes of death with 13.3 per cent followed by Cerebrovascular diseases (7.2%), COVID-19 infection (due to) (4.2%) and Transport accidents (3.2%). Apart from the five principal causes of death, statistics showed that deaths caused by Cancer have increased since 2001 from 5,231 deaths to 15,901 deaths in 2022.

Commenting further, all states recorded Ischaemic heart diseases as the principal causes of death in 2022 except for Sabah and Sarawak which recorded Pneumonia as the principal causes of death in the same year. Kelantan recorded the highest percentage of Ischaemic heart diseases at 23.3 per cent followed by Perlis (23.1%) and Melaka (20.0%).

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 73 administrative districts and the highest percentage was recorded in Bera, Pahang with 26.9 per cent. Meanwhile, Pneumonia was the principal causes of death in 67 administrative districts with the highest percentage recorded by Kecil Lojing, Kelantan (24.4%). On the other hand, Cerebrovascular diseases was recorded as the principal causes of death in 11 districts, while Chronic lower respiratory diseases recorded in two districts, Hypertensive diseases in two districts and Malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus and lung in one district (Belaga, Sarawak).

The Chief Statistician highlighted, among the selected countries, Ischaemic heart diseases was the principal causes of death for United States of America and Australia in 2021. Meanwhile, Republic of Korea, Japan, Canada and Singapore recorded Cancer as the principal causes of death in the same year. United Kingdom showed the same trend with Malaysia which was COVID-19 as principal causes of death in 2021.

DOSM has launched OpenDOSM NextGen as a medium that provides a catalogue of data and visualisation to facilitate users in analysing various data. OpenDOSM NextGen is an open source data sharing platform and accessible through <https://open.dosm.gov.my> portal.

The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) will conduct the Agricultural Census in 2024. Please visit <https://www.myagricensus.gov.my/> for more information. “Agriculture Census, Key to Agriculture Development.”

The Government of Malaysia has declared National Statistics Day (MyStats Day) on October 20 each year. MyStats Day theme is “Statistics is the Essence of Life”.

