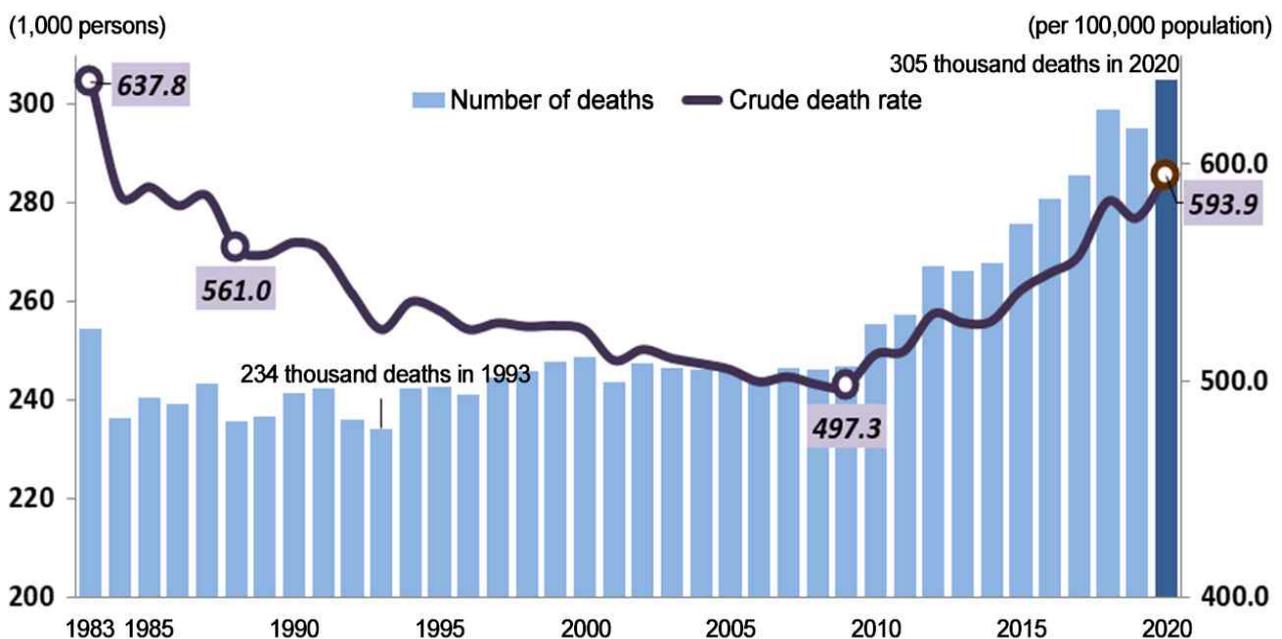# Causes of Death Statistics in 2020
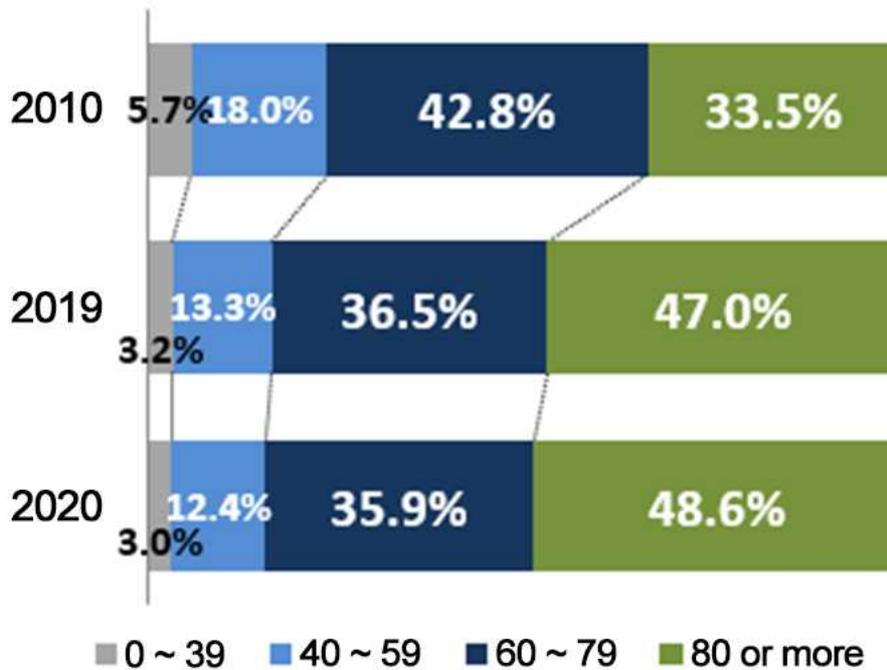
In 2020, there were 304,948 deaths, which recorded the highest figure after the first-time statistical production in 1983.

