



**stats sa**

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# Mortality and causes of death in South Africa, Trends data 1997–2019

## Metadata

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The metadata file contains the following information for each variable:

- **Descriptive name of variables:**  
A brief description of the variable name.
- **Variable name:**  
The name of the variable (provided in brackets) and as heading for the value labels.
- **Type and position of the variable:**  
The type and position of a variable within a record is recorded in the format *type (@xxx L)*. The *type* specifies if the variable is a numeric or a character (string/alphanumeric variables). *@xxx* indicates the *position* (column) at which the variable starts. *L* indicates the length of the field.
- **Note to users:**  
The note is provided for each variable to provide additional information for further clarity on questions and definitions of concepts.

Other relevant information is available on the Statistics South Africa website ([www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za)) or from User Information Services:

- Statistical release on Mortality and causes of death in South Africa, 1997–2003: Findings from death notification
- Statistical release on Mortality and causes of death in South Africa, 2004: Findings from death notification
- Statistical release on Mortality and causes of death in South Africa, 2005: Findings from death notification
- Statistical release on Mortality and causes of death in South Africa, 2006: Findings from death notification
- Statistical release on Mortality and causes of death in South Africa, 2007: Findings from death notification
- Statistical release on Mortality and causes of death in South Africa, 2008: Findings from death notification
- Statistical release on Mortality and causes of death in South Africa, 2009: Findings from death notification
- Statistical release on Mortality and causes of death in South Africa, 2010: Findings from death notification
- Statistical release on Mortality and causes of death in South Africa, 2011: Findings from death notification
- Statistical release on Mortality and causes of death in South Africa, 2012: Findings from death notification
- Statistical release on Mortality and causes of death in South Africa, 2013: Findings from death notification
- Statistical release on Mortality and causes of death in South Africa, 2014: Findings from death notification
- Statistical release on Mortality and causes of death in South Africa, 2015: Findings from death notification
- Statistical release on Mortality and causes of death in South Africa, 2016: Findings from death notification

- Statistical release on Mortality and causes of death in South Africa, 2017: Findings from death notification
- Statistical release on Mortality and causes of death in South Africa, 2018: Findings from death notification
- Statistical release on Mortality and causes of death in South Africa, 2019: Findings from death notification

## Methodology

### 1. System design

The registration of deaths is governed by the Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1992 (Act No. 51 of 1992 as amended), and is administered by the Department of Home Affairs using Forms BI-1663 and DHA-1663 (Notification/Register of death/stillbirth). After a death is registered, the Department of Home Affairs issues a death certificate and, where applicable, updates the population register. The forms are then collected by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) for processing.

The processing of death notification forms includes sorting, pasting, pre-coding, coding and capturing. The process of sorting involves sorting the forms by year of death, month, day and finally by surname of the deceased in alphabetical order. The main purpose of sorting is to identify and remove duplicates. During data processing, unique identifiers (serial numbers) are developed for each form for the purpose of tracking the forms through the different processing phases. Because of the complexity of the coding of diseases, Stats SA decided that all demographic and socio-economic variables on the forms, except the actual causes of death, should be pre-coded to expedite the process. Thereafter, the causes of death are manually coded.

Coding the information on causes of death followed a two-step process entailing initial coding and verification by more experienced coders. The causes of death data presented were coded by procedures described in the Stats SA manual guidelines for coders using ICD-10. The ICD-10 (10<sup>th</sup> revision of the International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems) coding provides the basic guidance used in virtually all countries to code and classify causes of death data. It provides information on coding in terms of disease, injury and poisoning categories. It also provides the rules for selecting the underlying cause of death from the several diagnoses that may be reported on the death certificate, as well as definitions, tabulation lists, guidelines for the death notification form, and regulations on the use of the classification.

After all processes have been undertaken, the data are captured and duplicates are verified to ensure that all the death notification forms removed as duplicates during sorting were indeed duplicates, and to identify any that were mistakenly taken out as duplicates. The data are then edited and inconsistent cases manually verified.

