

19.4% fewer deaths were registered in the first quarter of 2006

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

4,906 persons died in the A.C. of the Basque Country in the first quarter of 2006, 19.4% fewer than the same period the year before, according to EUSTAT data. By provinces, 594 persons died in Álava with a 19.3% decrease, 2,733 in Bizkaia (-18.8%) and 1,579 en Gipuzkoa (-20.5%).

Traditionally, the first quarter of the year is characterised by having the highest number of deaths, respiratory system diseases registering the highest increases in the number of deaths. This year, however, there has been a substantial decrease with regard to the same quarter in 2005, 44.7% to be precise.

In addition, circulatory system diseases decreased by 18.9% in the first quarter of 2006 with regard to the same quarter the year before. 1,536 persons died from this cause, which makes it the main cause, as it affected almost a third of all deaths.

The second cause of death was tumours, which led to 1,368 deaths (27.9%) and in third place were respiratory diseases, which over the winter months caused 543 deaths (11.1%).

The cause of death was different according to sex, as between males tumours were more common than circulatory system diseases, while among women the main cause was cardiovascular diseases and in second place tumours. Respiratory system diseases are the third cause of death for both sexes.

Among the deaths that took place in the third quarter of 2006, 13 corresponded to under one year olds, 5 boys and 8 girls.

The natural population growth in the first quarter of 2006 was negative, with a loss of 62 persons. By Provinces there were positive balances in Alava and Gipuzkoa, which increased their populations by 108 and 92 inhabitants, respectively. In the case of Bizkaia, however, the number of deaths was higher than that of births (-262).

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

	1st quarter 2006		Previous quarter (4th quarter 2005)		Same quarter of the previous year (1st quarter 2005)	
	N.	%	N.	%	N.	%
DEATHS	4.906	100,0	4.486	100,0	6.088	100,0
Men	2.567	52,3	2.387	53,2	3.168	52,0
Women	2.339	47,7	2.099	46,8	2.920	48,0
CAUSE OF DEATH						
TOTAL	4.906		4.486		6.088	
Tumours	1.368	27,9	1.326	29,6	1.439	23,6
Circulatory system	1.536	31,3	1.391	31,0	1.894	31,1
Respiratory system	543	11,1	410	9,1	982	16,1
Digestive system	241	4,9	235	5,2	259	4,3
Accidents	144	2,9	156	3,5	178	2,9
Other diseases	1.074	21,9	968	21,6	1.336	21,9
MEN	2.567		2.387		3.168	
Tumours	895	34,9	851	35,7	950	30,0
Circulatory system	727	28,3	647	27,1	875	27,6
Respiratory system	307	12,0	243	10,2	542	17,1
Digestive system	143	5,6	111	4,7	144	4,5
Accidents	103	4,0	111	4,7	110	3,5
Other diseases	392	15,3	424	17,8	547	17,3
WOMEN	2.339		2.099		2.920	
Tumours	473	20,2	475	22,6	489	16,7
Circulatory system	809	34,6	744	35,4	1.019	34,9
Respiratory system	236	10,1	167	8,0	440	15,1
Digestive system	98	4,2	124	5,9	115	3,9
Accidents	41	1,8	45	2,1	68	2,3
Other diseases	682	29,2	544	25,9	789	27,0

Source: EUSTAT

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