

# Ill-defined deaths by age and sex in Belgrade population, 2016-2020

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# Background

- ▶ The quality of mortality statistics is closely monitored in national statistical offices and public health institutes.
- ▶ Apart from the system for logic control, an indicator commonly used to signal the quality in coding main causes of death is the share of ill-defined deaths in total mortality.
- ▶ In this study we focus on the ill-defined deaths, i.e., deaths coded with the main cause from the XVIII group of ICD-X revision: Symptoms, signs, abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, ill-defined causes (R00-R99 diagnosis), number of deaths in Belgrade population over the last five years.



# Methods

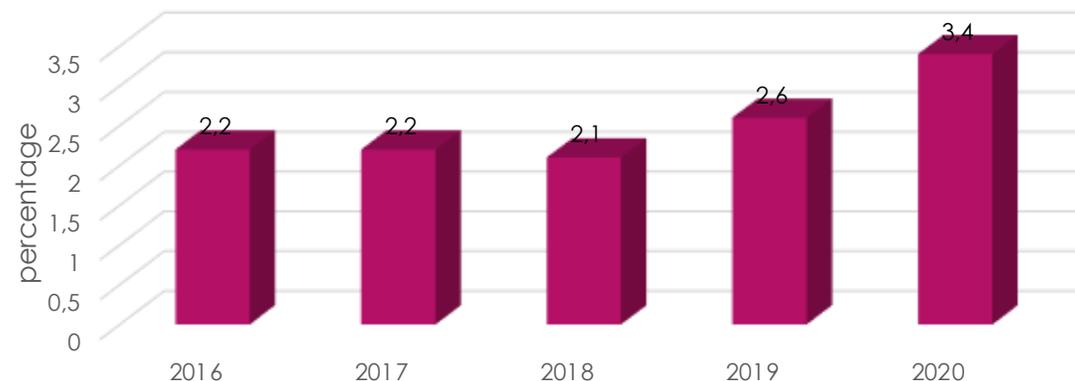
- ▶ Annual data of ill-defined deaths in Belgrade population are studied by five-year age groups and by sex and the change of the share of ill-defined deaths in total mortality was tracked over the period 2016-2020.
- ▶ Data source is the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia on the mortality of the citizens of Belgrade.



# Results

- ▶ The share of ill-defined deaths in total mortality in Belgrade was by one-third higher in 2020 (3.4%), than in period 2016-2019 (2.2%, 2.2%, 2.1% and 2.6%, respectively)

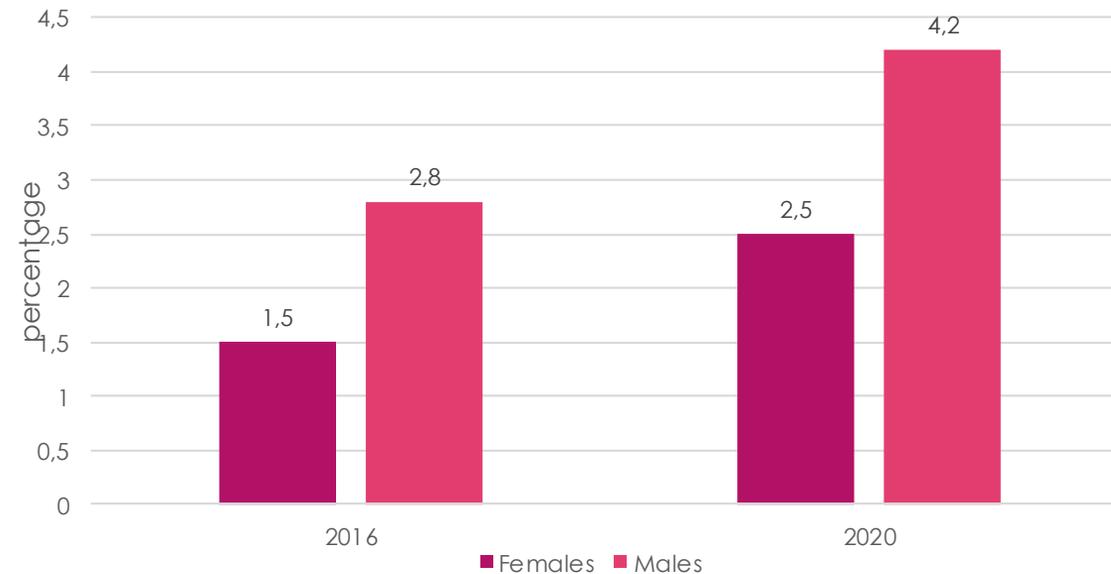
Figure 1 Rank of deceased persons with the diagnosis from the XVIII ICD-X (R00-R99) group in Belgrade between 2016. and 2020.



# Results

- ▶ The 2016 v. 2020 increase has equal gender distribution (1.5% v. 2.5% in females and 2.8% v. 4.2% in males, respectively).

Figure 2 Death due to XVIII ICD-X (R00-R99) group by sex in Belgrade, in 2016 and 2020.



# Results

- ▶ The majority of ill defined deaths in females and males has moved to older age groups (from 80-84 to 85 years and more and from 60-64 to 65-69 years) most probably due to aging of population.



# Conclusion

- ▶ Upgrading the knowledge of physicians responsible for death certification is necessary to decrease the share of ill-defined deaths in the overall mortality.
- ▶ This research has provided a broader view of the quality of coding data on the underlying cause of death in death certificate in Belgrade between 2016. and 2020.



# Key messages

- ▶ In Belgrade, almost every **thirty death** in 2020 was ill-defined.
- ▶ More male than female deaths are ill-defined in 2020 in Belgrade.