### 2. Coverage

The target population is all deaths that occurred in the period 1997–2019 and registered at the Department of Home Affairs. It therefore excludes deaths that might not be registered for 2019, and deaths that have been registered, but had not reached Stats SA during the 2022/2023 processing phase.

### 3. Confidentiality

The information remains confidential to Stats SA. The Statistics Act, 1999 (Act No. 6 of 1999) prohibits the disclosure of information regarding individuals to any person concerned or his/her lawful representative. Therefore, the information on mortality and causes of death published does not include personal information about the deceased or informants, and is released in such a way that no individual can be identified.

### 4. Contents of the portable file format

The data file provided contains 48 variables.

Users are cautioned that the following variables had a high percentage of cases where information was unspecified or unknown:

- (a) Place or institution of death occurrence, e.g., hospital, home, nursing home, etc.;
- (b) Smoking status of the deceased;

- (c) Method used to ascertain cause of death;
- (d) Pregnancy status of the deceased 42 days prior to death;
- (e) Province of birth of the deceased;
- (f) Marital status of deceased;
- (g) Education of deceased; and
- (h) Groups of occupation of deceased.

**Note: Unknown:** Refers to cases where more than one option was marked or the response was not legible.

**Not applicable:** Means the response does not apply to a particular case in question.

**Unspecified:** Refers to cases where no response was given.

The metadata file contains the following information for each variable:

- **Descriptive name of variables:**  
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- **Type and position of the variable:**  
The type and position of a variable within a record is recorded in the format (*@xxx L*) where *@xxx* indicates the position (column) at which the variable starts, and *L* indicates the length of the field.
- **Note to users:**  
The note is provided for each variable to provide additional information for further clarity on questions and definition of concepts.

**A. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS*****Unique sequence number (Serial\_No)*****(@1 13)**

<b>2.</b>	<b>Serial_No</b>
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**Note to users**

This variable is derived from the pasted label automatically created to provide a unique identifier for each death notification form.

Valid range: 19969882401–20190477332

***Type of death (DeathType)*****(@14 1)**

<b>3.</b>	<b>DeathType</b> 1 = Individual death 2 = Stillbirth
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**Note to users**

Individual death is a death that occurred any time after a live birth had taken place. Stillbirth is the intra-uterine death of a foetus of at least 26 weeks of gestation that showed no sign of life after complete birth.

**Final code list*****Final code list***

1 = Individual death

2 = Stillbirth

***Year of death (DeathYear)*****(@15 4)**

<b>4.</b>	<b>DeathYear</b>
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**Note to users**

This variable refers to the year in which the death occurred.

Valid year: 1997–2019

***Month of death (DeathMonth)*****(@19 2)**

<b>5.</b>	<b>DeathMonth</b> 1 = January 2 = February 3 = March 4 = April 5 = May 6 = June 7 = July 8 = August
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	9 = September
	10 = October
	11 = November
	12 = December

**Note to users**

This variable provides information on the month in which the death occurred.

**Final code list**

- 1 = January
- 2 = February
- 3 = March
- 4 = April
- 5 = May
- 6 = June
- 7 = July
- 8 = August
- 9 = September
- 10 = October
- 11 = November
- 12 = December

***Day of death (DeathDay)***

(@21 2)

6.	DeathDay
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**Note to users**

This variable provides information on the day on which the death occurred.

Valid range: 1–31

***Year of birth (BirthYear)***

(@23 4)

8.	BirthYear
----	-----------

**Note to users**

This variable refers to the year in which the deceased was born.

**Final code list**

- Valid range: 1861–2019
- 9999 = Unspecified

**Month of birth (BirthMonth)**

(@27 2)

<b>9.</b>	<b>BirthMonth</b>
	1 = January
	2 = February
	3 = March
	4 = April
	5 = May
	6 = June
	7 = July
	8 = August
	9 = September
	10 = October
	11 = November
	12 = December

**Note to users**

This variable provides information on the month in which the deceased was born.