○ In 2020, there were 304,948 deaths, rising by 9,838 deaths (3.3%) from 2019.

○ The crude death rate (the number of deaths per 100,000 population) was 593.9 deaths in 2020, rising by 19.0 deaths (3.3%) from 2019.

 - After recording the lowest figure of 497.3 deaths in 2009, the crude death rate showed an increasing trend. While marking 585.2 deaths in 1984, the crude death rate recorded the highest figure in 2020.

○ In 2020, the deaths of people aged 80 or more occupied 48.6% of the total deaths, up 15.2%p compared to a decade ago.

○ The age-standardized death rate, which reflects the difference in age distribution among regions, recorded 300.0 deaths in 2020, falling by 5.4 deaths from 2019.

<Number of deaths and crude death rate (1983-2020)>

<Composition of deaths by age group>

	0~39	40~59	60~79	80 or more
2010	5.7%	18.0%	42.8%	33.5%
2019	3.2%	13.3%	36.5%	47.0%
2020	3.0%	12.4%	35.9%	48.6%

■ 0 ~ 39　■ 40 ~ 59　■ 60 ~ 79　■ 80 or more

Top 3 causes of death were cancer, heart diseases and pneumonia. These 3 causes of death occupied 44.9% of the total deaths.

○ Top 10 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; hypertensive diseases; and sepsis.

- In 2020, sepsis was included in the top 10 causes of death for the first time after the statistical compilation.

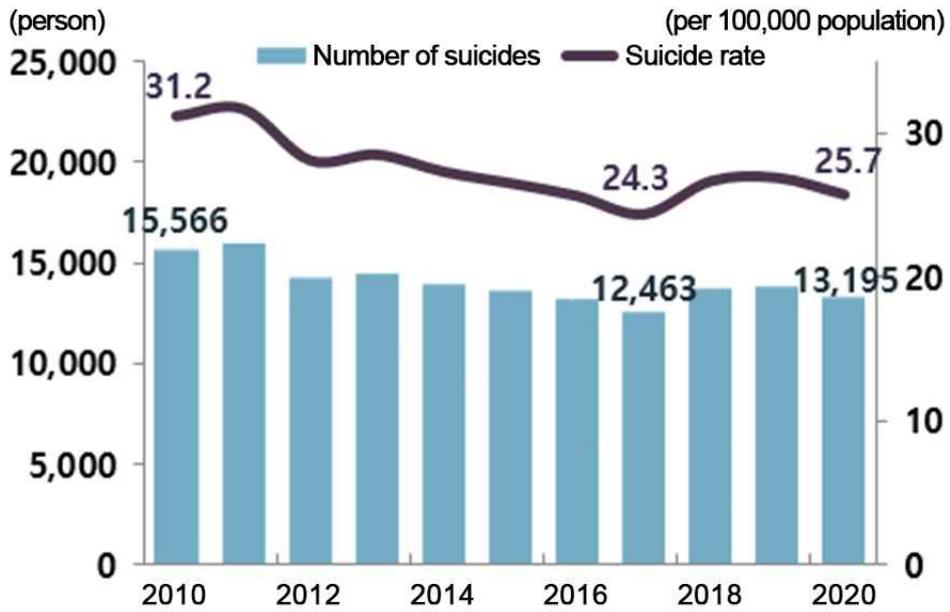<Leading causes of death>

(Unit: per 100,000 population)

