

Deaths from Non-Natural Causes

Do You Know that 1,036 persons died of non-natural causes last year?

Deaths from non-natural causes, formed only a small proportion of total deaths – 6.7 per cent in 2001 (Table 1). The share of such deaths had fallen slightly over the last three decades, from 7.8 per cent in 1970. Most of the non-natural deaths were due to accidents and suicides.

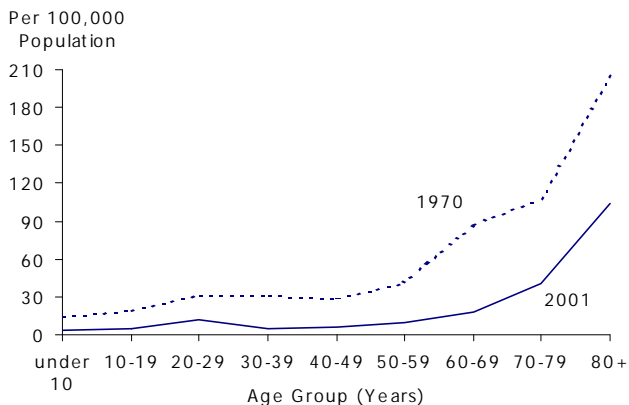
TABLE 1 TOTAL DEATHS FROM NON-NATURAL CAUSES

Causes of Deaths	1970		2001	
	No.	%	No.	%
TOTAL	10,717	100.0	15,367	100.0
Non-Natural	836	7.8	1,036	6.7
Accidents	568	5.3	437	2.8
Suicides	185	1.7	357	2.3
Others*	83	0.8	242	1.6

* Includes homicide, poisonings, violence and other external causes.

The rate of deaths from accidents was low at 9.7 per 100,000 residents in 2001. This was almost three times lower than that in 1970 (Chart 1). Younger persons aged below 60 years had a much lower likelihood of dying from accidents than those aged 60 years and over. Over the past three decades, the death rate from accidents had decreased across all ages.

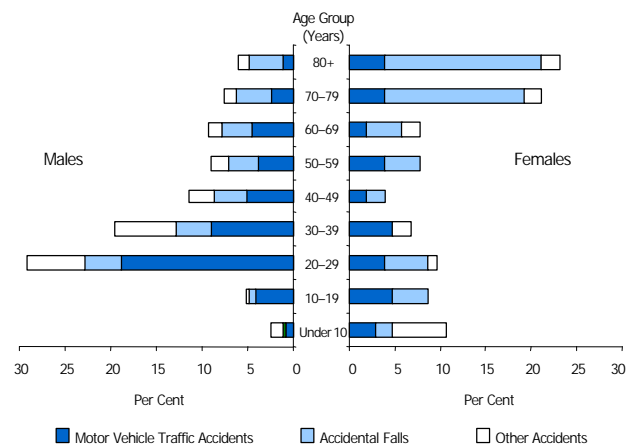
CHART 1 RESIDENT DEATH RATE FROM ACCIDENTS



Note : 1970 rates refer to total population.

Among the males who died from accidents in 2001, those aged 20–39 years formed the largest proportion at 49 per cent (Chart 2). The majority (57 per cent) of these were due to motor vehicle traffic accidents. For females, those aged 70 years and over formed the largest group. Accidental falls constituted 74 per cent of their deaths from accidents.

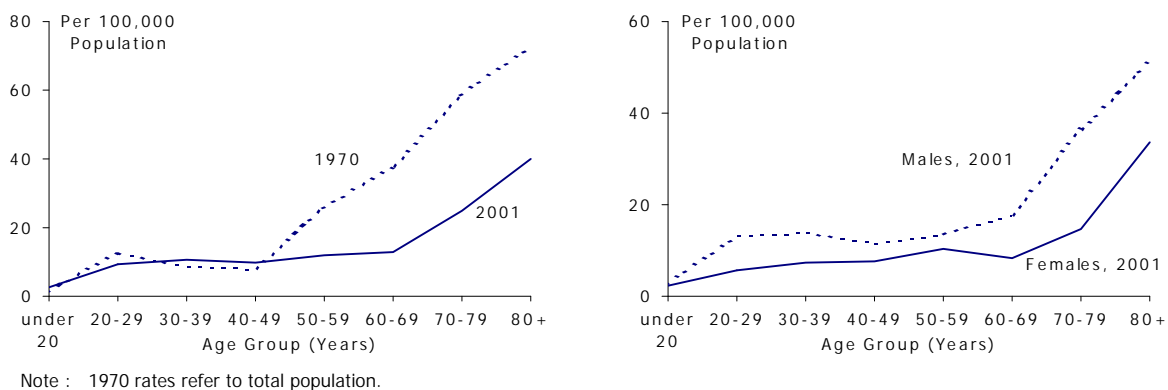
CHART 2 DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS FROM ACCIDENTS, 2001



The rate of death from suicides declined across most age groups from 1970 to 2001 (Chart 3). The most significant decline was observed for ages 50 and above.

There was a higher tendency for males to die from suicides than the females in 2001. Among males aged below 50 years, those aged 20–39 years had the highest death rate of 13.6 per 100,000 residents from suicides.

CHART 3 RESIDENT DEATH RATE FROM SUICIDES



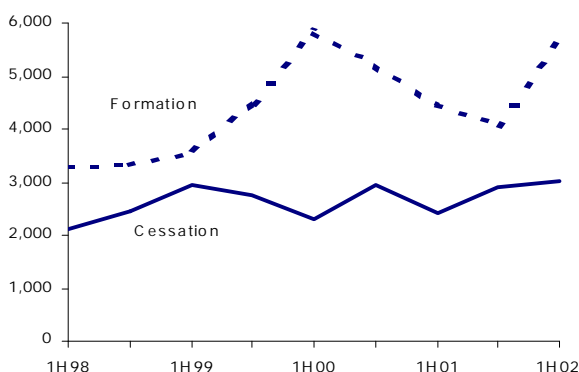
Formation and Cessation of Companies and Businesses, January–June 2002

Companies

Reflecting improved business conditions, a total of 5,646 new companies was formed in 1H02. This was the first increase since 1H00. Compared with 2H01, company formation expanded significantly by 39 per cent. All major industries recorded increases in formation numbers, with most of them posting double-digit growth rates over 2H01. Commerce industry recorded the highest rise of 51 per cent, followed by financial and business services (42 per cent), transport and communications (39 per cent) and construction (38 per cent).

During 1H02, 3,015 companies ceased operations, an increase of 3.6 per cent over 2H01. The increase in company cessation in financial and business services sector offset the smaller decreases in other sectors.

CHART 1 FORMATION AND CESSATION OF COMPANIES, 1H1998–1H2002



Businesses

While 1H02 saw a surge in company formation, the number of new businesses formed decreased by 2.1 per cent over 2H01 to 12,410 businesses. Most industries recorded fewer business openings in 1H02, with the largest decrease in manufacturing (23 per cent). Financial and business services industry was the only industry to experience an increase in business formation (9.5 per cent).

The number of business closures fell substantially by 48 per cent, from 10,094 in 2H01 to 5,297 in 1H02. From April 2000, businesses are granted 3-year licences instead of 1-year licences. The large decline in business cessation could probably be attributed to the change in renewal period of business licences. So, those not doing well are likely to adopt a wait-and-see stance rather than cease their operations immediately.

CHART 2 FORMATION AND CESSATION OF BUSINESSES, 1H1998–1H2002

