# Causes of Death Statistics in 2019

In 2019, there were 295,110 deaths. The crude death rate stood at 574.8 per 100,000 population.

○ In 2019, there were 295,110 deaths, dropping by 3,710 deaths (-1.2%) from 2018.

○ The crude death rate (the number of deaths per 100,000 population) was 574.8, falling by 7.6 (-1.3%) from 2018.

○ In 2019, the number of deaths and the crude death rate showed a slight year-on-year decrease after recording an increase consecutively for the 2014 - 2018 period.

○ In 2019, the deaths of people aged 80 or more occupied 47.0% of the total deaths, up 14.8%p compared to a decade ago.

<Number of deaths and crude death rate (1983-2019)>

<Share of deaths by age group>

| | 0 ~ 39 | 40 ~ 59 | 60 ~ 79 | 80 or more |
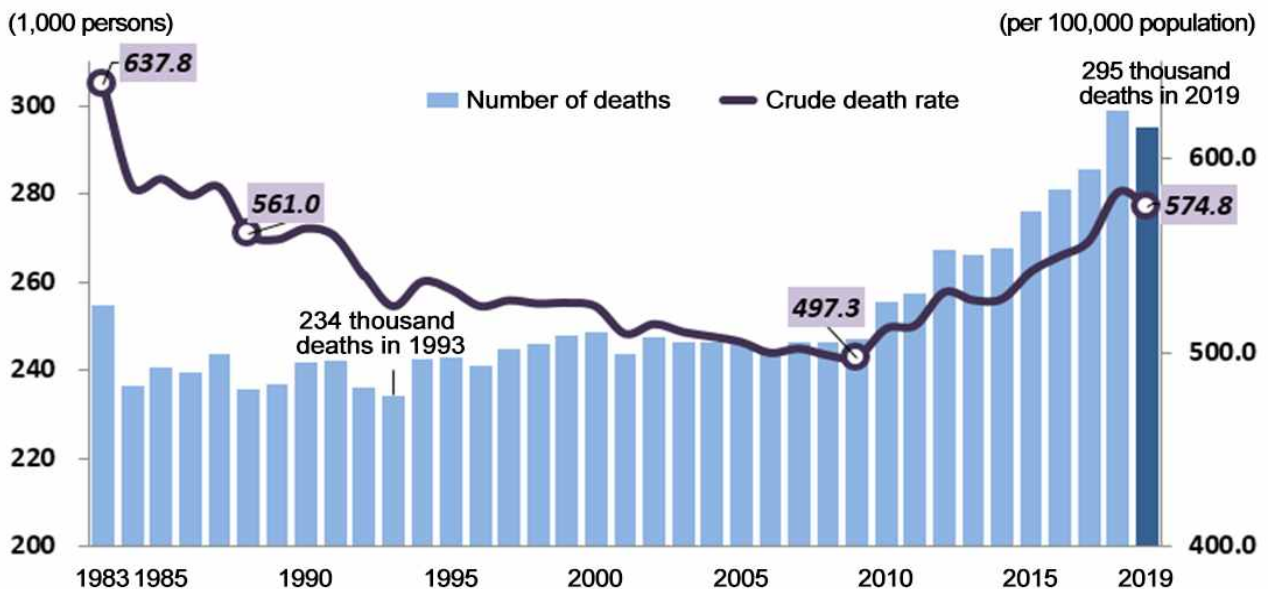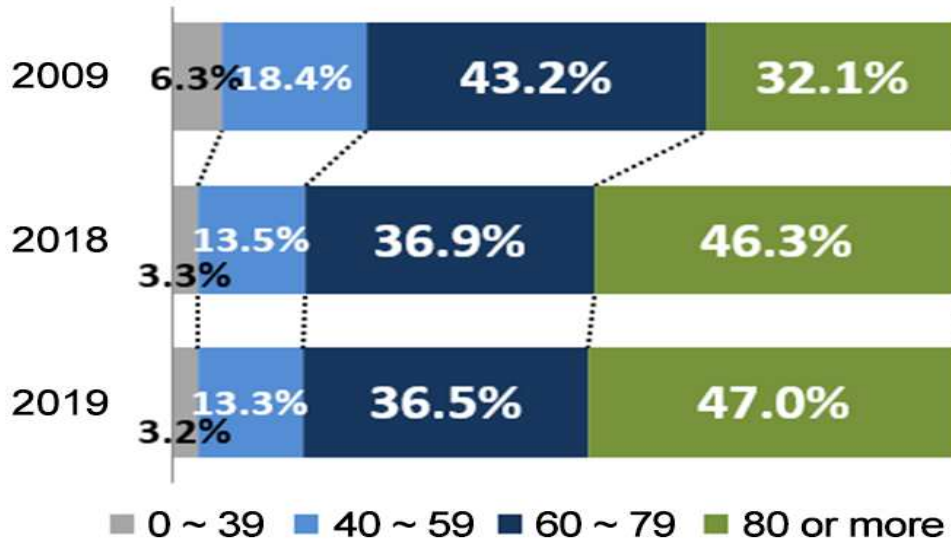
3 leading causes of death were cancer, heart diseases and pneumonia. These 3 causes of death occupied 45.9% of the total deaths.

