

22.6% more deaths were registered in the first quarter of 2005 than in the same period the previous year

The main cause of death was circulatory system diseases, followed by tumours

In the first quarter of 2005 6,058 persons died in the A.C. of the Basque Country, 22.6% more than in the same period the year before, according to EUSTAT data. By provinces, 736 persons died in Álava with a 25% increase, 3,367 in Bizkaia (22.5%) and 1,955 in Gipuzkoa (21.7%).

Traditionally the first quarter of the year is characterised as the month with the highest number of deaths, respiratory system diseases registering the highest increases in deaths. This year there has been a significant increase with regard to the same quarter in 2004, exactly 80%.

In addition, in the first quarter of 2005 there was a 17% increase in circulatory system diseases in relation to the same quarter the year before. 1,882 persons died of this cause, which makes it the main cause of death, as it affected almost a third of all deaths.

The second cause of death is tumours, which led to 1,436 deaths (23.7%) and in third place respiratory diseases, which over the winter months caused 981 deaths.

The cause of death varied according to sex, as among males tumours were more common than circulatory system diseases, while among women the main cause of death was cardiovascular diseases followed by tumours. Respiratory system diseases remained in third place as the cause of death for both sexes.

Among the deaths that occurred in the first quarter of 2005, 17 corresponded to children under one year of age, 11 males and 6 females.

Natural population growth in the first quarter of 2005 was clearly negative, with a population drop of 1,131 persons. The population of Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa fell by 719 and 350 inhabitants, respectively. In the case of Alava, and unlike the common trend, the number of deaths was higher than the number of births (-62).

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

	1st quarter 2005		Previous quarter (4th quarter 2004)		Same quarter of the previous year (1st quarter 2004)	
	N.	%	Nº	%	Nº	%
DEATHS	6.058		4.730		4.943	
Men	3.149	52,0	2.501	52,9	2.519	51,0
Women	2.909	48,0	2.229	47,1	2.424	49,0
CAUSE OF DEATH						
TOTAL	6.058		4.730		4.943	
Tumours	1.436	23,7	1.430	30,2	1.311	26,5
Circulatory system	1.882	31,1	1.420	30,0	1.604	32,4
Respiratory system	981	16,2	461	9,7	545	11,0
Digestive system	257	4,2	259	5,5	250	5,1
Accidents	174	2,9	162	3,4	151	3,1
Other diseases	1.328	21,9	998	21,1	1.082	21,9
MEN	3.149		2.501		2.519	
Tumours	948	30,1	902	36,1	833	33,1
Circulatory system	868	27,6	674	26,9	734	29,1
Respiratory system	541	17,2	253	10,1	299	11,9
Digestive system	143	4,5	136	5,4	126	5,0
Accidents	107	3,4	103	4,1	101	4,0
Other diseases	542	17,2	433	17,3	426	16,9
WOMEN	2.909		2.229		2.424	
Tumours	488	16,8	528	23,7	478	19,7
Circulatory system	1.014	34,9	746	33,5	870	35,9
Respiratory system	440	15,1	208	9,3	246	10,1
Digestive system	114	3,9	123	5,5	124	5,1
Accidents	67	2,3	59	2,6	50	2,1
Other diseases	786	27,0	565	25,3	656	27,1

Source: EUSTAT

For further information:

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