

Annex 5 Question 15 – Deaths

I. In prisons

The following figures from the *Länder* were recorded using a standard nationwide procedure:

Year	Deaths		
	Total	Of which by	
		accident	suicide
2019	144	4	42
2020	182	1	77
2021	182	0	92
2022	158	0	59

Source: Prison statistics (*Strafvollzugsstatistik*) (published by the Federal Office of Justice (*Bundesamt für Justiz*, BfJ))

II. In police custody and forensic psychiatric detention

The following data – which were submitted by the individual *Länder* and are not nationally standardised – cover the 2019-2022 reporting period unless otherwise indicated.

Baden-Württemberg

Police:

During the reporting period, the following deaths occurred in the detention facilities of the Baden-Württemberg police:

Year	Detention facility	Sex	Age	Nationality	Cause of death
2019	Police custody	Male	48	German	Pre-existing injury not detectable during medical screening upon admission
2019	Police custody	Male	51	Polish	Medical cause
2019	Police station	Male	54	German	Pre-existing injury not detectable during medical screening upon admission
2019	Police custody	Male	44	German	Medical cause
2019	Police custody	Male	53	German	Fall without external interference
2019	Police custody	Male	56	Romanian	Medical cause
2020	Police custody	Male	62	Turkish	Medical cause
2021	Police custody	Male	52	German	Medical cause
2021	Police custody	Male	55	German	Medical cause

In cases where an investigation into the cause of death was conducted, the proceedings were generally terminated under section 170 (2) StPO. This was particularly the case with the suicides.

Forensic psychiatric detention

In the period from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2022, the psychiatric hospitals and addiction treatment facilities reported a total of 29 deaths (including cases in which the person died off the premises due to relaxations in their detention regime). Of these 29 deaths, 7 were suicides.

Bavaria:

Police:

In Bavaria, the following deaths occurred in police custody during the reporting period:

	Case 1: (5 June 2020)	Case 2: (28 August 2021)	Case 3: (26 February 2019)	Case 4: (3 March 2021)
Detention facility:	Police facility, Ettstraße 2, 80333 München	Police facility, Ettstraße 2, 80333 München	Schweinfurt Police Station	Würzburg-Stadt Police Station
Sex:	Male	Male	Male	Male
Age:	48 years old	52 years old	22 years old	36 years old
Nationality:	German	Romanian	Somali	German
Cause of death:	Could not be conclusively established even after an autopsy and a toxicological report.	Could not be conclusively established even after an autopsy and a toxicological report, but multiple pre-existing conditions were identified.	Strangulation using the outer edge of a provided woollen blanket attached to the bars of the cell.	Cause of death could not be conclusively established with an autopsy. A toxicological report was commissioned.
Result of examination:	Termination of the investigation proceedings against the attending physician who had confirmed the deceased person's fitness for	No criminal proceedings.	Termination of the investigation proceedings, external interference was ruled out.	Ongoing investigation proceedings.

Compensation for family members:	None	None	None	None
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Berlin:

Forensic psychiatric detention

In the period from May 2010 - August 2022, the following deaths were recorded in forensic psychiatric detention in Berlin:

No.	Detention facility	Sex	Age	Nationality	Manner of death
1	Forensic psychiatric detention: psychiatric hospital	Male	51	German	Death
2	Forensic psychiatric detention: psychiatric hospital	Female	59	German	Death
3	Forensic psychiatric detention: psychiatric hospital	Female	47	German	Death
4	Forensic psychiatric detention: psychiatric hospital	Male	60	German	Death
5	Forensic psychiatric detention: psychiatric hospital	Male	69	German	Death
6	Forensic psychiatric detention: psychiatric hospital	Male	59	German	Death
7	Forensic psychiatric detention: psychiatric hospital	Male	35	German	Death
8	Forensic psychiatric detention: psychiatric hospital	Male	57	German	Death
9	Forensic psychiatric detention: psychiatric hospital	Male	84	German	Death
10	Forensic psychiatric detention: psychiatric hospital	Female	51	German	Death
11	Forensic psychiatric detention: psychiatric hospital	Male	71	German	Death
12	Forensic psychiatric detention: psychiatric hospital	Female	61	Swiss	Death
13	Forensic psychiatric detention: psychiatric hospital	Male	59	German	Death