○ 10 leading causes of death were, in ranking order: malignant neoplasms (cancer); heart diseases; pneumonia; cerebrovascular diseases; intentional self-harm (suicide); diabetes mellitus; Alzheimer's disease; liver diseases; chronic lower respiratory diseases; and hypertensive diseases.

- The rank of Alzheimer's disease jumped from 9th in 2018 to 7th in 2019.

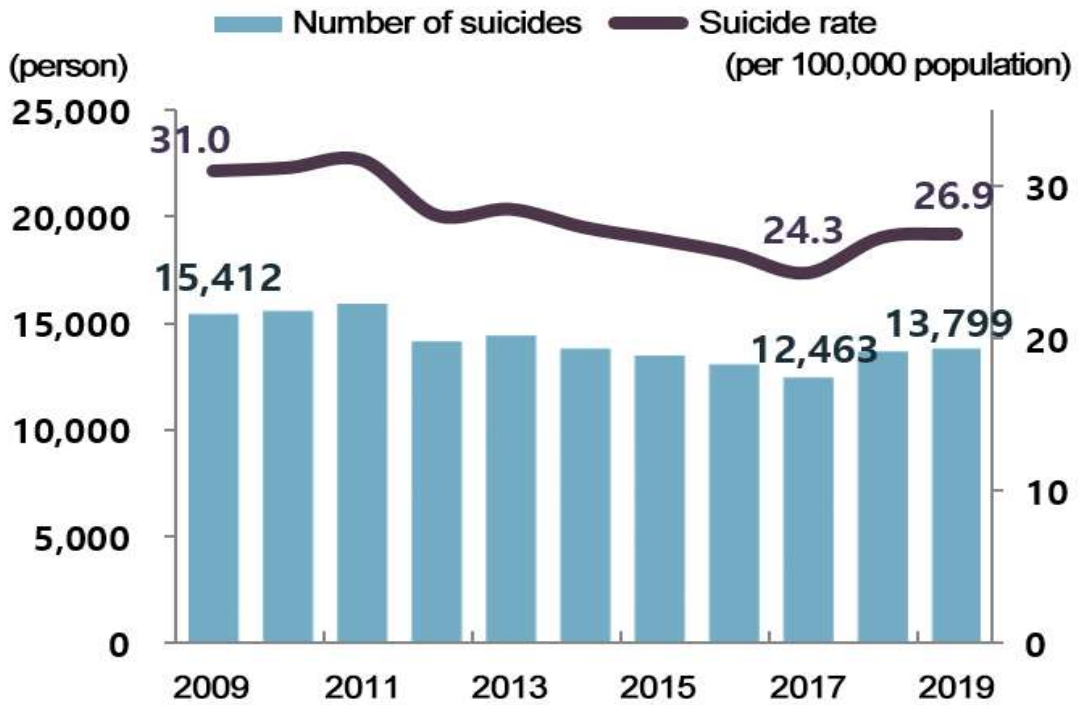<Leading causes of death>

(Unit: per 100,000 population)

