



MEDIA STATEMENT

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STATISTICS ON CAUSES OF DEATH, MALAYSIA, 2024

PNEUMONIA BECOMES THE PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH IN MALAYSIA WITH 18,181 DEATHS

PUTRAJAYA, 29th OCTOBER, 2024 – *The Department of Statistics, Malaysia has released the report on Statistics on Causes of Death, Malaysia, 2024 which presents the statistics on causes of death in Malaysia for 2023 by demographic characteristics at national, state and administrative district. These statistics serve as main 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 understand 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 196,965 deaths recorded in 2023 of which 119,652 (60.7%) were medically certified deaths and 77,313 (39.3%) were non-medically certified deaths. Pneumonia was the principal causes of death in 2023, accounting for 18,181 deaths or 15.2 per cent of the medically certified deaths. Pneumonia supersedes Ischaemic heart disease as the principal causes of death for the first time in two decades, except in 2021 when COVID-19 infection (due to) was the principal causes of death. There were 12,648 (17.6%) deaths caused by Ischaemic heart diseases for males, while Pneumonia was the principal causes of deaths for females at 7,815 (16.4%). Pneumonia was the principal causes of death for Chinese and Other Bumiputera which recorded 4,887 deaths (16.4%) and 1,255 deaths (12.2%) respectively, in 2023. Meanwhile, Malay and Indians recorded Ischaemic

heart diseases as principal causes of death at 16.0 per cent and 20.6 per cent, respectively”.

In addition, apart from the main causes of death that commonly occurs in Malaysia, such as Pneumonia, Ischaemic heart diseases, 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, there has been an increase in pneumonia deaths which contributes by the post pandemic affect as respiratory infections in the community may lead to Pneumonia, especially in individuals with weakened immune systems or pre-existing health conditions. Meanwhile, Ischaemic heart diseases which was the second principal causes of death in Malaysia is attributed by unhealthy lifestyle practices and diet. 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 smoking cigarette, 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.

The Chief Statistician also said, the principal causes of death for population aged 60 years and over was Pneumonia which recorded 14,377 deaths or 19.3 per cent, while population aged 41-59 years recorded Ischaemic heart diseases at 19.8 per cent (5,673 deaths). Other than that, Transport accidents was the principal causes of death for population aged 0-14 years and 15-40 years which recorded 3.7 per cent and 20.1 per cent, respectively.

On the other hand, Ischaemic heart diseases was the second highest causes of death with 15.1 per cent followed by Cerebrovascular diseases (7.2%) and Transport accidents (3.5%). Apart from this principal causes of death, statistics showed that deaths caused by Cancer have increased since 2001 from 5,231 deaths to

16,545 deaths in 2023. Cancer of digestive organs recorded the highest deaths among other cancers which recorded 5,054 deaths, followed by Cancer of respiratory and intrathoracic organs (2,530 deaths) and Cancer of breast (1,681 deaths).

Commenting further, six states namely Pahang, Perlis, Pulau Pinang, Sabah, Sarawak and W.P. Labuan recorded Pneumonia as the principal causes of death while 10 other states recorded Ischaemic heart diseases as principal causes of death. Perlis recorded the highest percentage of Pneumonia at 18.6 per cent followed by Pulau Pinang (17.8%) and Sabah (14.2%).

This report also presents the causes of death at the administrative district level in Malaysia. Pneumonia was the principal causes of death in 78 administrative districts and the highest percentage was recorded in Kubang Pasu, Kedah with 26.3 per cent. Meanwhile, Ischaemic heart diseases was the principal causes of death in 65 administrative districts with the highest percentage recorded by Langkawi, Kedah (31.3%). On the other hand, 11 districts recorded Cerebrovascular diseases as the principal causes of death, while Malignant neoplasm of breast in one district (Kalabakan, Sabah) and Hypertensive diseases in one district (Dalat, Sarawak).