**Final code list**

- 1 = January
- 2 = February
- 3 = March
- 4 = April
- 5 = May
- 6 = June
- 7 = July
- 8 = August
- 9 = September
- 10 = October
- 11 = November
- 12 = December
- 99 = Unspecified

**Day of birth (BirthDay)**

(@29 2)

<b>10.</b>	<b>BirthDay</b>
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**Note to users**

This variable provides information on the day on which the deceased was born.

**Final code list**

- Valid range: 1–31
- 99 = Unspecified



**Age in completed years (AgeYear)****(@31 3)**

11.	AgeYear
-----	---------

**Note to users**

This variable refers to the age of the deceased in completed years at the time of death.

**Final code list**

Valid range: 0–131

999 = Unspecified

**Year of death registration (RegistrationYear)****(@34 4)**

21.	RegistrationYear
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**Note to users**

This variable refers to the year in which a death was registered.

**Final code list**

Valid range: 1997–2022

9999 = Unspecified

**Month of death registration (RegistrationMonth)****(@38 2)**

22.	RegistrationMonth
	1 = January
	2 = February
	3 = March
	4 = April
	5 = May
	6 = June
	7 = July
	8 = August
	9 = September
	10 = October
	11 = November
	12 = December

**Note to users**

This variable refers to the month in which the death was registered.

**Final code list**

1 = January

2 = February

3 = March

4 = April

5 = May

- 6 = June
- 7 = July
- 8 = August
- 9 = September
- 10 = October
- 11 = November
- 12 = December
- 99 = Unspecified

**Day of death registration (RegistrationDay)****(@40 2)**

23.	RegistrationDay
-----	-----------------

**Note to users**

This variable provides information on the day on which the death was registered.

**Final code list**

- Valid range: 1–31
- 99 = Unspecified

**Sex of deceased (Sex)****(@42 1)**

12.	<b>Sex</b>  1 = Male 2 = Female 3 = Undeterminable
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**Note to users**

This variable provides information on the sex of the deceased.

**Final code list**

- 1 = Male
- 2 = Female
- 3 = Undeterminable
- 8 = Unknown
- 9 = Unspecified

**Marital status of deceased (MStatus)****(@44 1)**

16.	<b>MStatus</b>  1 = Never married 2 = Married 3 = Widowed 4 = Divorced
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**Note to users**

This variable provides information on the marital status of the deceased.

**Final code list**

- 1 = Never married
- 2 = Married
- 3 = Widowed
- 4 = Divorced
- 5 = Not applicable
- 8 = Unknown
- 9 = Unspecified

***Relationship of informant to deceased (Relationship)*****( @44 1)**

20.	Relationship
	1 = Parent
	2 = Spouse
	3 = Child
	4 = Other kin
	5 = Other

**Note to users**

This variable provides information on the relationship of the informant to the deceased.

**Final code list**

- 1 = Parent
- 2 = Spouse
- 3 = Child
- 4 = Other kin
- 5 = Other
- 8 = Unknown
- 9 = Unspecified

***Next of kin a smoker (NextKinSmoker)*****( @45 1)**

47.	NextKinSmoker
	1 = Smoking
	2 = Not smoking
	3 = Refused to answer

**Note to users**

This variable provides information on the smoking status of the next of kin of the deceased.

**Final code list**

- 1 = Smoking
- 2 = Not smoking

3 = Refused to answer

8 = Unknown

9 = Unspecified

### ***Education of deceased (EduCode)***

**(@46 2)**

17.	EduCode
	0 = None
	1 = Grade R
	2 = Sub A Gr 1
	3 = Sub B Gr 2
	4 = Std 1 Gr 3
	5 = Std 2 Gr 4
	6 = Std 3 Gr 5
	7 = Std 4 Gr 6
	8 = Std 5 Gr 7
	9 = Std 6 Gr 8
	10 = Std 7 Gr 9
	11 = Std 8 Gr 10 Form 3 NTC1
	12 = Std 9 Gr 11 Form 4 NTC2
	13 = Std 10 Gr 12 Form 5 NTC3
	14 = University / Tech

### **Note to users**

This variable provides information on the highest level of education that the deceased completed or achieved.

