



Are Death Statistics in Turkey Accurate? A Study on Ill-Defined Causes of Death in Izmir

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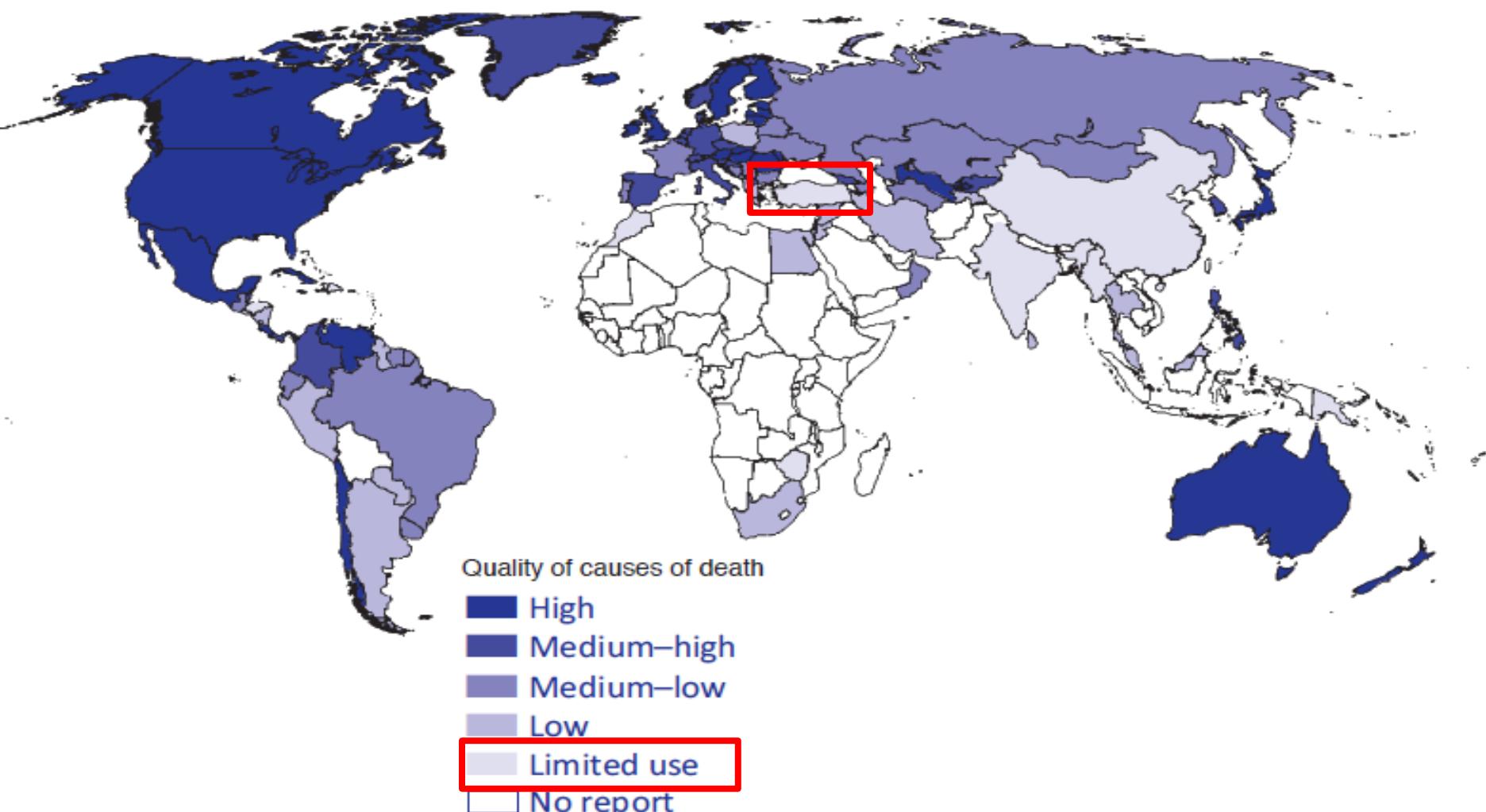
Prof.Gonul Dinc Horasan

Why are cause of death statistics important?

