

A **death**, according to the [United Nations](#) definition, is the permanent disappearance of all vital functions without possibility of resuscitation at any time after a [live birth](#) has taken place; this definition therefore excludes foetal deaths ([stillbirths](#)).

Mortality is the number of deaths for a given area during a given period. **Infant mortality** is the mortality of live-born children aged less than one year.

The **mortality rate** or **death rate** is the mortality expressed as a proportion of the population.

The **crude mortality rate** or **crude death rate** is defined as the ratio of the number of deaths during the year to the average population in that year; the value is expressed per 1000 inhabitants.

The **infant mortality rate** is defined as the ratio of the number of deaths of children under one year of age to the number of live births in the [reference year](#); the value is expressed per 1000 live births.

Further information

- [Methodology for the calculation of Eurostat's demographic indicators](#) (Publication)
- [Mortality](#) (ESMS metadata file — demo_mor_esms)

Related concepts

- [Birth](#)
- [Cause of death](#)

Statistical data

- [Causes of death statistics](#)