### **Final code list**

- 0 = None
- 1 = Grade R
- 2 = Sub A Gr 1
- 3 = Sub B Gr 2
- 4 = Std 1 Gr 3
- 5 = Std 2 Gr 4
- 6 = Std 3 Gr 5
- 7 = Std 4 Gr 6
- 8 = Std 5 Gr 7
- 9 = Std 6 Gr 8
- 10 = Std 7 Gr 9
- 11 = Std 8 Gr 10 Form 3 NTC1
- 12 = Std 9 Gr 11 Form 4 NTC2
- 13 = Std 10 Gr 12 Form 5 NTC3
- 14 = University / Tech
- 97 = Unknown
- 98 = Not applicable
- 99 = Unspecified

**Groups of occupation of deceased (OccupationGrp)****(@48 2)**

<b>18.</b>	<b>OccupationGrp</b> 0 = Occupations unspecified and not elsewhere specified and not economically active persons 1 = Managers 2 = Professionals 3 = Technicians and associate professionals 4 = Clerical support workers 5 = Service and sales workers and armed forces 6 = Skilled agricultural and fishery workers 7 = Craft and related trades workers 8 = Plant and machine operators, and assemblers 9 = Elementary occupations
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**Note to users**

This variable provides information on the usual occupation of the deceased. Usual occupation refers to the type of work done by the deceased most of his or her working life.

**Final code list**

- 0 = Occupations unspecified and not elsewhere specified and not economically active persons
- 1 = Managers
- 2 = Professionals
- 3 = Technicians and associate professionals
- 4 = Clerical support workers
- 5 = Service and sales workers and armed forces
- 6 = Skilled agricultural and fishery workers
- 7 = Craft and related trade workers
- 8 = Plant and machine operators and assemblers
- 9 = Elementary occupations
- 99 = Not applicable

**Smoking status of deceased (Smoker)****(@50 1)**

<b>19.</b>	<b>Smoker</b> 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Do not know 4 = Not applicable
------------	---

**Note to users**

This variable provides information on the smoking status of the deceased five years before death. A smoker is defined as someone who smoked any form of tobacco on most days (an average of more than six months a year, or four or more days a week), five years ago. If smoking started less than five years before death, the answer is No. If smoking started more than five years before death, but for less than six months, the answer is No.

**Final code list**

- 1 = Yes
- 2 = No
- 3 = Do not know
- 4 = Not applicable
- 8 = Unknown
- 9 = Unspecified

***Pregnancy status of deceased 42 days prior to death (Pregnancy)*****( @51 1)**

<b>41.</b>	<b>Pregnancy</b>
	1 = Yes
	2 = No

**Note to users**

This variable provides information on whether or not females of reproductive age (10–55) were pregnant 42 days prior to death.

**Final code list**

- 1 = Yes
- 2 = No
- 3 = Not applicable
- 8 = Unknown
- 9 = Unspecified

***Population group of the deceased (PopGroup)*****( @52 1)**

<b>24.</b>	<b>PopGroup</b>
	1 = Black
	2 = White
	3 = Indian or Asian
	4 = Coloured
	5 = Other

**Note to users**

This variable provides information on the population group of the deceased.

**Final code list**

- 1 = Black African
- 2 = White
- 3 = Indian or Asian
- 4 = Coloured
- 5 = Other
- 8 = Unknown
- 9 = Unspecified

**Citizenship of deceased (Citizenship)****(@53 2)**

<b>14.</b>	<b>Citizenship</b>
	1 = South Africa
	2 = Zimbabwe
	3 = Swaziland
	4 = Botswana
	5 = Lesotho
	6 = Mozambique
	7 = Namibia
	8 = Mauritius
	9 = Angola
	10 = Zambia
	11 = Malawi
	12 = Tanzania
	13 = Madagascar
	14 = DRC
	15 = Other

**Note to users**

This variable provides information on the place of citizenship of the deceased.