Cause of death statistics are primary outputs as evidence for;

- Health policy and planning purposes
- Monitoring specific health programmes
- Identifying and prioritizing health research activities

Quality of globally available information on causes of death



Source: World Health Organisation, School of population Health University of Queensland, Improving the quality and use of birth, death and cause-of death information: guidance for a standards-based review of country practices, 2010.

Death registration in Turkey

- Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT) is responsible for death statistics

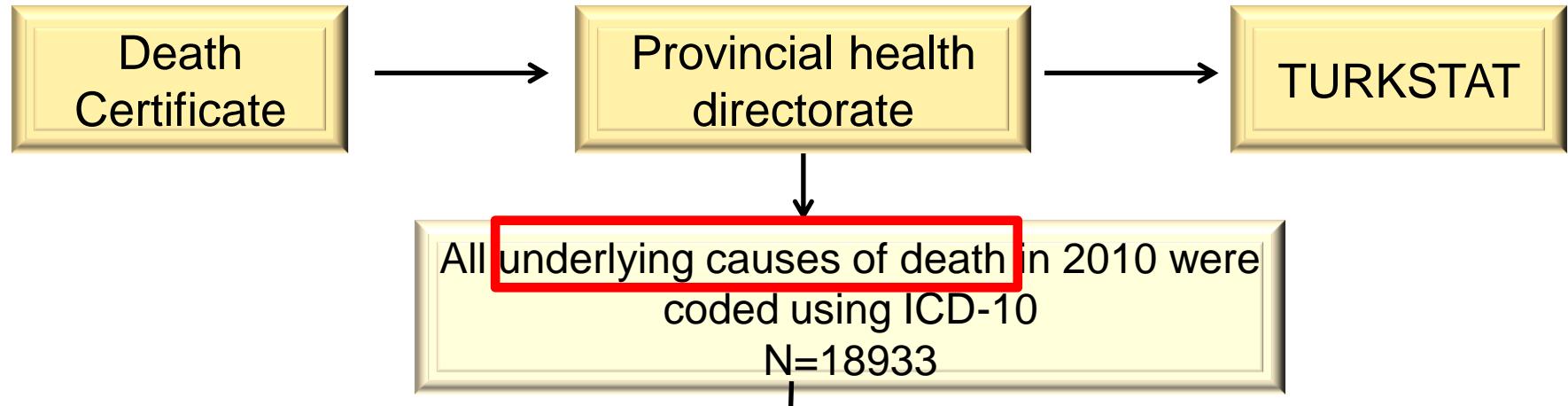
The main problems are;

- Cause of death statistics are collected from only provincial and district centers
- Incomplete registration
- Incomplete notification
- Late notification
- Missing information in death certificates
- Inaccurate data

Aim

- To determine the proportion of ill-defined underlying causes of deaths among all deaths reported to TURKSTAT in Izmir in 2010.