Rank	Causes of death	Death rate	Compared to 2018
1	Malignant neoplasms (cancer)	158.2	-
2	Heart diseases	60.4	-
3	Pneumonia	45.1	-
4	Cerebrovascular diseases	42.0	-
5	Intentional self-harm (suicide)	26.9	-
6	Diabetes mellitus	15.8	-
7	Alzheimer's disease	13.1	⬆(+2)
8	Liver diseases	12.7	⬇(-1)
9	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	12.0	⬇(-1)
10	Hypertensive diseases	11.0	-

(per 100,000 population)

①Cancer 158.2
②Heart diseases 60.4
③Pneumonia 45.1
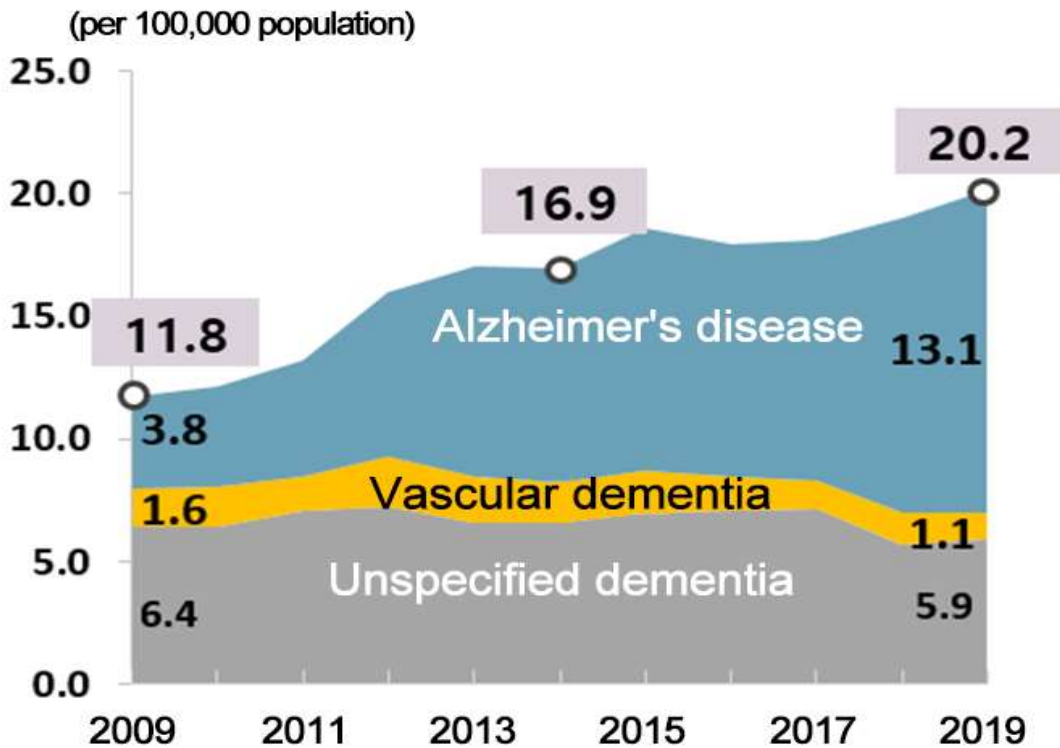④Cerebrovascular diseases 42.0
⑤Suicide 26.9
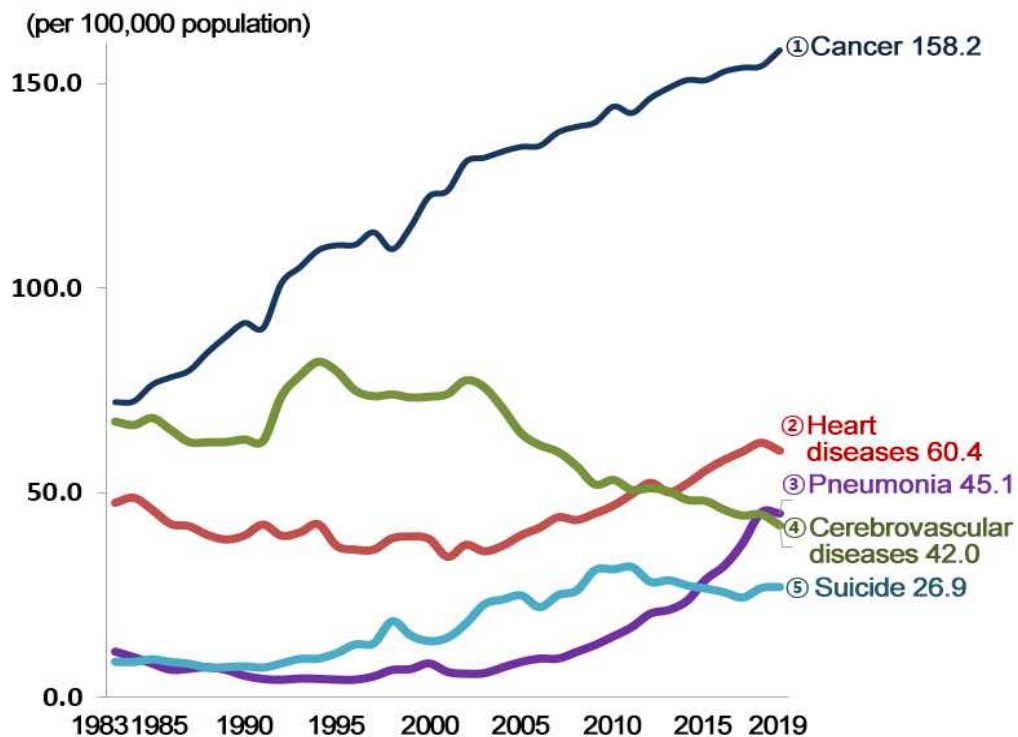
The death rate for Alzheimer's disease and lung cancer showed a year-on-year increase. Whereas, the death rate for respiratory tuberculosis and transport accidents showed a year-on-year decrease.

