

7 Summary

This report presents the mortality trends of persons aged 30 to 90 during the period 1986 to 2003. Apart from sex and age, mortality is also shown by civil status, educational level and type of housing. The basis of the report is taken from Statistics Sweden's Population Register and the registers on education and real estate assessment. The report is descriptive. The majority of the report is limited to persons born in Sweden, due to gaps in the registers, among other things with regard to details on education for foreign-born persons.

A general decrease in mortality for persons of all ages between 30 and 90 years can be noted during the period 1986 to 2003. Among younger people and the elderly, the average annual decrease in mortality has been the same size for both men and women. Mortality has fallen quickly for younger people while the decrease has been slower for the elderly. For those aged between 45 and 75, mortality has decreased at a much quicker rate for men than for women.

Mortality by civil status

Married people have a lower mortality rate than people with another civil status. The differences between married people and other groups have grown larger since 1986. Among those aged over 50, mortality has decreased at a faster pace among married people than among people in other groups and, in general, the decrease in mortality for those aged over 50 has been slower for women than for men. Unmarried people have shown the slowest decrease in mortality.

Mortality by education

When calculating mortality by education, information from the Education Register has been used. Even if nearly everyone reaches the highest received education before they are 30, the register itself has been supplemented and corrected, primarily by the population census in 1990. Because of this, it is not appropriate to look at mortality trends on a very detailed level. We have chosen to limit the study to three levels of education: compulsory education, upper secondary education and post-secondary education.

A general pattern that can be seen is that mortality is lowest among people with post-secondary education and highest for those with only compulsory education. The relative differences in the rate of mortality among the three educational groups decrease as age

increases. Growing differences in mortality between educational groups during the period 1986 to 2003 can be noted here as well. Mortality has fallen the quickest among people with post-secondary education and the slowest for those with compulsory education only. For certain age groups, mortality has even increased for those with compulsory education only. This can be related to the fact that the group has greatly decreased in number and is more dominated by people with worse health. For those aged 50, for example, the share of women with compulsory education only has reduced from 51 per cent in 1985 to only 15 per cent in 2002. A calculation of the life expectancy of people aged 30 indicates considerable differences between the three educational groups. In 2003, the life expectancy for people aged 30 who have post-secondary education was 52 years for men and 56 years for women. The life expectancy for persons aged 30 with compulsory education only was between 4 and 5 years shorter.

Mortality by housing

When calculating mortality by type of housing for the period 1998 to 2003, a division into three groups has been made: residents in rented apartments, residents in owner-occupied apartments and residents in single dwelling houses. The significance of housing on a person's health/mortality is multi-faceted. Generally, people have a "housing career" related to their age as well as their financial resources. Health can also affect the housing situation. Housing really requires a deeper analysis than can be provided in this descriptive overview.

Across the whole population aged 30 to 90, regardless of any differences in where in the country they live, mortality is lowest among residents of single dwelling houses and highest for residents of rented apartments. The relative differences in mortality are reduced as people get older. The differences in mortality have also increased during the period here. For residents of rented apartments, the decrease in mortality has been slow and, for women, has even remained unchanged since 1998. For residents of single dwelling houses, mortality has decreased the fastest, particularly for men.

Among those aged 30 to 90, residents of single dwelling houses dominate significantly over the other two groups. Of those aged 50, around 70 per cent live in single dwelling houses compared to around 20 per cent in rented apartments and 10 to 15 per cent in owner-occupied apartments.

Life expectancy for immigrants

Life expectancy at age 20 in different groups of immigrants living in Sweden is fairly close to the life expectancy for people born in Sweden. A comparison of life expectancy for immigrants living in Sweden and life expectancy in their country of origin can be quite large, especially for non-European countries.

List of terms

antal	number
civilstånd	civil status
döda	deaths
dödlighet	mortality
dödstal	mortality rate
eftergymnasial utbildning	post-secondary education
flerfamiljshus – bostadsrätt	owner-occupied apartment
flerfamiljshus – hyresrätt	rented apartment
födda	born
födelseland	country of birth
förgymnasial utbildning	compulsory education
förändring	change
genomsnittlig	average
gift	married
gymnasial utbildning	upper secondary education
invandrare	immigrants
kvinnor	women
kön	sex
män	men
ogift	single
risktid	exposure time
småhus	single dwelling house
skild	divorced
typ av boende	type of housing
utbildning	education
ålder	age
år	year
årlig	yearly
återstående medellivslängd	life expectancy
änka	widow
änkling	widower
överdödlighet	excess mortality