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WHO RELEASES GLOBAL CAUSES OF DEATH 2000-2019

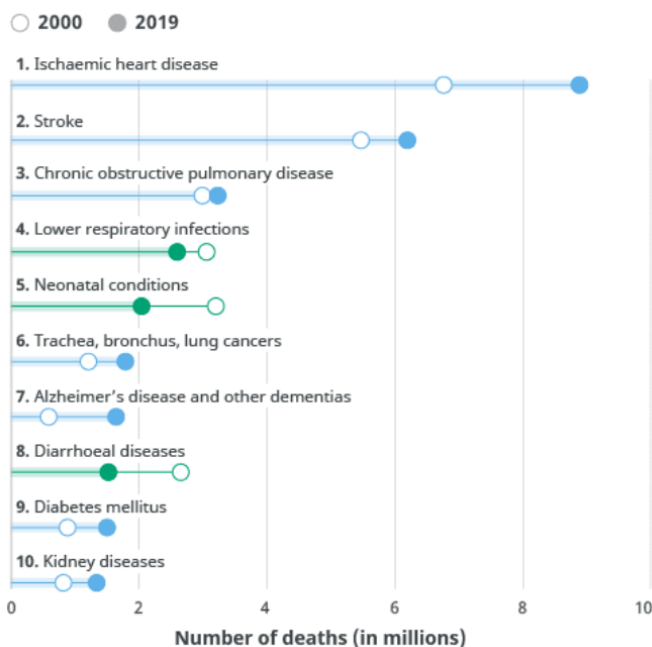
The World Health Organisation (WHO) has released the leading causes of death globally 2000-2019. While there has been some good news (deaths from HIV and AIDS are no longer in the top ten), there are also figures which should make the world community reflect on their response to the pandemic with 1.5 million deaths globally to date.

The WHO consider it 'good news' that only 2 million newborns and young children died in 2019, 1.2 million fewer than in 2000. Of course this is good news but not when you consider that the majority of newborn and infant mortality is preventable.

The WHO data also reports on global deaths by income group which makes very interesting reading.

<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/the-top-10-causes-of-death>.

Leading causes of death globally



The top global causes of death, in order of total number of lives lost, are associated with three broad topics: cardiovascular disease (ischaemic heart disease, stroke), respiratory disease (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lower respiratory infections) and neonatal conditions – which include birth asphyxia and birth trauma, neonatal sepsis and infections, and preterm birth complications.

At a global level, 7 of the 10 leading causes of deaths in 2019 were non-communicable diseases. All non-communicable diseases together accounted for 74% of deaths globally in 2019.

The leading cause of death globally is ischaemic heart disease, responsible for 16% of the world's total deaths. Since 2000, the largest increase in deaths has been for this disease, rising by more than 2 million to 8.9 million deaths in 2019. Stroke and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease are the 2nd and 3rd leading causes of death, responsible for approximately 11% and 6% of total deaths respectively.

Lower respiratory infections remained the world's most deadly communicable disease, ranked as the 4th leading cause of death. However, the number of deaths has gone down substantially: in 2019 it claimed 2.6 million lives, 460 000 fewer than in 2000.

Neonatal conditions are ranked 5th. However, deaths from neonatal conditions are one of the categories for which the global decrease in deaths in absolute numbers over the past two decades has been the greatest: these conditions killed 2 million newborns and young children in 2019, 1.2 million fewer than in 2000.

Deaths from non-communicable diseases are on the rise. Trachea, bronchus and lung cancers deaths have risen from 1.2 million to 1.8 million and are now ranked 6th among leading causes of death.

In 2019, Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia ranked as the 7th leading cause of death. Women are disproportionately affected. Globally, 65% of deaths from Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia are women.

One of the largest declines in the number of deaths is from diarrhoeal diseases (now the 8th leading global cause of death), with global deaths falling from 2.6 million in 2000 to 1.5 million in 2019.

Diabetes has entered the top 10 causes of death, following a significant percentage increase of 70% since 2000.

Kidney diseases have risen from the world's 13th leading cause of death to the 10th. Mortality has increased from 813 000 in 2000 to 1.3 million in 2019.

The WHO will consider the impact of COVID-19 on global deaths in a follow-up report.