○ In 2019, deaths from cancer occupied 27.5% of the total deaths. The death rate for cancer stood at 158.2 in 2019, rising by 2.5% from 2018.

 - The deaths from lung cancer recorded the highest figure at 36.2 per 100,000 population, which was followed by liver cancer (20.6), colon cancer (17.5), stomach cancer (14.9) and pancreatic cancer (12.5).

○ The death rate for intentional self-harm stood at 26.9, up 0.2 (0.9%) from 2018.

○ The infant mortality rate marked 2.7 deaths per 1,000 live births, which went down by 4.7% from 2018.

○ The dementia-related death rate recorded 20.2 deaths in 2019. As for dementia-related causes, the death rate of females was 2.3 times higher than that of males.

<Number of suicides and suicide rate (2009-2019)>

Legend: Number of suicides (bar) — Suicide rate (line)

(person) — left axis
(per 100,000 population) — right axis

Left axis: 0, 5,000, 10,000, 15,000, 20,000, 25,000

Suicide rate values: 31.0, 26.9, 24.3

Number of suicides values: 15,412, 12,463, 13,799

Right axis: 0, 10, 20, 30

X-axis: 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019

<Dementia-related death rates (2009-2019)>

(per 100,000 population)

Y-axis: 0.0, 5.0, 10.0, 15.0, 20.0, 25.0

Total values: 11.8, 16.9, 20.2

Alzheimer's disease: 3.8 → 13.1
Vascular dementia: 1.6 → 1.1
Unspecified dementia: 6.4 → 5.9

X-axis: 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019

Seoul recorded the lowest figure of the age-standardized death rate at 263.6 deaths per 100,000 standard population, which was followed by Sejong (285.3).

○ The age-standardized death rate, which reflects the difference in age distribution among regions, recorded 305.4 in 2019, falling by 17.2 from 2018.

○ As for age-standardized death rates by cause of death, Busan (98.4) marked the highest age-standardized death rate for cancer. Busan (36.1) marked the highest age-standardized death rate for heart diseases. Ulsan (30.0) marked the highest age-standardized death rate for cerebrovascular diseases. Chungbuk (26.5) marked the highest age-standardized death rate for pneumonia. Jeonnam (10.5) marked the highest age-standardized death rate for transport accidents. Chungnam (29.1) marked the highest age-standardized death rate for intentional self-harm (suicide).

<Age-standardized death rate by province and causes of death (2019)>

(per 100,000 standard population)