**Final code list**

- 1 = South Africa
- 2 = Zimbabwe
- 3 = Swaziland
- 4 = Botswana
- 5 = Lesotho
- 6 = Mozambique
- 7 = Namibia
- 8 = Mauritius
- 9 = Angola
- 10 = Zambia
- 11 = Malawi
- 12 = Tanzania
- 13 = Madagascar
- 14 = DRC
- 15 = Other
- 97 = Unknown
- 99 = Unspecified

**Province of birth of the deceased (BirthProv)****(@55 4)**

<b>15.</b>	<b>BirthProv</b> 1 = Western Cape 2 = Eastern Cape 3 = Northern Cape 4 = Free State 5 = KwaZulu-Natal 6 = North West 7 = Gauteng 8 = Mpumalanga 9 = Limpopo
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**Note to users**

This variable provides information on the province of birth of the deceased based on the 2011 municipal boundaries. It was derived from the place code of birth.

**Final code list**

- 1 = Western Cape
- 2 = Eastern Cape
- 3 = Northern Cape
- 4 = Free State
- 5 = KwaZulu-Natal
- 6 = North West
- 7 = Gauteng
- 8 = Mpumalanga
- 9 = Limpopo
- 9996 = Unknown
- 9998 = Outside South Africa

**Province of death occurrence (DeathProv)****(@59 4)**

<b>7.</b>	<b>DeathProv</b> 1 = Western Cape 2 = Eastern Cape 3 = Northern Cape 4 = Free State 5 = KwaZulu-Natal 6 = North West 7 = Gauteng 8 = Mpumalanga 9 = Limpopo
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**Note to users**

This variable provides information on the province of death of the deceased based on the 2011 municipal boundaries. It was derived from the place code of death.



**Final code list**

- 1 = Western Cape
- 2 = Eastern Cape
- 3 = Northern Cape
- 4 = Free State
- 5 = KwaZulu-Natal
- 6 = North West
- 7 = Gauteng
- 8 = Mpumalanga
- 9 = Limpopo
- 9996 = Unknown
- 9998 = Outside South Africa

***Province of usual residence of the deceased (ResProv)*****(@63 4)**

<b>13.</b>	<b>ResProv</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 = Western Cape</li> <li>2 = Eastern Cape</li> <li>3 = Northern Cape</li> <li>4 = Free State</li> <li>5 = KwaZulu-Natal</li> <li>6 = North West</li> <li>7 = Gauteng</li> <li>8 = Mpumalanga</li> <li>9 = Limpopo</li> </ul>
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**Note to users**

This variable provides information on the province of usual residence of the deceased based on the 2011 municipal boundaries. It was derived from the place code of usual residence.

**Final code list**

- 1 = Western Cape
- 2 = Eastern Cape
- 3 = Northern Cape
- 4 = Free State
- 5 = KwaZulu-Natal
- 6 = North West
- 7 = Gauteng
- 8 = Mpumalanga
- 9 = Limpopo
- 9998 = Outside South Africa
- 9999 = Unspecified

**Country of usual residence of deceased (ResCountry)****(@67 2)**

<b>48.</b>	<b>ResCountry</b>
	1 = South Africa
	2 = Zimbabwe
	3 = Swaziland
	4 = Botswana
	5 = Lesotho
	6 = Mozambique
	7 = Namibia
	8 = Mauritius
	9 = Angola
	10 = Zambia
	11 = Malawi
	12 = Tanzania
	13 = Madagascar
	14 = DRC
	15 = Other

**Note to users**

This variable provides information on the country of usual residence of the deceased.

**Final code list**

- 1 = South Africa
- 2 = Zimbabwe
- 3 = Swaziland
- 4 = Botswana
- 5 = Lesotho
- 6 = Mozambique
- 7 = Namibia
- 8 = Mauritius
- 9 = Angola
- 10 = Zambia
- 11 = Malawi
- 12 = Tanzania
- 15 = Other
- 97 = Unknown
- 99 = Unspecified

**Ascertainment of the cause of death (Ascertainment)****(@69 2)**

<b>42.</b>	<b>Ascertainment</b>
	1 = Autopsy
	2 = Post mortem examination
	3 = Opinion of attending medical practitioner

	4 = Opinion of attending medical practitioner on duty 5 = Opinion of registered professional nurse 6 = Interview of family member 7 = Other 8 = Autopsy results may be available later 9 = Autopsy not performed
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**Note to users**

This variable provides information on the method used to ascertain the cause of death.

