

Table 21 - Demographic Yearbook 2001

Table 21 presents deaths by month of occurrence for as many years as possible between 1985 and 2000.

Description of variables: Death is defined as the permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after live birth has taken place (post-natal cessation of vital functions without capability of resuscitation).¹

Month of death is the calendar month when death occurred, rather than the month when the event was registered.

Statistics on the number of deaths are obtained from civil registers unless otherwise noted.

Reliability of data: Each country or area has been asked to indicate the estimated completeness of the deaths recorded in its civil register. These national assessments are indicated by the quality codes C and U that appear in the first column of this table.

C indicates that the data are estimated to be virtually complete, that is, representing at least 90 per cent of the deaths occurring each year, while U indicates that data are estimated to be incomplete, that is, representing less than 90 per cent of the deaths occurring each year. The code (...) indicates that no information was provided regarding completeness. The code (I) indicates that the source of data is not a civil register, but still reliable.

Data from civil registers which are reported as incomplete or of unknown completeness (code U or ...) are considered unreliable. They appear in italics in this table.

These quality codes apply only to data from civil registers. If a series of data for a country or area contains both data from a civil register and estimated data from, for example, a sample survey, then the code applies only to the registered data. For more information about the quality of vital statistics data in general, and the information available on the basis of the completeness estimates in particular, see section 4.2 of the Technical Notes.

Limitations: Statistics on deaths by month are subject to the same qualifications as have been set forth for vital statistics in general and death statistics in particular as discussed in section 4 of the Technical Notes.

The reliability of the data is an important factor in considering the limitations. In addition, some deaths are tabulated by date of registration and not by date of occurrence; these have been indicated by a plus sign (+). Whenever the lag between the date of occurrence and date of registration is prolonged and, therefore, a large proportion of the death registrations are delayed, death statistics for any given year may be seriously affected.

As a rule, however, delays in the registration of deaths are less common and shorter than in the registration of live births.

International comparability in mortality statistics may also be affected by the exclusion of deaths of infants who were born alive but died before the registration of the birth or within the first 24 hours of life. Statistics of this type are footnoted.

Coverage: Deaths are shown for 129 countries or areas.

Earlier data: Deaths by month have been shown in previous issues of the Demographic Yearbook featuring mortality as the special topic. Data included in this table update the series covering the period of years as follows:

Issue	Years Covered
1985	1976-1984
1980	1971-1979
1974	1965-1973
1967	1962-1966
1951	1946-1950

¹*Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 2*, United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.XVII.10, United Nations, New York, 2001.