14	Forensic psychiatric detention: psychiatric hospital	Female	33	German	Death
15	Forensic psychiatric detention: psychiatric hospital	Male	57	German	Death
16	Forensic psychiatric detention: psychiatric hospital	Male	59	German	Death
17	Forensic psychiatric detention: psychiatric hospital	Male	68	German	Death
18	Forensic psychiatric detention: psychiatric hospital	Male	47	German	Death
19	Forensic psychiatric detention: psychiatric hospital	Male	44	German	Death
20	Forensic psychiatric detention: psychiatric hospital	Male	56	German	Death
21	Forensic psychiatric detention: psychiatric hospital	Male	68	German	Death
22	Forensic psychiatric detention: psychiatric hospital	Male	50	Jordanian	Death
23	Forensic psychiatric detention: psychiatric hospital	Male	46	German	Suicide
24	Forensic psychiatric detention: psychiatric hospital	Female	23	German	Suicide
25	Forensic psychiatric detention: psychiatric hospital	Male	69	German	Suicide
26	Forensic psychiatric detention: psychiatric hospital	Male	31	German	Suicide
27	Forensic psychiatric detention: psychiatric hospital	Male	34	Syrian	Suicide
28	Forensic psychiatric detention: addiction treatment facility	Male	48	Turkish	Death
29	Forensic psychiatric detention: addiction treatment facility	Male	40	Polish	Suicide

Brandenburg**Forensic psychiatric detention**

Deaths while in detention

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Hospital 1	1 (male: 84 years old)	1 (male: 63 years old)	0	3 (male: 67, 83, 60 years old)	1 (male: 29 years old)
Hospital 2	0	0	0		
Hospital 3	0	0	0	0	3 (female: 19 years old) (male: 59, 67 years old)

Bremen**Police:**

In the reporting period (1 May 2019 – 31 December 2022), the following deaths were recorded in police custody.

Circumstances	Case 1	Case 2
Year:	2020	2021
Detention facility:	City centre police station	Police custody
Sex:	Male	Male
Age:	35	35
Ethnicity/nationality:	German	Russian
Cause of death:	Cardiac arrest	No specific cause of death was established

Hamburg

Police

In 2019, an accused person attacked several police officers in the cell block of a local police station. There was a physical altercation, after which the accused was hospitalised and ultimately died as a result of cerebral hypoxia.

In addition, the following investigations into deaths in police custody were conducted during the period under review:

Death in police custody						
	Detention facility	Sex	Age	Ethnicity	Nationality	Cause of death
1	Psychiatric unit	Male	58	Turkish	Turkish	Multiple organ failure
2	Police station	Male	27	Turkish	German	Severe hypoxia, pre-existing heart condition
3	Public space / transport to hospital	Male	33	Polish	Polish	Cardiac arrest, exacerbated by drug overdose

Hesse

Police

	2020
Detention facility:	North Hesse Police Headquarters
Sex:	Female
Age:	42 years old
Nationality:	German
Cause of death:	Not conclusively established even after the autopsy – external interference ruled out, presumably drug and alcohol overdose
Result of examination:	Termination of the investigation proceedings against the attending physician who had confirmed the deceased person's fitness for custody.

Compensation for family members:	None
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Forensic psychiatric detention:

In the period from 2019 to 2022, the forensic psychiatric hospitals in Hesse reported ten deaths by natural causes, one death by an unknown cause and four suicides.

Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

Forensic psychiatric detention:

Year	Detention facility	Information on the deaths
2020	Helios Hansekllinikum Stralsund	male patient, 71 years old, German, natural death
2021	Helios Hansekllinikum Stralsund	male patient, 56 years old, German, natural death
	AMEOS Klinikum Ueckermünde	female patient, 62 years old, German, natural death
2022	AMEOS Klinikum Ueckermünde	male patient, 52 years old, German, natural death

North Rhine-Westphalia

Police:

In the period under review, a 25-year-old man under the influence of drugs and alcohol died in the custody of the North Rhine-Westphalia police. He had collapsed immediately after having a blood sample taken.

Forensic psychiatric detention:

In the period from 1 May 2019 to 31 December 2022, the psychiatric hospitals and addiction treatment facilities reported a total of 68 deaths (including cases in which the patients were entitled to live outside the premises). In total, 59 male patients and 9 female patients between 24 and 88 years of age died. Of these 68 deaths, 10 were suicides.

Lower Saxony

Police:

	2021
Detention facility:	Hameln Police Station
Sex:	Male
Age:	53 years old
Nationality:	German
Background:	Police investigations revealed that the person concerned had a history of hypertension and alcohol abuse. The autopsy showed that his cardiovascular system had been under strain for years, manifesting itself in a pathological heart condition and leading to acute secondary findings in the lungs (COPD). According to the forensic medical experts, the rescue and police officers tasked with taking this person into custody would have been unable to recognise his medical condition. In the opinion of the forensic medical experts, the resultant damage could not have been averted even if the person concerned had been hospitalised. There were no grounds for launching investigation proceedings against the rescue and police officers.

Forensic psychiatric detention:

In the period under review (1 May 2019 to 30 June 2022), the psychiatric detention facilities in Lower Saxony registered ten deaths by natural causes and two suicides.

Rhineland-Palatinate

Police:

On 3 March 2022, a male 43-year-old Polish national died in police custody at Diez Police Station (within the district of Koblenz Police Headquarters). The autopsy performed by the forensic medicine unit at Mainz University Hospital did not clearly reveal the cause of death, but it was assumed that cardiac arrest or arrhythmia were responsible. According to the public prosecution office in charge of the investigation, there were no signs of external interference.

Forensic psychiatric detention

	Year	Sex		Age	Nationality	Cause of death
		Male	Female			
Klinik Nette Gut, Hospital for Forensic Psychiatry	2019	0	0	28, 32, 59, 60, 60, 66, 70, 88 years old	All German	5 natural deaths, 3 unnatural deaths
	2020	4	1			
	2021	3	0			
Pfalzkrlinikum, Forensic Psychiatry Department	2019	0	0	21, 38, 44, 49, 70 years old	3 German, Tunisian, Serbian	3 natural deaths 2 unnatural deaths
	2020	3	0			
	2021	2	0			
Rheinhausen- Fachklinik Alzey, Forensic Psychiatry Department	2019	1	0	49 years old	German	natural death
	2020	0	0			
	2021	0	0			

Saarland

Police:

For the period under the review, the statistics reveal one case within the meaning of the question:

Year	Detention facility	Sex	Age	Nationality	Cause of death
2022	Police custody	Male	36 years old	German, Polish	Drug overdose Note: the medical examination and assessment of fitness for custody were conducted before the person concerned was taken into police custody

In the investigation into the cause of death, Saarbrücken Public Prosecution Office refrained from launching investigation proceedings under section 152 (2) StPO. There was no evidence of criminal behaviour on the part of police officers. Given the cause of death, no compensation was paid out to family members.

Forensic psychiatric detention:

In the period under review, three deaths were registered in psychiatric detention facilities in Saarland:

	Sex	Age	Nationality	Cause of death
1	m	68	German	Advanced cancer
2	m	27	Syrian	Suicide
3	m	37	German	Suicide

Saxony

Police:

In the period under review, there were no deaths in police custody in Saxony.