Methods



III defined

- Symptom
- Injuries w
- Cardiovas
- heart failure
- Cancer d

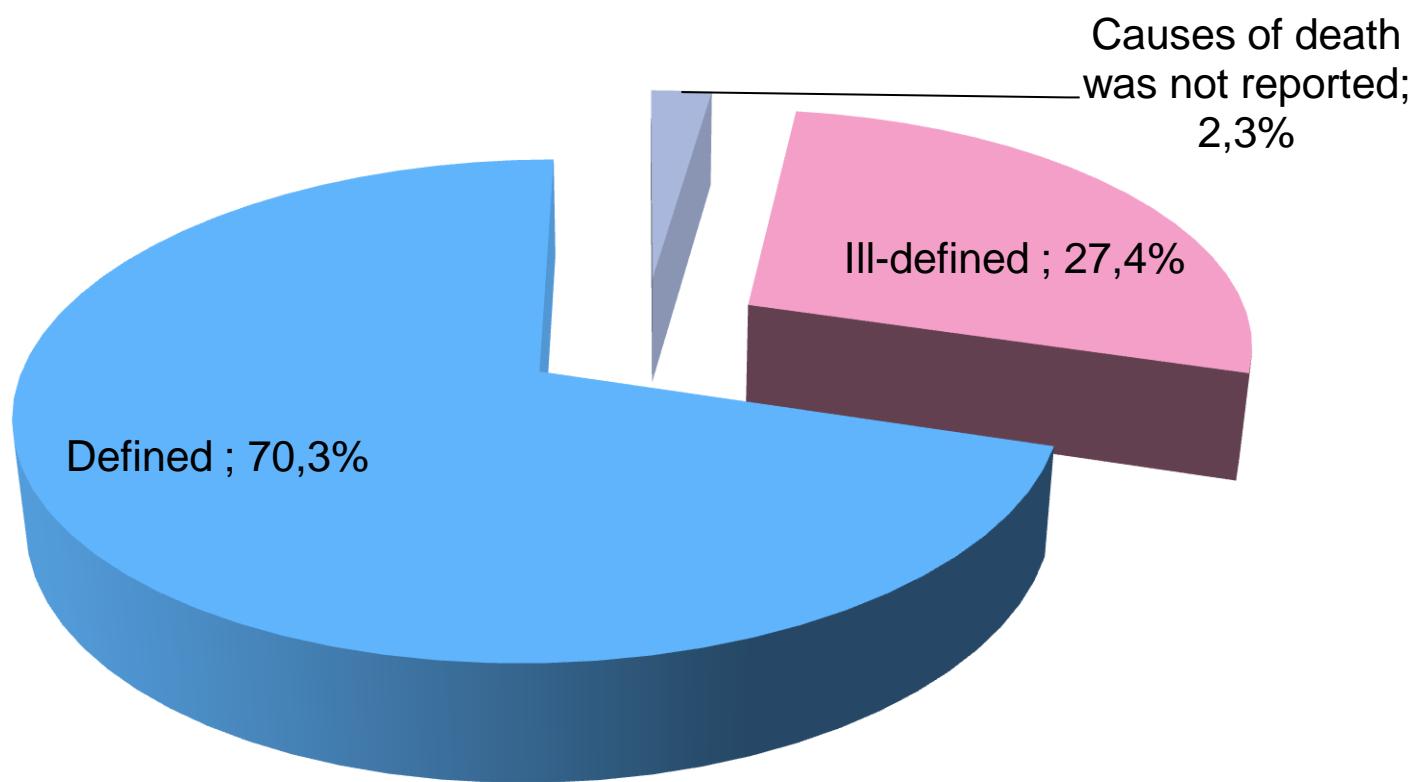
CAUSE OF DEATH		Approximate interval between onset and death
I		
<i>Disease or condition directly leading to death *</i>	(a) due to (or as a consequence of)
<i>Antecedent causes</i> Morbid conditions, if any, giving rise to the above cause, stating the underlying condition last	(b) due to (or as a consequence of)
	(c) The last cause of death
II		
<i>Other significant conditions contributing to the death, but not related to the disease or condition causing it</i>