Rank	Causes of death	Death rate	Compared to 2019
1	Malignant neoplasms (cancer)	160.1	-
2	Heart diseases	63.0	-
3	Pneumonia	43.3	-
4	Cerebrovascular diseases	42.6	-
5	Intentional self-harm (suicide)	25.7	-
6	Diabetes mellitus	16.5	-
7	Alzheimer's disease	14.7	-
8	Liver diseases	13.6	-
9	Hypertensive diseases	11.9	⬆(+1)
10	Sepsis	11.9	⬆(+1)

(per 100,000 population)

①Cancer 160.1
②Heart diseases 63.0
③Pneumonia 43.3
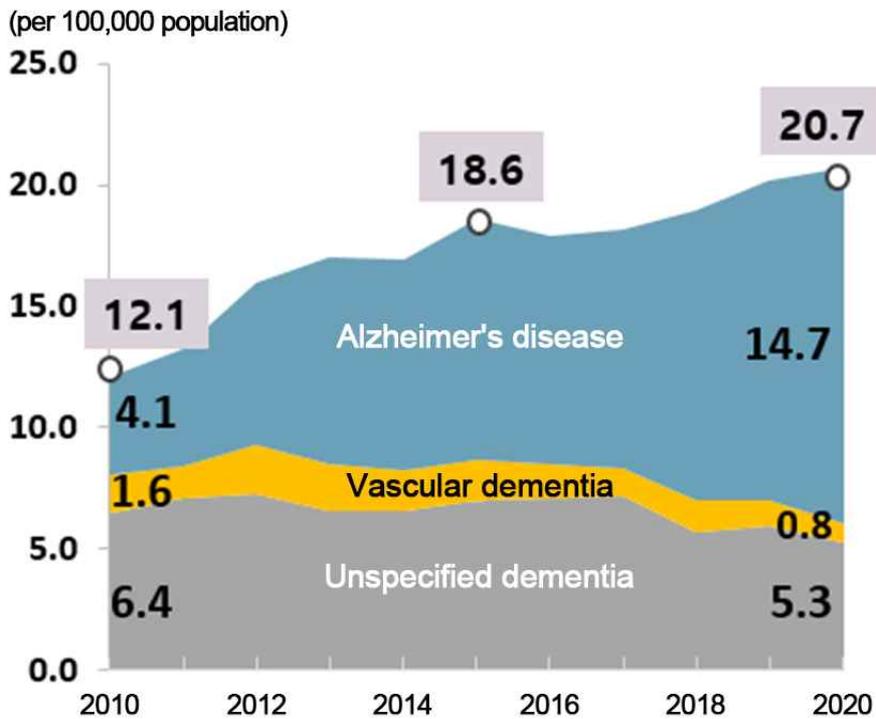④Cerebrovascular diseases 42.6
⑤Suicide 25.7
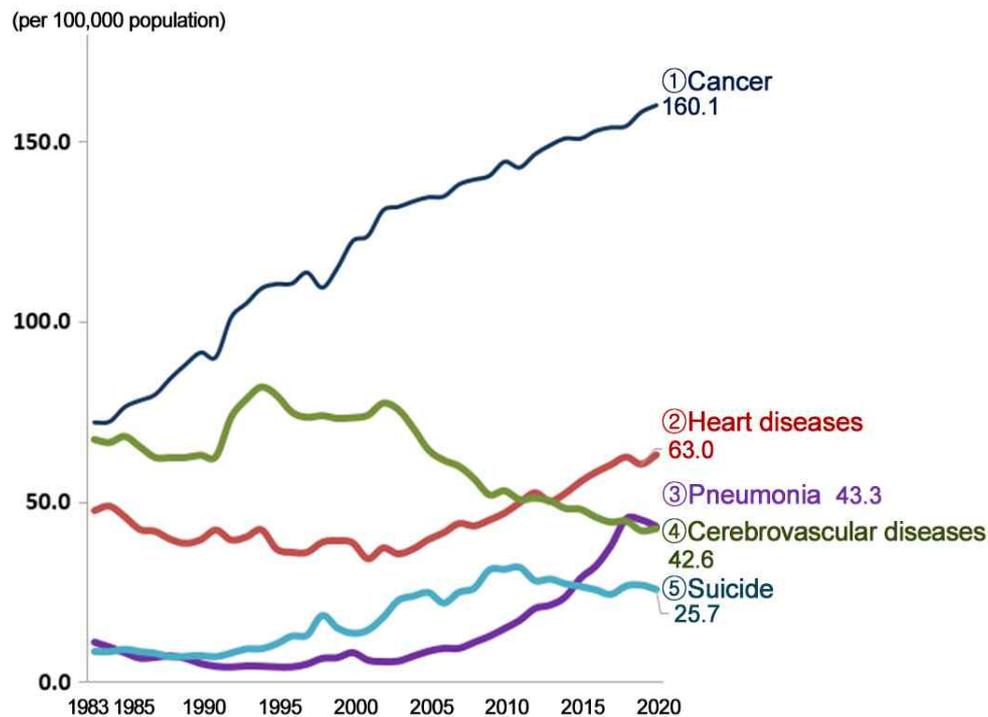
The death rates of sepsis and Alzheimer's disease showed a year-on-year increase. Whereas, the death rates of respiratory tuberculosis and chronic lower respiratory diseases showed a year-on-year decrease.