Chart 1: Deaths and crude death rate, Malaysia, 2011-2022

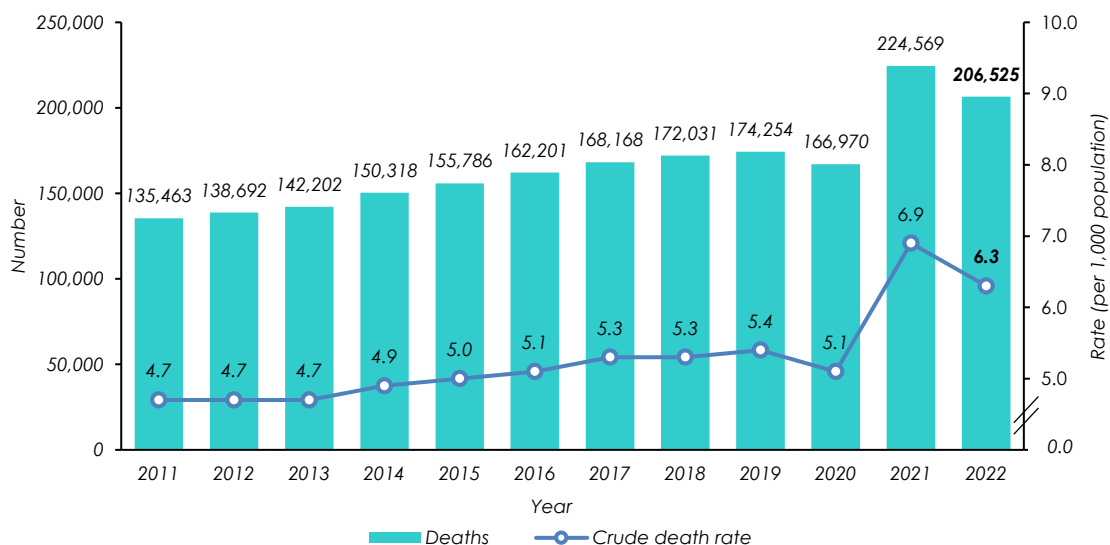


Chart 2: The principal causes of death, Malaysia, 2000-2022

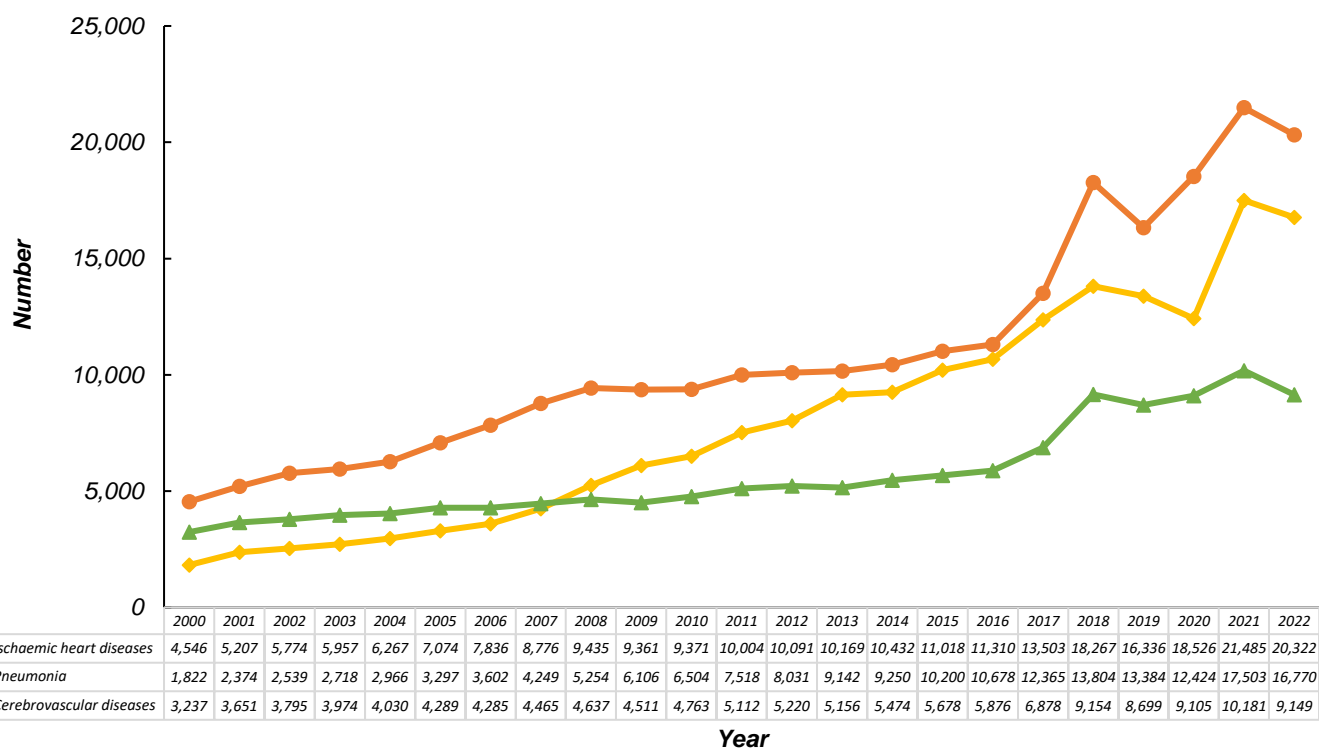


Chart 3: Top three principal causes of death by selected age group, Malaysia, 2022