Forensic psychiatric detention

The deaths registered in the five psychiatric detention facilities in Saxony are listed in the table below.

Detention facility	Großschweidnitz	Altscherbitz	Arnsdorf	Rodewisch	St. Georg
Deaths	-	-	1 death in 2017, male, born 1982, Georgian national 1 death in 2022, male, born 1939, German national	1 death in 2017, male, born 1967, German national 1 death in 2019, male, born 1994, Eritrean national 1 death in 2020, male, born 1983, German national 1 death in 2022, male, born 1990, German national	-
Result of examination	-	-	2017 – natural death 2022 – natural death	2017 – natural death 2019 – suicide 2020 – natural death 2022 – suicide	-
Compensation paid to family members	-	-	-	-	-

Saxony-Anhalt:**Police:**

In the period under review (from May 2019), nobody died in the police custody facilities of Saxony-Anhalt.

Forensic psychiatric detention

The statistics on deaths in the psychiatric detention facilities of Saxony-Anhalt during the period from 2016 to 31 December 2022 are shown in the following table:

No.	Year	Psychiatric detention facility	Sex	Age	Nationality	Cause of death
1	2018	Uchtspringe	Male	75	German	Natural death
2	2018	Uchtspringe	Male	54	German	Natural death
3	2019	Uchtspringe	Male	90	German	Natural death
4	2021	Uchtspringe	Male	67	German	Natural death
5	2021	Uchtspringe	Male	63	German	Natural death
6	2021	Uchtspringe	Male	67	German	Natural death
7	2021	Uchtspringe	Male	72	German	Natural death
8	2022	Uchtspringe	Male	81	German	Natural death
9	2022	Uchtspringe	Male	66	German	Natural death
10	2022	Uchtspringe	Male	89	German	Natural death
11	2022	Uchtspringe	Male	42	German	Natural death
12	2022	Uchtspringe	Male	50	German	Natural death

Schleswig-Holstein

Police:

In the reporting period, there were no deaths in the custody facilities of the Schleswig-Holstein police.

Forensic psychiatric detention

The following statistics cover the reporting period from 2019, showing deaths in the secure psychiatric facility in Neustadt. No statistics appear for the facility in Schleswig because no deaths occurred during the entire reporting period.

Detention facility	Sex	Year	Age	Nationality	Cause of death
		2019			
Neustadt	Male	2020	52 years old	German	Natural causes
Neustadt	Male	2021	49 years old	German	Natural causes
Neustadt	Male	2021	57 years old	German	Natural causes
Neustadt	Male	2021	88 years old	German	Natural causes
Neustadt	Male	2021	63 years old	German	Natural causes
Neustadt	Male	2021	41 years old	German	Natural causes
Neustadt	Male	2021	82 years old	German	Natural causes
Neustadt	Male	2022	71 years old	German	Natural causes
Neustadt	Male	2022	76 years old	German	Natural causes
Neustadt	Male	2022	46 years old	German	Unclear cause of death
Neustadt	Male	2022	67 years old	German	Natural causes

Neustadt	Male	2022	85 years old	German	Natural causes
Neustadt	Male	2022	65 years old	German	Natural causes
Neustadt	Male	2022	72 years old	German	Natural causes

In the “unclear cause of death” case, the public prosecution office ordered an autopsy. The forensic medical team that performed the autopsy could not establish a clear cause of death, but it did note that no evidence could be found to indicate that violence by another party was a contributing factor.

Thuringia

Police

During the period under review, there were no deaths in Thuringian police custody.

Forensic psychiatric detention

Detention facility	Sex	Age	Nationality	Cause of death
Stadtroda Forensic Psychiatric Hospital	Female	55	German	Pulmonary embolism
Mühlhausen Forensic Psychiatric Hospital	Male	60	German	Not known
Stadtroda Forensic Psychiatric Hospital	Male	70	German	Cancer
Hildburghausen Forensic Psychiatric Hospital	Male	59	German	Not known