

Glossary: European shortlist of causes of death

Statistics Explained

The **European shortlist of causes of death** , is a tool for international comparisons of [mortality](#) data, primarily for analysis at regional level and for the analysis of long-term results, such as retrospective studies and mortality projections. The current European shortlist, developed in 2012, covers 86 [causes of death](#) (COD) under 17 different categories. It is based on the 3-digit level codes of the 10th revision of the [International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems \(ICD\)](#) of the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) . It is mapped to codes from previous versions of ICD, ICD-9 and ICD-8, which allows for the comparison of mortality data with previous versions of ICD, including historical comparisons and the analysis of long-term results such as retrospective studies.

The shortlist includes the causes of death most relevant for the [EU](#) and policy makers. The basis on which the causes were selected for this list were:

- of relevance with respect to EU mortality patterns,
- of relevance of national and sub-national health programmes,
- of relevance for disaggregation by regional (NUTS2) level,
- of special importance to mortality trends and projections,
- subject of 'frequently asked questions'.

The shortlist does not include codes for COVID-19; codes for COVID-19 were introduced by WHO as emergency codes and implemented by Eurostat as of reference year 2020 in collection and dissemination of data.

Related concepts

- [Cause of death](#)
- [International classification of diseases \(ICD\)](#)

Statistical data

- [Causes of death statistics](#)

Source

- [Eurostat](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)