Cardiac arrest and

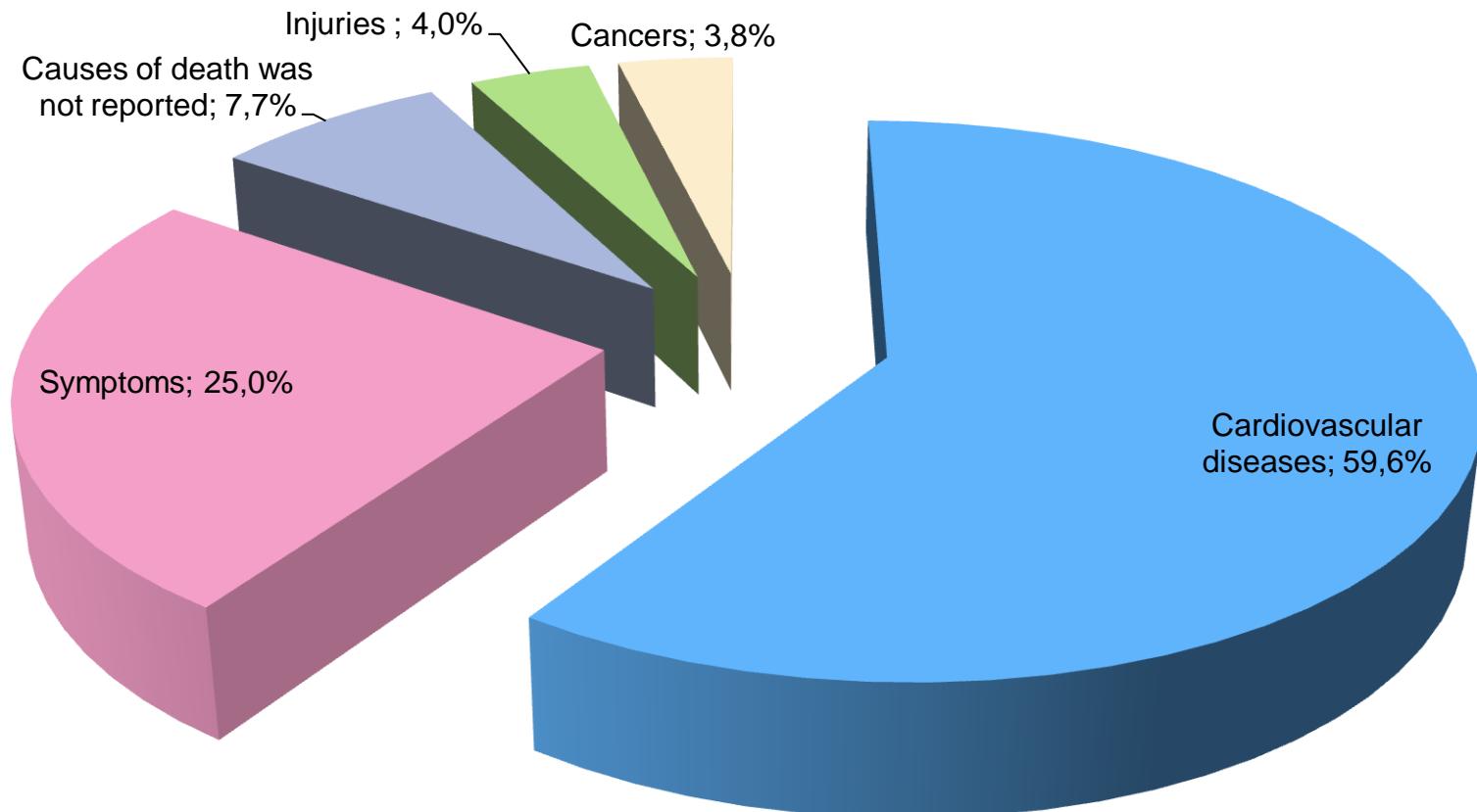
6, C80, C97)