**Final code list**

- 1 = Autopsy
- 2 = Post mortem examination
- 3 = Opinion of attending medical practitioner
- 4 = Opinion of attending medical practitioner on duty
- 5 = Opinion of registered professional nurse
- 6 = Interview of family member
- 7 = Other
- 8 = Autopsy results may be available later
- 9 = Autopsy not performed
- 98 = Unknown
- 99 = Unspecified

**Place of death (DeathInst)**

(@71 1)

<b>25.</b>	<b>DeathInst</b>
	1 = Hospital 2 = Emergency room/outpatient 3 = Dead on arrival 4 = Nursing home 5 = Home 6 = Other

**Note to users**

This variable provides information on the place or institution at which the person died.

**Final code list**

- 1 = Hospital
- 2 = Emergency room/outpatient
- 3 = Dead on arrival
- 4 = Nursing home
- 5 = Home
- 6 = Other
- 8 = Unknown
- 9 = Unspecified

**Immediate cause of death (CauseA)**

(@72 4)

26.	CauseA  (Refer to WHO ICD-10 Version 2016 code list)
-----	--

**Note to users**

This variable provides information on the immediate cause of death.

**Injury codes for the immediate cause of death (InjuryA)**

(@76 4)

27.	InjuryA
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**Note to users**

This variable provides information on the injury codes for non-natural causes of death.  
111 = Natural cause (no injury code)

**Second condition leading to death (CauseB)**

(@80 4)

28.	CauseB  (Refer to WHO ICD-10 Version 2016 code list)
-----	--

**Note to users**

This variable provides information on the second condition leading to death.  
888 = Second condition leading to death not mentioned.

**Injury codes for the second condition leading to death (InjuryB)**

(@84 4)

29.	InjuryB
-----	---------

**Note to users**

This variable provides information on the injury codes for non-natural causes of death.  
111 = Natural cause (no injury code)  
888 = Second condition leading to death not mentioned.

**Third condition leading to death (CauseC)**

(@88 4)

30.	CauseC  (Refer to WHO ICD-10 Version 2016 code list)
-----	--

**Note to users**

This variable provides information on the third condition leading to death.  
888 = Third condition leading to death not mentioned.

***Injury codes for the third condition leading to death (InjuryC)*****(@92 4)**

31.	InjuryC
-----	---------

**Note to users**

This variable provides information on the injury codes for non-natural causes of death.  
888 = Third condition leading to death not mentioned.

***Fourth condition leading to death (CauseD)*****(@96 4)**

32.	CauseD (Refer to WHO ICD-10 Version 2016 code list)
-----	--

**Note to users**

This variable provides information on the fourth condition leading to death.  
888 = Fourth condition leading to death not mentioned.

***Injury codes for the fourth condition leading to death (InjuryD)*****(@100 4)**

33.	InjuryD
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**Note to users**

This variable provides information on the injury codes for non-natural causes of death.  
111 = Natural cause (no injury code)  
888 = Fourth condition leading to death not mentioned.

***Other conditions leading to death (OtherCause)*****(@104 4)**

34.	OtherCause (Refer to WHO ICD-10 Version 2016 code list)
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**Note to users**

This variable provides information on other conditions leading to death.  
888 = Other conditions leading to death not mentioned.

***Injury codes for other conditions leading to death (OtherInjury)*****(@108 4)**

35.	OtherInjury
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**Note to users**

This variable provides information on the injury codes for non-natural causes of death.

111 = Natural cause (no injury code)

888 = Other conditions leading to death not mentioned.

***First cause provided on part 2 of the death notification form (Part2\_CauseA)*****(@112 4)**

36.	Part2_CauseA  (Refer to WHO ICD-10 Version 2016 code list)
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**Note to users**

This variable provides information on conditions leading to death provided on the first line of part two of the death notification form.

888 = First cause of death on part two not mentioned.