For the first time, this report presents analysis on deaths caused by Intentional self-harm (suicide) based on the report from the Royal Malaysia Police. In 2023, the number of suicide deaths in Malaysia has increased from 641 in 2020 to 1,068 deaths. Meanwhile, the suicide deaths rate increased from 2.0 deaths in 2020 to 3.2 deaths per 100,000 population in 2023. Selangor recorded the highest deaths with 305 deaths, followed by W.P. Kuala Lumpur (135 deaths), Johor and Pulau Pinang (123 deaths).

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 2022. 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 2022.

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The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) has launched OpenDOSM NextGen as a medium that provides data catalogue and visualisations to facilitate users' analysis and can be accessed through <https://open.dosm.gov.my>.

The Government of Malaysia has declared National Statistics Day (MyStats Day) on October 20th. MyStats Day theme is "Statistics is the Essence of Life". DOSM commemorates its 75th Diamond Jubilee in 2024.

Chart 1: Deaths and crude death rate, Malaysia, 2011-2023

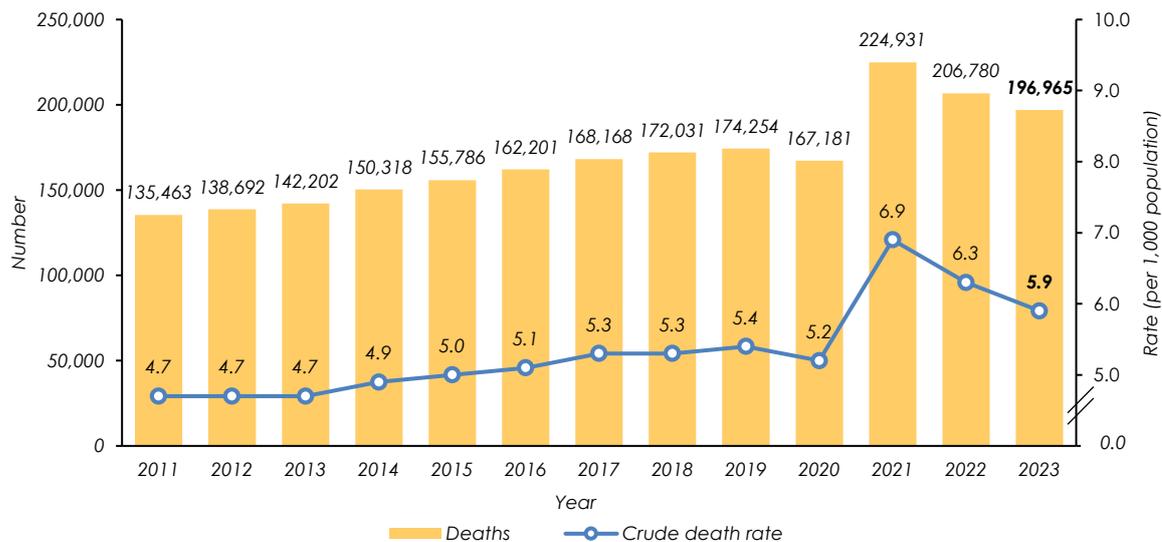


Chart 2: The principal causes of death, Malaysia, 2000-2023

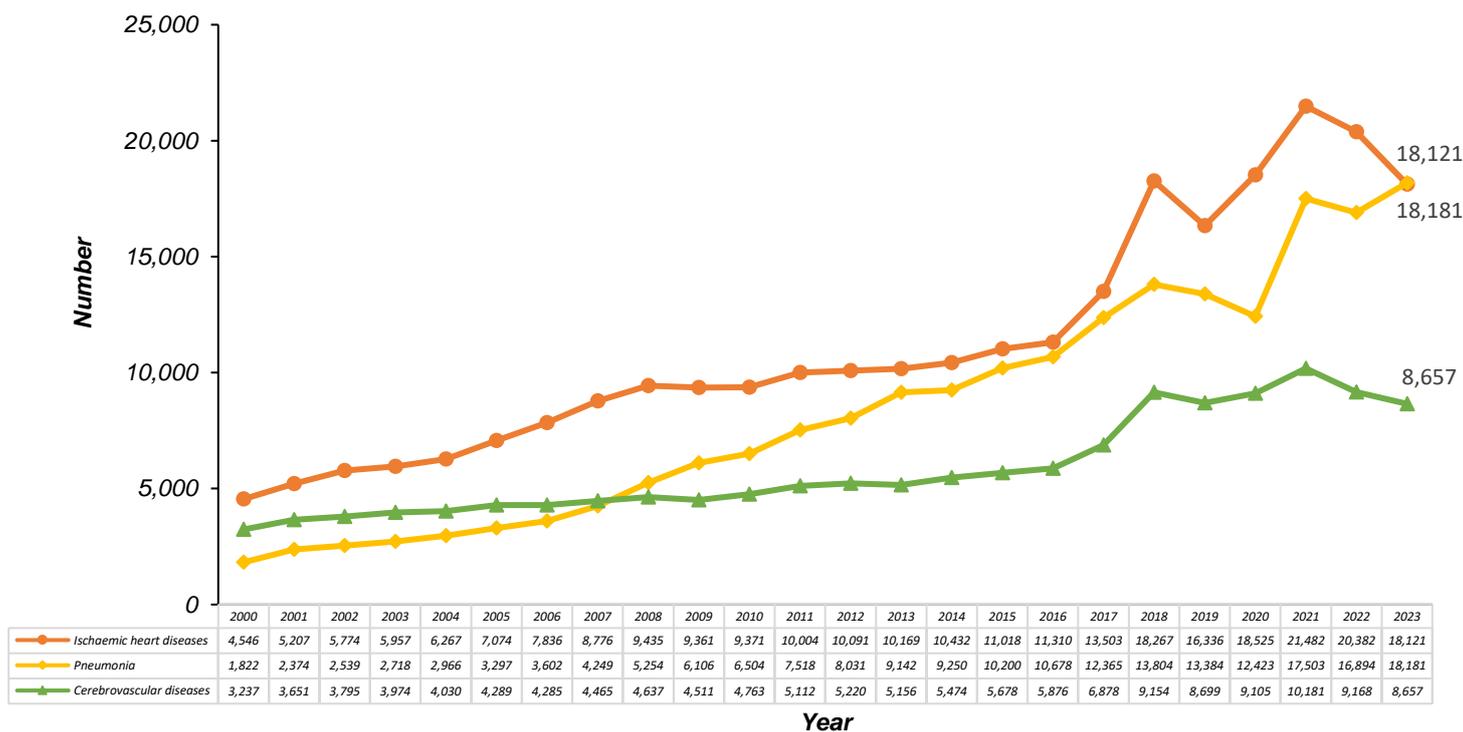


Chart 3: Top three principal causes of death by selected age group, Malaysia, 2023