Results

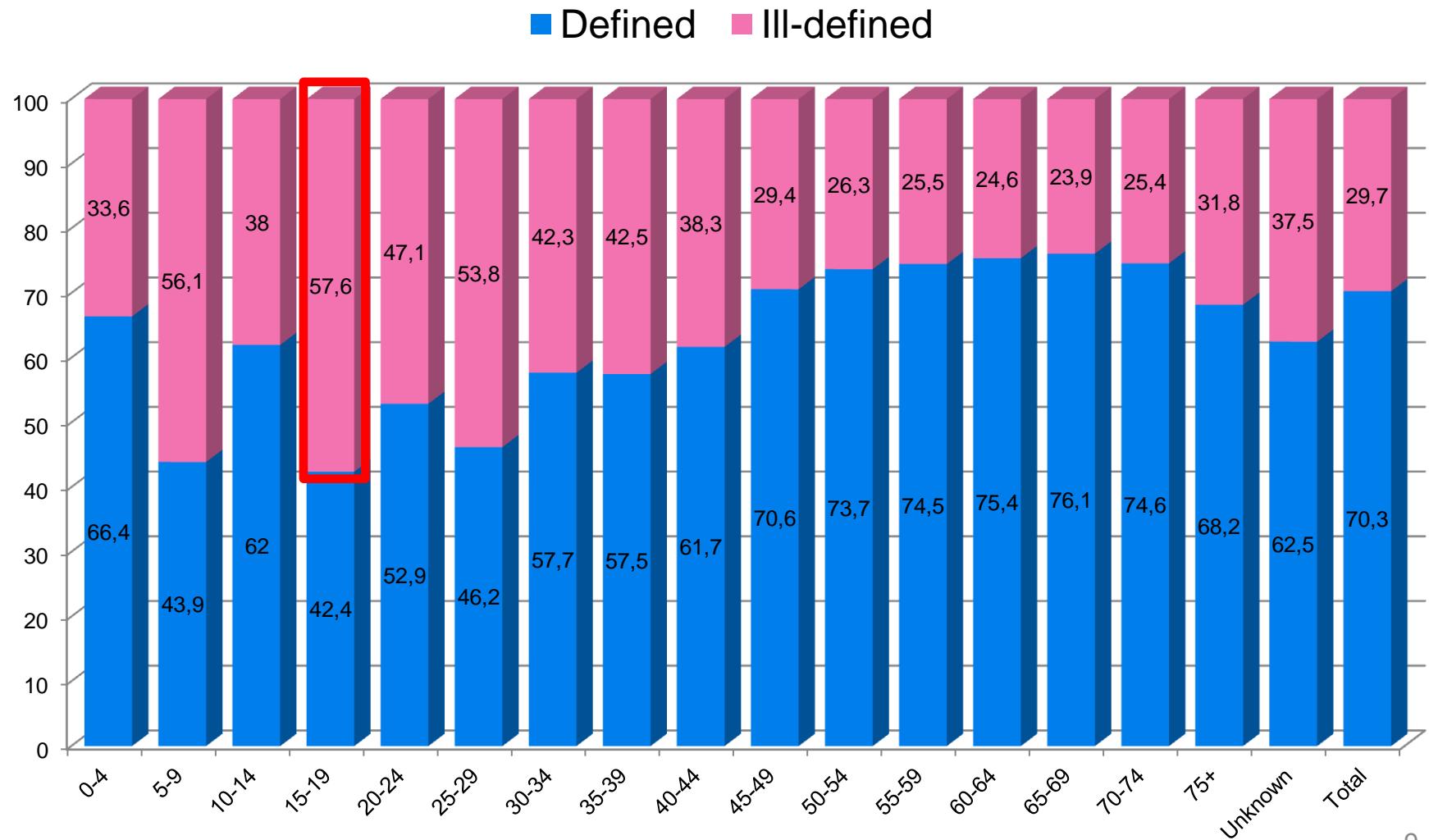
The percentage of unknown and ill-defined causes of death in total deaths