***Injury codes for first cause on part 2 (Part2\_InjuryA)*****(@116 4)**

37.	Part2_InjuryA
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**Note to users**

This variable provides information on the injury codes for non-natural causes of death provided on the first line on part two of the death notification form.

111 = Natural cause (no injury code)

888 = First cause of death on part two not mentioned.

***Second cause provided on part 2 of the death notification form (Part2\_CauseB)*****(@120 4)**

38.	Part2_CauseB  (Refer to WHO ICD-10 Version 2016 code list)
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**Note to users**

This variable provides information on conditions leading to death provided on the second line of part two of the death notification form.

888 = Second cause of death on part two not mentioned.

**Injury codes for second cause on part 2 (Part2\_InjuryB)****(@124 3)**

39.	Part2_InjuryB
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**Note to users**

This variable provides information on the injury codes for non-natural causes of death provided on the second line on part two of the death notification form.

111 = Natural cause (no injury code)

888 = Second cause of death on part two not mentioned.

**Underlying cause of death (Underlyingcause)****(@127 3)**

40.	Underlyingcause (Refer to WHO ICD-10 Version 2016 code list)
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**Note to users**

This variable provides information on the underlying cause of death. An underlying cause of death is defined as the disease or injury which initiated the train of morbid events leading directly to death, or the circumstances of the accident or violence which produced the fatal injury.

**Broad groups of the underlying causes of death (Underlying\_Broad\_Grp)****(@130 7)**

45.	Underlying_Broad_Grp (Refer to WHO ICD-10 categories)
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**Note to users**

This variable groups the underlying causes of death into broad groups of death. It is derived from the underlying cause of death.

**Main groups of the underlying causes of death (Underlying\_Main\_Grp)****(@137 7)**

46.	Underlying_Main_Grp
	A00-B99 = Certain infectious and parasitic diseases (A00-B99)
	C00-D48 = Neoplasms (C00-D48)
	D50-D89 = Diseases of the blood and immune mechanism (D50-D89)
	E00-E90 = Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases (E00-E90)
	F00-F99 = Mental and behavioural disorders (F00-F99)
	G00-G99 = Diseases of the nervous system (G00-G99)

H00-H59	= Diseases of the eye and adnexa (H00-H59)
H60-H95	= Diseases of the ear and mastoid process (H60-H95)
I00-I99	= Diseases of the circulatory system (I00-I99)
J00-J99	= Diseases of the respiratory system (J00-J99)
K00-K93	= Diseases of the digestive system (K00-K93)
L00-L99	= Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue (L00-L99)
M00-M99	= Diseases of the musculoskeletal system, etc. (M00-M99)
N00-N99	= Diseases of the genitourinary system (N00-N99)
O00-O99	= Pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium (O00-O99)
P00-P96	= Perinatal conditions (P00-P96)
Q00-Q99	= Congenital malformations (Q00-Q99)
R00-R99	= Symptoms and signs not elsewhere classified (R00-R99)
V01-Y98	= External causes of morbidity and mortality (V01-Y98)

**Note to users**

This variable groups the underlying causes of death into main groups. It is derived from the underlying cause of death.

***Natural/non-natural underlying causes of death (NaturalUnnatural)*****( @144 1)**

<b>44.</b>	<b>NaturalUnnatural</b>
	1 = Natural underlying cause 2 = Non-natural underlying cause

**Note to users**

This variable groups the underlying causes of death into natural and non-natural causes. It is derived from the underlying cause of death.

**Final code list**

- 1 = Natural underlying cause
- 2 = Non-natural underlying cause
- 8 = Not applicable

***Mass of stillborn (StillbornMass)*****( @145 4)**

<b>43.</b>	<b>Birthweight</b>
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**Note to users**

This variable provides the weight at birth in grams.

Valid ranges: 499–9920

**Final code list**

9998 = not applicable (individual deaths, i.e., not stillborns).

9999 = unspecified

***Year of processing (ProcessingYear)*****( @149 4)**

1.	ProcessingYear
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**Note to users**

This variable provides the year in which the death notification was received and processed by Statistics South Africa.

**Final code list**

*Valid ranges: 2003–2019*