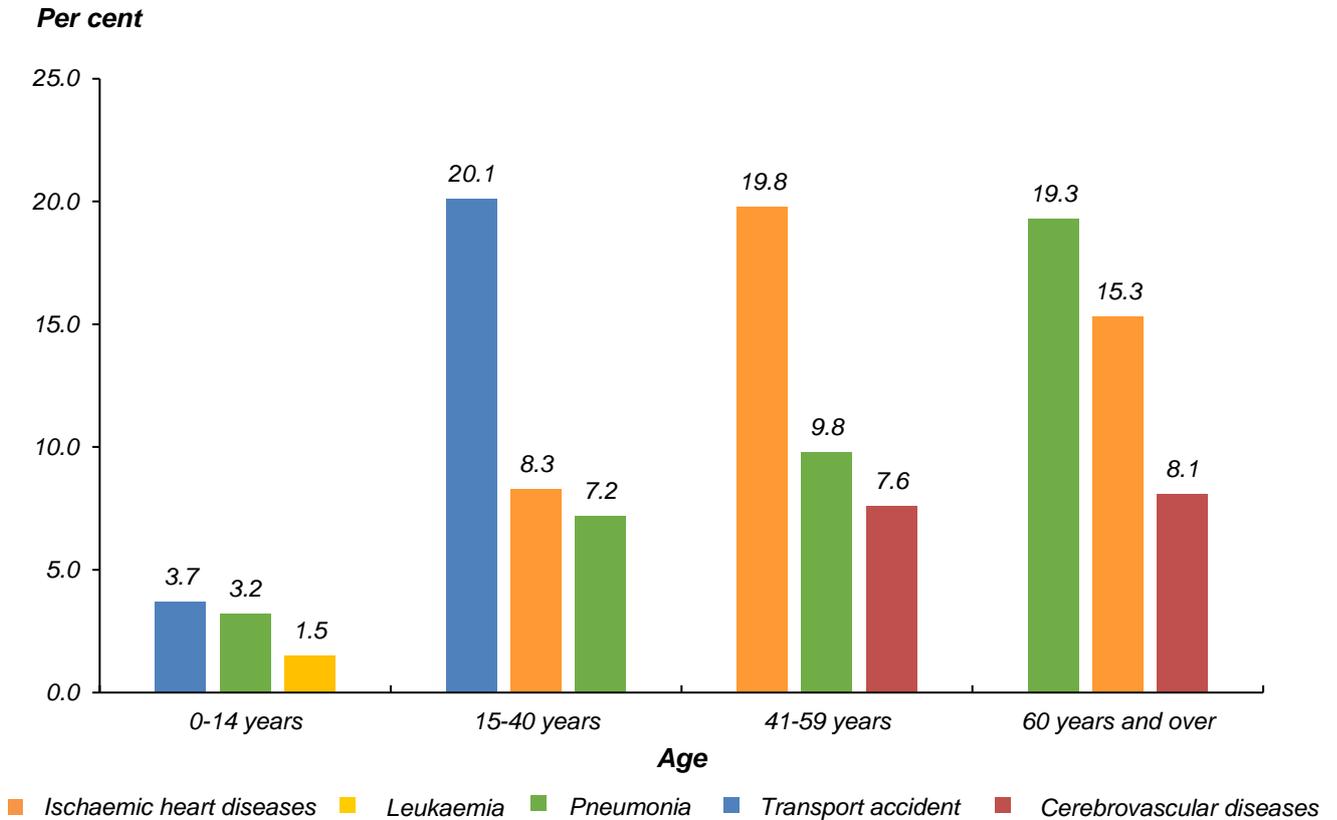


Chart 4: Top three Principal causes of death by ethnicity, 2023

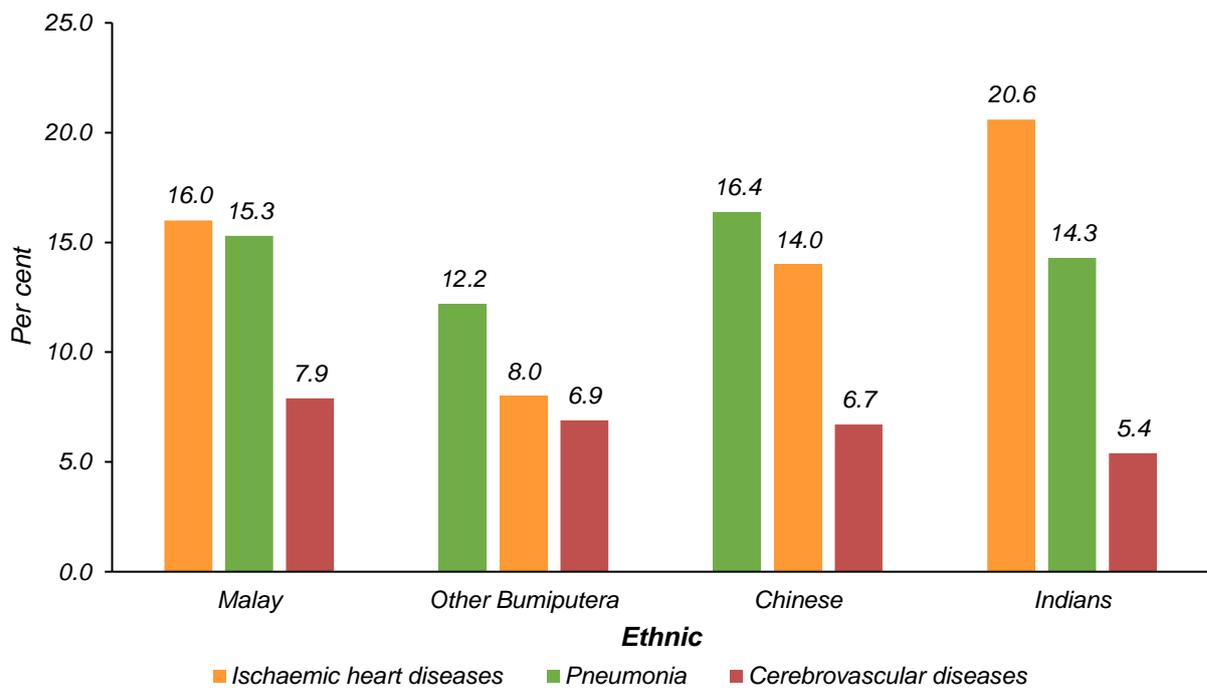


Chart 5: Numbers and rates of suicides death, Malaysia, 2020 to 2023

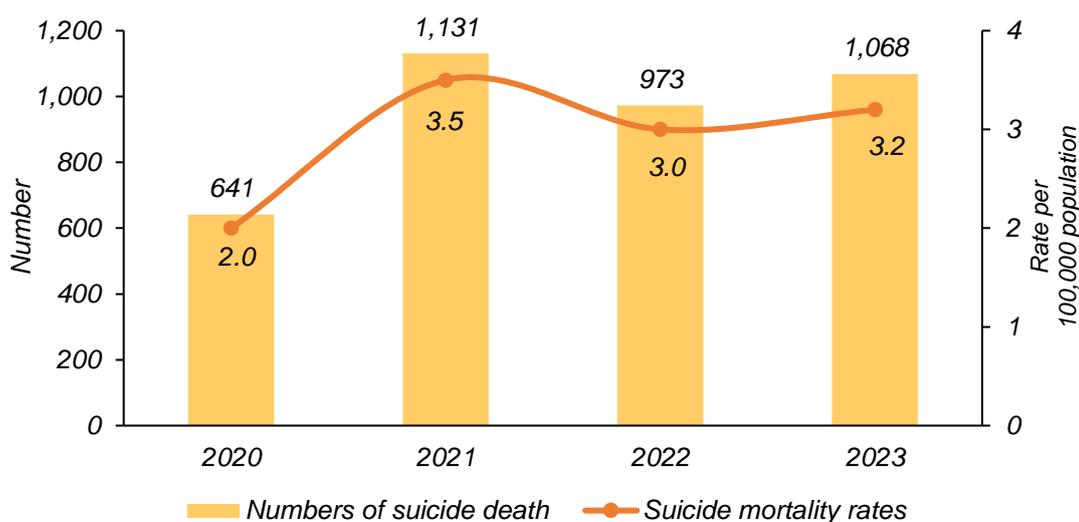


Table 1: Principal causes of death for selected country, 2021-2022

Country	2021	2022
United States of America	Ischaemic heart diseases	Ischaemic heart diseases
Republic of Korea	Cancer	Cancer
Japan	Cancer	Cancer
United Kingdom	COVID-19	Dementia and Alzheimer diseases
Canada	Cancer	Cancer
Australia	Ischaemic heart diseases	Ischaemic heart diseases
Singapore	Cancer	Cancer

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

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THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

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