Supple 1 Data source and variables

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|  | Death certificate data\*1 | Vital statistics database\*2 |
| Name | In text | Deleted |
| Sex | Male/ Female | 1. Male 2. Female |
| Birth/ death date | In text | Number input |
| Multiple or contributory cause of death | In text | Assigned ICD code only for the primary cause of death |
| Gestational age at delivery (under 1 year of age) \*data collected since 1995 | In text | Number input |
| Surgical history (related primary or secondary cause of death) \*data collected since 1995 | Yes/ No | 1. No 2. Yes |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Fetal death certificate\*3 | Vital statistics database |
| Name | NA | NA |
| Sex | Male/ Female/ Unknown | 1. Male 2. Female 3. Unknown |
| Death date | In text | Number input |
| Multiple or contributory cause of death | In text | Assigned ICD code only for the primary cause of death |

\*1 When a death certificate is submitted to the mayor of a municipality, the municipality submits the data to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW). Death certificate data include the narrative text of either the multiple causes of death or contributory cause of death. Since 2007, the municipals have been provided an option to submit death certificate data using an online data collection system in addition to submission by paper. We used the 2014-2016 data submitted using an online data collection system.

\*2 The Statistics and Information Department of the MHLW is responsible for cleaning the submitted data by cross-checking with other registers, and for organizing the postnatal and fetal death certificates by assigning an ICD code for the primary cause of death, after which the database is used as the vital statistics database and for official statistical purposes. This database does not include the secondary or contributory causes of death and other diagnoses.

\*3 Stillbirths and abortions after 12 weeks of gestation are recorded. Fetal death certificate is submitted to the mayor of a municipality; the municipality then submits the data to the MHLW. The Statistics and Information Department of the MHLW is responsible for choosing an ICD code for the primary cause of death, after which the database is fixed as the vital statistics database and used for official statistics.