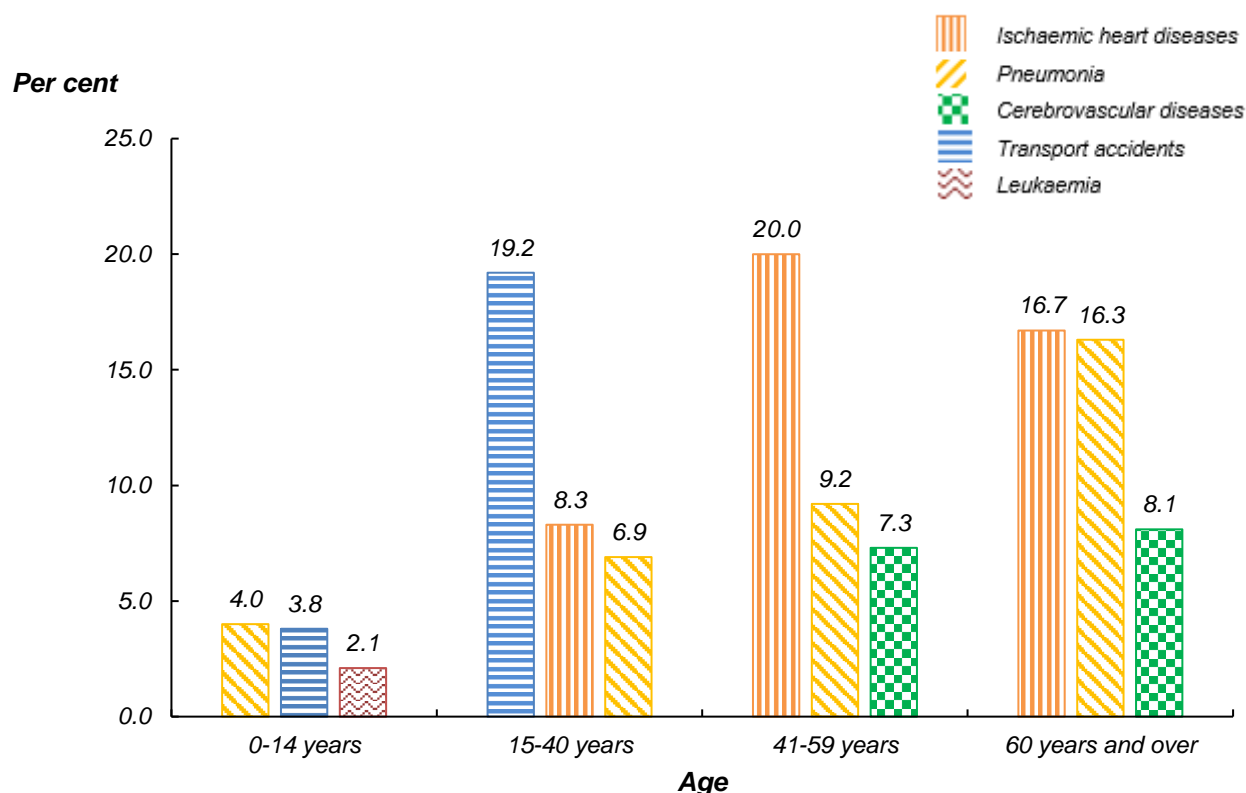


Table 1: Principal causes of death for selected country, 2020-2021

Country	2020	2021
United States of America	Ischaemic heart diseases	Ischaemic heart diseases
Republic of Korea	Cancer	Cancer
Japan	Ischaemic heart diseases	Cancer
United Kingdom	COVID-19	COVID-19
Canada	Cancer	Cancer
Australia	Ischaemic heart diseases	Ischaemic heart diseases
Singapore	Cancer	Cancer

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

Table 2: Number of deaths due to COVID-19 for ASEAN country, 2020 to 2022

Country	2020	2021	2022
Brunei Darussalam	3	95	127
Cambodia	-	3,012	44
Indonesia	22,138	121,956	16,518
Lao PDR	-	372	387
Malaysia	516	31,063	5,314
Myanmar	2,682	16,587	222
Philippines	9,244	42,260	13,887
Singapore	29	799	883
Thailand	63	21,639	11,971
Viet Nam	35	32,359	10,795

Source: ourworldindata.org

Table 3: Number of deaths due to COVID-19 for selected developed country, 2020 to 2022

Country	2020	2021	2022
United States of America	351,754	476,139	267,885
United Kingdom	73,622	75,168	38,005
Canada	15,762	13,884	19,276
Japan	3,492	14,897	38,892
Republic of Korea	917	4,708	26,594
Australia	909	1,346	14,451

Source: ourworldindata.org

Released by:

THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA
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