○ In 2020, deaths from cancer occupied 27.0% of the total deaths. The death rate of cancer stood at 160.1 deaths in 2020, rising by 1.2% from 2019.

  - The deaths from lung cancer recorded the highest figure at 36.4 deaths per 100,000 population, which was followed by liver cancer (20.6 deaths), colon cancer (17.4 deaths), stomach cancer (14.6 deaths) and pancreatic cancer (13.2 deaths).

○ The death rate of intentional self-harm stood at 25.7 deaths, falling by 1.2 deaths (-4.4%) from 2019.

○ The infant mortality rate marked 2.5 deaths per 1,000 live births, which went down by 8.9% from 2019.

○ The dementia-related death rate recorded 20.7 deaths in 2020. The dementia-related death rate of females was 2.2 times higher than that of males.

<Number of suicides and suicide rate (2010-2020)>

(person)　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　(per 100,000 population)

Legend: ▬ Number of suicides　━ Suicide rate

31.2　　　　　　　　　24.3　　　25.7

15,566　　　　　12,463　　　13,195

<Dementia-related death rate (2010-2020)>

(per 100,000 population)

20.7

18.6

12.1

4.1　　　Alzheimer's disease　　14.7

1.6　　　Vascular dementia　　0.8

6.4　　　Unspecified dementia　　5.3

Seoul recorded the lowest age-standardized death rate at 260.8 deaths per 100,000 standard population, which was followed by Sejong (274.8 deaths).

○ In 2020, Seoul (260.8 deaths) marked the lowest age-standardized death rate, which reflects the difference in age distribution among regions, which was followed by Sejong (274.8 deaths).

○ As for age-standardized death rates by cause of death, Busan (96.1 deaths) marked the highest age-standardized death rate of cancer. Busan (38.9 deaths) and Ulsan (38.9 deaths) marked the highest age-standardized death rate of heart diseases. Ulsan (25.2 deaths) marked the highest age-standardized death rate of cerebrovascular diseases. Gwangju (24.2 deaths) marked the highest age-standardized death rate of pneumonia. Jeonnam (10.7 deaths) marked the highest age-standardized death rate of transport accidents. Chungnam (27.9 deaths) marked the highest age-standardized death rate of intentional self-harm (suicide).

<Age-standardized death rate by province and causes of death (2020)>

(per 100,000 standard population)

Top	**Bottom**	

Cause	Top	Bottom
Malignant neoplasms (cancer)	Busan 96.1	Sejong 79.3
Heart diseases	Busan & Ulsan 38.9	Jeju 21.0
Cerebrovascular diseases	Ulsan 25.2	Jeju 15.6
Pneumonia	Gwangju 24.2	Ulsan 11.2
Transport accidents	Jeonnam 10.7	Seoul 2.6
Suicides	Chungnam 27.9	Sejong 18.3