

1.2% more deaths were registered in the first quarter of 2004 than during the same period last year

The main causes of death were circulatory system illnesses, followed by tumours

In the first quarter of 2004, 4,926 people died in the A.C. of the Basque Country, 1.2% more than during the same period of last year, according to EUSTAT data. By province, 588 people passed away in Álava, an increase of 6.3%, in Bizkaia the figure was 2,748 (1.6%) and in Gipuzkoa 1,590 (-1.2%).

Traditionally, the first quarter of the year is when there is the greatest number of deaths, with respiratory system illnesses accounting for the main increase. However, this year the greatest increase was seen in the number of deaths caused by circulatory system illnesses, with a rise of 14.1% in relation to the previous quarter. 1,599 died of these illnesses during this quarter, making this the main cause of death, accounting for a third of all deaths.

Tumours were the second most frequent cause, giving rise to 1,309 deaths (26.6%) and in third place were respiratory system illnesses, which, during these winter months, caused 542 deaths.

The cause of death was different according to sex, with tumours outnumbering circulatory system illnesses among men, while for women, the main cause was cardiovascular illness, followed by tumours. Respiratory system illness remained the third cause of death for both sexes.

Among the deaths to occur during the first quarter of 2004, 10 corresponded to children less than one year old, 8 boys and 2 girls.

The natural growth of the population in the first quarter of 2004 was negative, with a loss of 372 people. By Province, there was a negative balance in Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa, where the population diminished by 398 and 22 inhabitants respectively. In the case of Alava, as has become habitual, the number of births outnumbered that of deaths (+48).

Table 1. Deaths in the A.C. of Euskadi by sex, according to cause of death . Quarterly comparison.

	1st quarter 2004		Previous quarter (4th quarter 2003)		Same quarter of the previous year (1st quarter 2003)	
	N.	%	Nº	%	Nº	%
DEATHS	4.926		4.650		4.868	
Men	2.512	51,0	2.416	52,0	2.580	53,0
Women	2.414	49,0	2.234	48,0	2.288	47,0
CAUSE OF DEATH						
TOTAL	4.926		4.650		4.868	
Tumours	1.309	26,6	1.341	28,8	1.349	27,7
Circulatory system	1.599	32,5	1.402	30,2	1.587	32,6
Respiratory system	542	11,0	503	10,8	552	11,3
Digestive system	250	5,1	236	5,1	287	5,9
Accidents	150	3,0	182	3,9	166	3,4
Other diseases	1.076	21,8	986	21,2	927	19,0
MEN	2.512		2.416		2.580	
Tumours	831	33,1	868	35,9	875	33,9
Circulatory system	732	29,1	623	25,8	763	29,6
Respiratory system	298	11,9	266	11,0	301	11,7
Digestive system	126	5,0	144	6,0	162	6,3
Accidents	100	4,0	117	4,8	121	4,7
Other diseases	425	16,9	398	16,5	358	13,9
WOMEN	2.414		2.234		2.288	
Tumours	478	19,8	473	21,2	474	20,7
Circulatory system	867	35,9	779	34,9	824	36,0
Respiratory system	244	10,1	237	10,6	251	11,0
Digestive system	124	5,1	92	4,1	125	5,5
Accidents	50	2,1	65	2,9	45	2,0
Other diseases	651	27,0	588	26,3	569	24,9

Source: EUSTAT

For further information:

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