



Summary of the Mortality Study in Wallis and Futuna (2009–2024) Compared to Mainland France (2015–2022)

Clément COUTEAUX

Epidémiologiste

**Service « veille sanitaire, observatoire de la santé et de l’information
médicale »**

Direction de la santé publique

V2-22/01/2025

Table of contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Key Findings	3
➤ Overall Mortality Rates	3
➤ Mean Age at Death	3
➤ Leading Causes of Death in Wallis and Futuna (2009-2024)	3
➤ Comparison to France	3
3. Discussion & Key Health Challenges	4
4. Conclusion and Recommendations	4

1. Introduction

This study analyses mortality causes and rates in **Wallis and Futuna from 2009 to 2024** and compares them with data from **mainland France (2015-2022)**. It highlights **critical health disparities** between Wallis and Futuna and France, emphasizing the need for **targeted health interventions and better healthcare infrastructure** to improve life expectancy and reduce premature mortality in the territory.

2. Key Findings

➤ [Overall Mortality Rates](#)

- **Mortality rate in Wallis and Futuna (2009–2024): 1,047 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants.**
- **Mortality rate in France (2015–2022): 887 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants (20% lower than in Wallis and Futuna).**
- **Men in Wallis and Futuna have a 11% higher mortality rate than men in France, while women’s mortality is 30% higher.**

➤ [Mean Age at Death](#)

- **Wallis and Futuna (2009-2016): 68 years**
- **Wallis and Futuna (2017-2024): 71 years (3-year increase).**
- **France (2022): 79 years (8-10 years higher than Wallis and Futuna).**
- **Men die younger (65.8 years) than women (74.3 years), likely due to higher risk behaviors (smoking, alcohol, poor diet).**

➤ [Leading Causes of Death in Wallis and Futuna \(2009-2024\)](#)

- **Unspecified causes & abnormal clinical signs (24%).**
- **Cardiovascular diseases (21%)** – Includes heart failure, stroke, and hypertension.
- **Cancers (20%)** – Lung (17%), breast (10%), digestive (11%), gynaecological (12%).
- **External causes & injuries (9%)** – Road accidents (31.5%), suicide (10%), drowning (21%).
- **Respiratory diseases (6%)** – Pneumonia (26%), chronic respiratory diseases (23%).

➤ [Comparison to France](#)

- **Cardiovascular diseases are the second leading cause of death** in both regions.
- **Cancer mortality is 30% lower** in Wallis and Futuna than in France.

- **Unspecified deaths increased by 10% between 2017–2024**, likely due to **limited diagnostic tools and health data collection challenges**.

3. Discussion & Key Health Challenges

- **Wallis and Futuna has significantly higher mortality rates** than France, reflecting **lower healthcare access, high prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and lifestyle factors**.
- **Obesity (90%), type 2 diabetes (15%), and hypertension (32%) are widespread**, with rates increasing dramatically in middle-aged adults.
- **Cancer is now the leading cause of death**, surpassing cardiovascular diseases, likely due to **lifestyle changes, smoking, and diet**.
- **Unspecified deaths increased significantly**, indicating **gaps in medical diagnosis and reporting**.
- **External causes of death (accidents, suicides, drowning) are significantly higher** than in France.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

- **Improve healthcare access**: Increase the number of general practitioners (currently 80 per 100,000 people, nearly **half the rate of France**).
- **Enhance NCD prevention**: Implement targeted programs to address **obesity, diabetes, and hypertension**.
- **Strengthen cancer screening & prevention**: Promote early detection and reduce risk factors.
- **Improve death certification and data collection**: Train healthcare personnel and introduce standardized mortality coding (ICD-10).
- **Address external causes of death**: Strengthen road safety, mental health programs, and water safety initiatives.