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Annual mortality rate

Fabian Hamilton MP (Labour)

Fabian Hamilton MP (Leeds North East): To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the annual mortality rate from (a) cancer and (b) heart attacks was for each year since 1995. (40872)

NICK HURD

I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Fabian Hamilton Esq, MP
House of Commons
London
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February 2011

Dear Mr Hamilton,

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the annual mortality rate from (a) cancer and (b) heart attacks was for each year since 1995. (40872)

The table attached provides age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, where the underlying cause of death was (a) cancer and (b) heart attacks, in England and Wales, for 1995 to 2009 (the latest year available).

In England and Wales, causes of death are coded using the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 had a significant effect on mortality rates for some diseases, causing a discontinuity in mortality trends for these causes of death. However ONS practice is not to adjust the historical numbers of deaths shown in PQ answers. More information on this issue can be found at: www.statistics.gov.uk/icd10mortality.

For all cancers (ICD-10 codes C00-C97) the introduction of ICD-10 caused an increase of 2.5% for males and 2.2% for females. An article specifically examining the changes for cancer trends was published in *Health Statistics Quarterly* 23¹. This article also presents comparability ratios (the ratio of the number of deaths coded to a cause in ICD-10 to the number coded to the equivalent cause in ICD-9) for the most common cancer sites. A copy of this report can be downloaded at: www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=6725

For acute myocardial infarction (heart attacks) (ICD-10 codes I21-I22) the introduction of ICD-10 caused a decrease of 6.3% for males and 7.4% for females. An article specifically examining the changes for circulatory disease trends was published in *Health Statistics Quarterly* 22². This article also presents comparability ratios (the ratio of the number of deaths coded to a cause in ICD-10 to the number coded to the equivalent cause in ICD-9) for specific types of circulatory disease. A copy of this report can be downloaded at: www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=15342

¹ Brock A, Griffiths C, and Rooney C (2004) 'The effect of the introduction of ICD-10 on cancer mortality trends in England and Wales.' *Health Statistics Quarterly* 23, 7-17

² Griffiths C, Brock A and Rooney C (2004) 'The effect of the introduction of ICD-10 on trends in mortality from circulatory disease in England and Wales.' *Health Statistics Quarterly* 22, 14-20

The number of deaths registered in England and Wales each year by sex, age and cause are published annually on the National Statistics website at:
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15096>

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Penneck
Director General for ONS

Table 1. Age-standardised mortality rates¹ from (a) cancer and (b) heart attack,² in England and Wales,³ 1995-2009⁴

Year	Rate per 100,000 population	
	(a) Cancer	(b) Heart attack
1995	204	98
1996	202	92
1997	196	84
1998	196	79
1999	190	72
2000	187	65
2001	189	59
2002	188	57
2003	184	53
2004	180	47
2005	178	43
2006	177	39
2007	175	36
2008	173	33
2009	170	30

¹ Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

² Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 140-209 (malignant neoplasms) and 410 (acute myocardial infarction) for the years 1995-2000; and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00-C97 (malignant neoplasms) and I21-I22 (acute and subsequent myocardial infarction) for 2001 onwards. Deaths were selected where these conditions were the underlying cause of death. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from these causes before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.

³ Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non residents.

⁴ Data are for deaths registered in each calendar year.