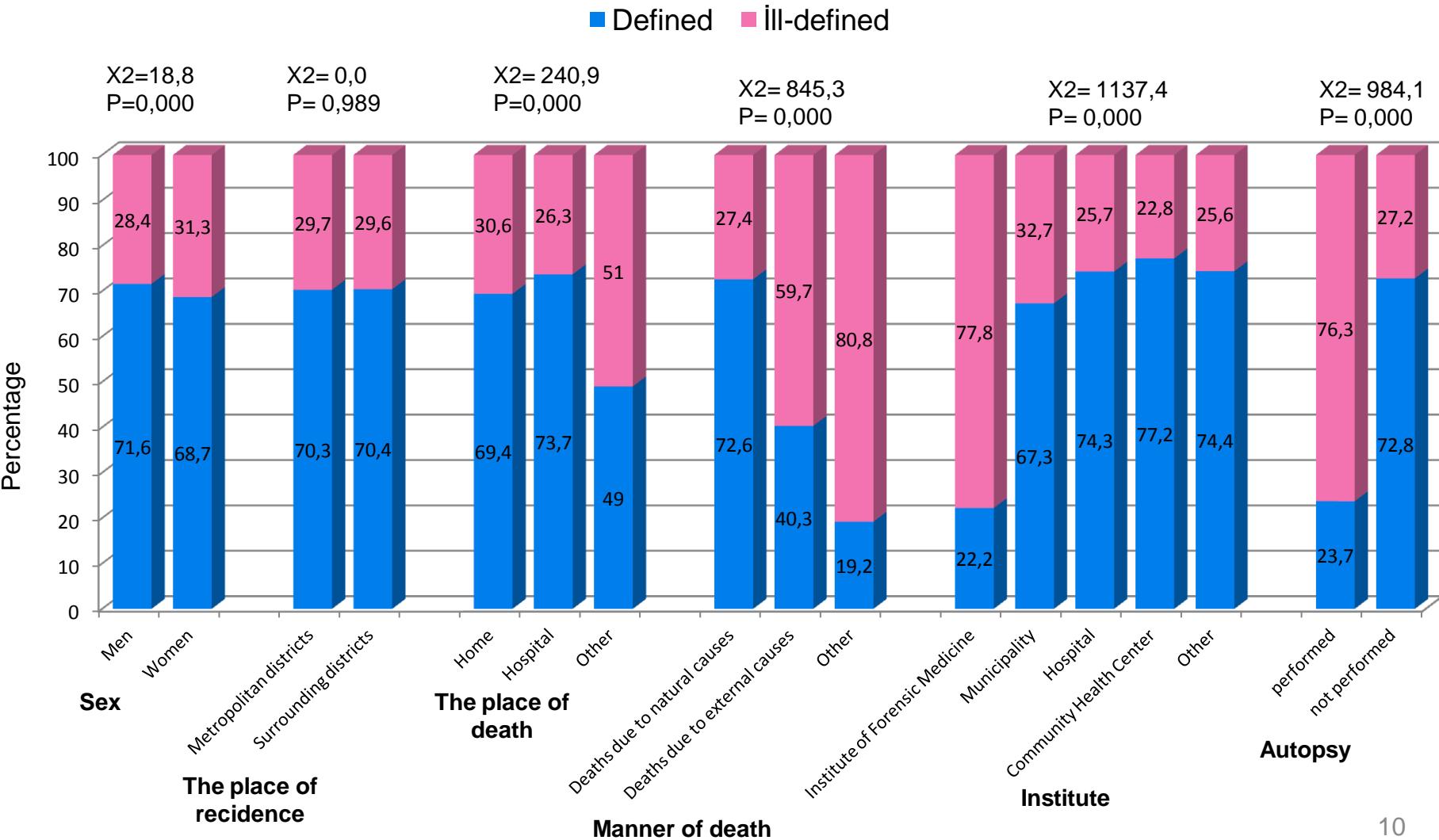
Distrubution of unknown and ill-defined codes by catagories



The percentage of defined and ill-defined codes by age groups



Distrubution of ill-defined codes by some variables



Conclusion

- The proportion of ill defined causes of death in TURSTAT statistics were very high.
- This problem was common among the deaths with autopsy or the reported deaths by forensic institutions.
- The reporting should be completed after the autopsy in these institutions.
- The restriction of the ill defined codes during electronic data entry may decrease the amount of ill defined death causes in mortality statistics.
- The system should be appropriately designed to record events correctly.
- These results strongly support the need to include training in death certificate completion as part of physician education.

Thank you for your attention