

VareseNews

Varese, in 2015 there were recorded more deaths than ever

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In 2015 the deaths of the residents in Varese, in proportion to the resident population, **were higher than ever**. This is what data that we collected thanks to the office of vital statistics of the municipality of Varese, showed.

In the past 54 years with 988 deaths and 80,799 residents registered on December, 31 2015, **the mortality rate shows to be higher than ever, surpassing also the peak reached in 2013**, when there was an extraordinary heat wave.

Actually, **the data is generalized on national basis and in 2015 an increase of 9.1%** compared to 2014 with more than 54,000 death was recorded. It remains the case that the data of Varese, compared to a so long time series, is without precedent.

To calculate the mortality rate we did a ratio between the number of deaths and the data concerning the resident population, then we multiplied the quotient by one thousand. In absolute terms, what is shown is that **in 2015 there was the higher mortality rate with 12.2**, followed by the one of 2013 with 12, by 2012 with 11.4 and then a very large time gap till 1976 with 11.3.

We can find a very peculiar aspect of these data when we divided them over **gender**, so over male and female population. We can see that the results are very different: in fact, the **male population** had a very high mortality rate but it isn't the highest preceded by the rates registered in 1962, 1968, 1969, 1970 and in 1972. On the whole, even though there is a real increase in recent years, the mortality

rate keeps a negative trend. **Concerning the female population**, things are different: the mortality rate of the past year is considered the lowest only in relation to the one registered in 2013, but on the whole it keeps an increasing trend for what concerns the mortality aspect.

In general, the year in which there were registered more deaths remains 1976 with 1018 deaths when the number of residents in the city of Varese was about 10,000 more people. With full knowledge of the facts it is early to say what might have happened. Data concerning the death causes will be collected by Asl and a first interesting analysis is usually carried out in a epidemiological report that, last year, was published in autumn, while Istat, following the European regulation, will make the data available two years after the reference year.

During the presentation of the report **“Osservasalute 2015”**, Alessandro Solipaca, scientific secretary in the nation observatory for the health in the Italian regions, explained the data on the nation basis: “this increase in the mortality rate is due to the constantly increasing number of older people in Italy and to the cyclical trend of the mortality that can be observed in the data collected in time series. So this increase doesn’t have to make people worried because is mostly related to demographic phenomena; however the National Health Service has to pay attention to the fact that some deaths are attributable to the heat wave in the summer of 2015 and to the mortality caused by complications from influenza in the older people. We are talking about deaths that could have been avoidable with effective prevention policies, in particular with those that aimed at informing and promoting the preventive health care and interventions in order to increase the flu vaccination coverage among older people that, as it is shown in the report, is even decreasing.”

di Tomaso Bassani Translated by Chiara Adragna (Reviewed by Prof. Robert Clarke)