

Researchers develop a comprehensive atlas of disease mortality

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The Danish Atlas of Disease Mortality

Analysis of mortality metrics associated with a comprehensive range of disorders in Denmark, 2000-2018



ICD-10 Chapters

All ICD-10 disorders

Selected disorders

Search for a disorder

Researchers prepared a comprehensive atlas of disease mortality with an interactive data visualization (<http://nbepi.com/atlas>). Credit: NPEPI Atlas (CC-BY 4.0, creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

A detailed collection of mortality estimates for diseases, disorders and external factors is publishing on June 16th in the open access journal *PLOS Medicine*. The study provides a resource to estimate reductions in life expectancy for a comprehensive range of disorders. The atlas will be a useful tool for clinicians, academics, and policymakers looking into

links between disorders and mortality estimates, as well as for researchers studying specific diseases.

Mortality metrics can help with decision-making and prioritizing healthcare resources, but studies looking at mortality and various [disorders](#) have typically not been comprehensive. They often focus on either comparing relative as opposed to absolute measures of mortality of people with a disorder to the [general population](#), or crude estimates of life expectancy, not considering variation in the age of onset.

Oleguer Plana-Ripoll and colleagues at Aarhus University, Denmark created a comprehensive atlas of mortality-related estimates, based on de-identified data on 7,378,598 people living in Denmark from 2000 to 2018. They used national registers to examine individuals diagnosed with 1,803 specific categories of disorders and generated a panel of epidemiological and mortality metrics, including incidence rates, age-of-onset distributions, and comparison of [mortality estimates](#) for people with the disorder with the general population, as well as life years lost for each one. The team prepared an interactive data visualization to optimize the interrogation of their findings (<http://nbepi.com/atlas>).

A limitation of the study is the possibility that the association between the different disorders and mortality could be explained by other underlying factors associated with both the disorder and mortality.

Detailed and accessible data like this allows a fine-grained analysis of the associations between a comprehensive set of disorders and mortality-related estimates, and the findings can guide [health research](#) as well as serve as a benchmark to evaluate future health interventions.

Plana-Ripoll adds, "Most previous papers have used relative measures of mortality or crude estimates of [life expectancy](#). Here, we use a new method that more accurately captures premature mortality for more than

1,800 different health conditions."

More information: Analysis of mortality metrics associated with a comprehensive range of disorders in Denmark, 2000 to 2018: A population-based cohort study. *PLoS Medicine* (2022). [DOI: 10.1371/journal.pmed.1004023](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1004023)

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