

Causes of Death

Definition

This indicator measures the number of deaths per 100,000 inhabitants attributed to specific causes, providing insight into the most severe health consequences potentially associated with energy poverty conditions.

Examples

A person dying from heat stroke may have had limited or no access to cooling equipment during a heat wave, illustrating how inadequate thermal conditions linked to energy poverty can contribute to mortality without being formally identified as a cause of death.

A household burning firewood in an old and inefficient fireplace, a situation potentially associated with energy poverty, may be exposed to severely degraded indoor air quality, increasing the risk of death from respiratory conditions.

Additional insights in the EPAH report: **“Energy Poverty National Indicators: Uncovering New Possibilities for Expanded Knowledge”**

Numbers

In 2020, respiratory and circulatory diseases together accounted for 38% of all causes of death among EU inhabitants, representing the two categories most directly linked to energy poverty conditions through thermal exposure.

Limits

Causes of death are determined by medical diagnosis, which may not capture the full diversity of contributing factors — including energy poverty conditions — that underlie mortality.

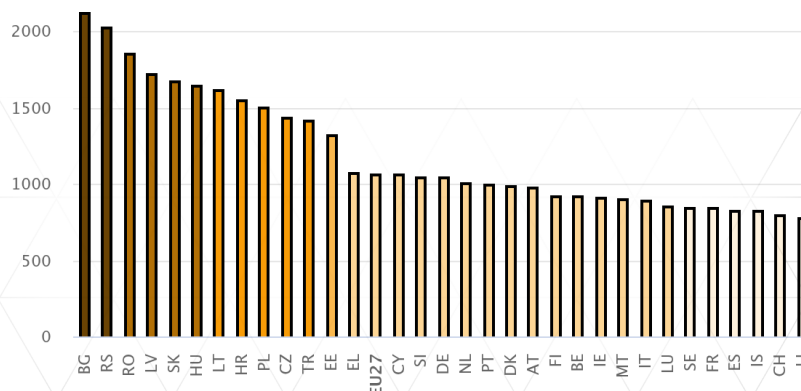
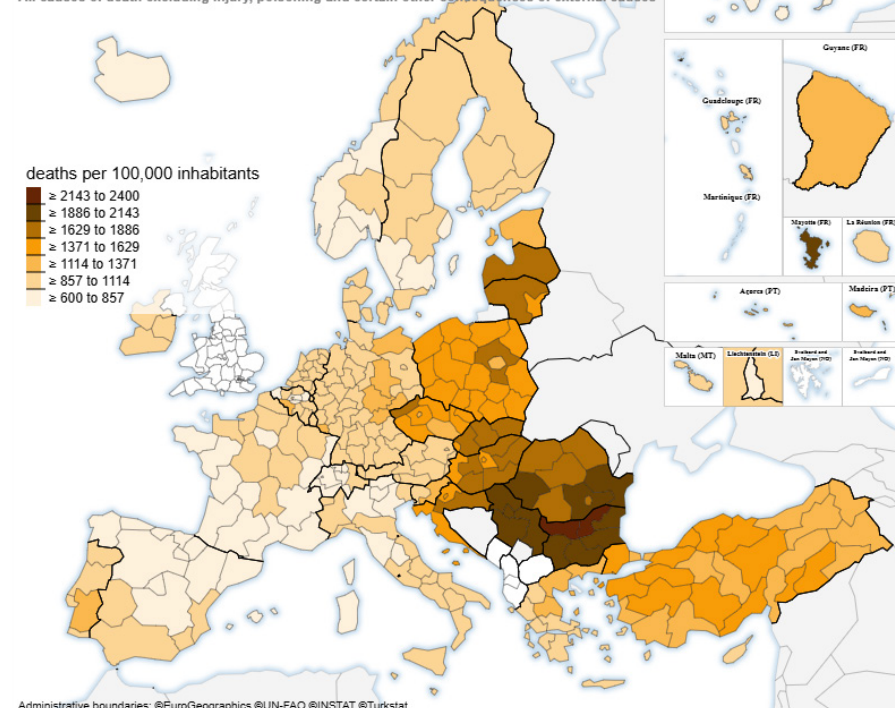
This indicator does not distinguish between immediate and underlying causes of death, preventing identification of energy poverty as a contributing factor even when relevant.

Variations in medical diagnosis practices across countries and regions may result in unequal reporting, limiting cross-country comparability.

It cannot establish a direct causal link with energy poverty without cross-analysis with complementary determinants such as income, energy affordability, and thermal comfort.

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All causes of death excluding injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes



Unit: Deaths/100k inhabitants | Source: EUROSTAT | Data reporting period: 2011-2021

Administrative boundaries: ©EuroGeographics ©UN-FAO ©INSTAT ©Turkstat