

16TH  
INTERNATIONAL  
SEMINAR

**SUPERCENTENARIANS**



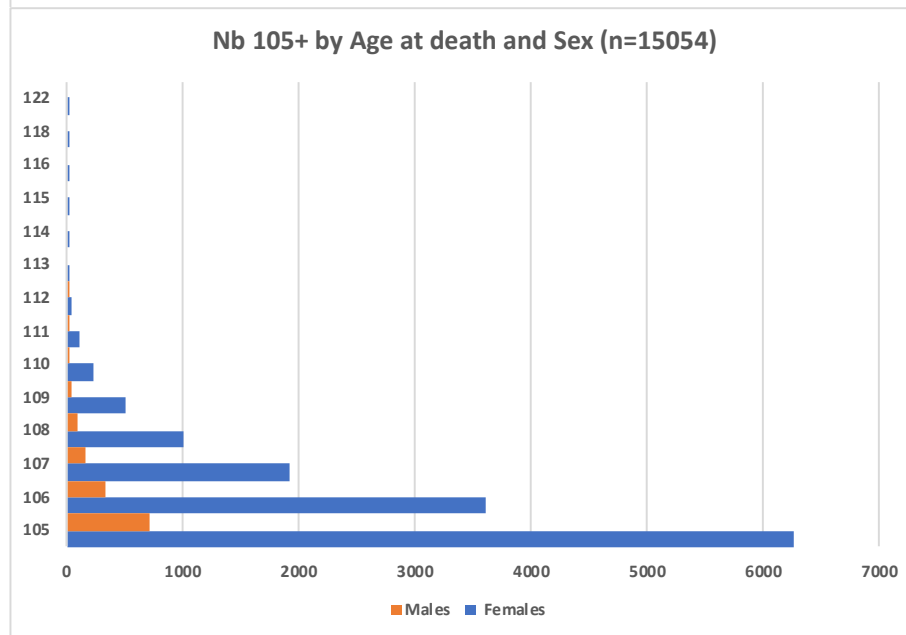
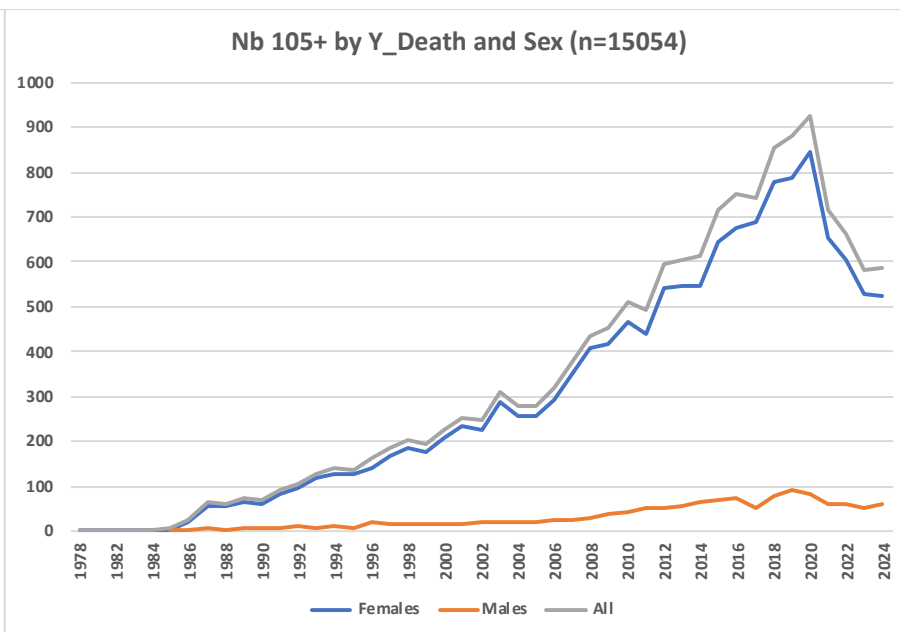
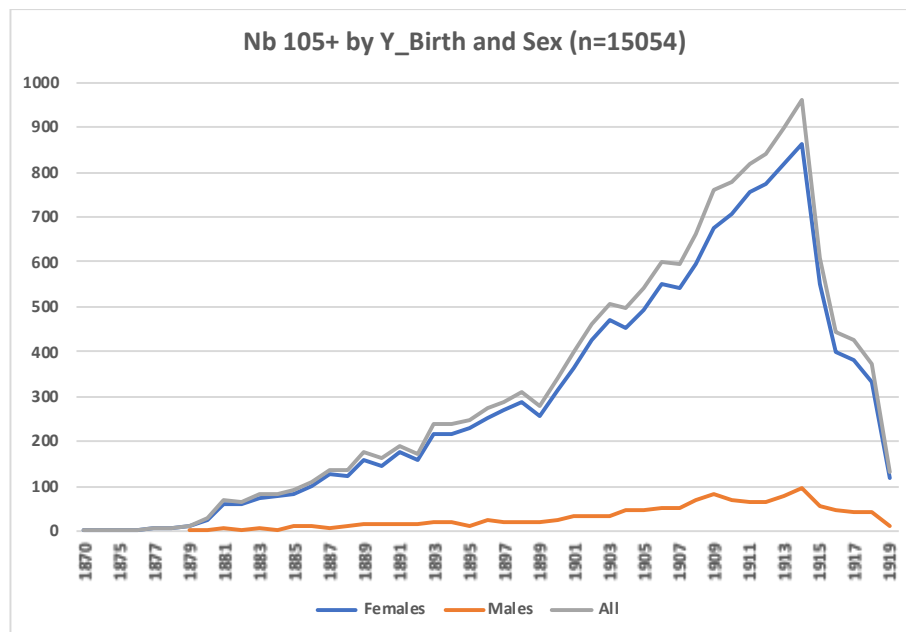
Campus Condorcet, Paris  
April 09-10, 2026,

# Validation of two new samples of semi-supercentenarians in mainland France and the French West Indies

Laurent Toussaint, Carlo Giovanni Camarda, France Meslé,  
Svitlana Poniakina and **Jean-Marie Robine**



Quick presentation of the French data in IDL



IDL contains 15,054 records of individuals born in France between 1870 and 1919 who died after their 105th birthday between 1978 and 2024. This includes 13,710 women and 1,344 men, resulting in a sex ratio of 1 man to just over 10 women. Approximately 7,000 of them (46%), the youngest, died at age 105, while the oldest, Jeanne Calment, died at age 122 in 1997.

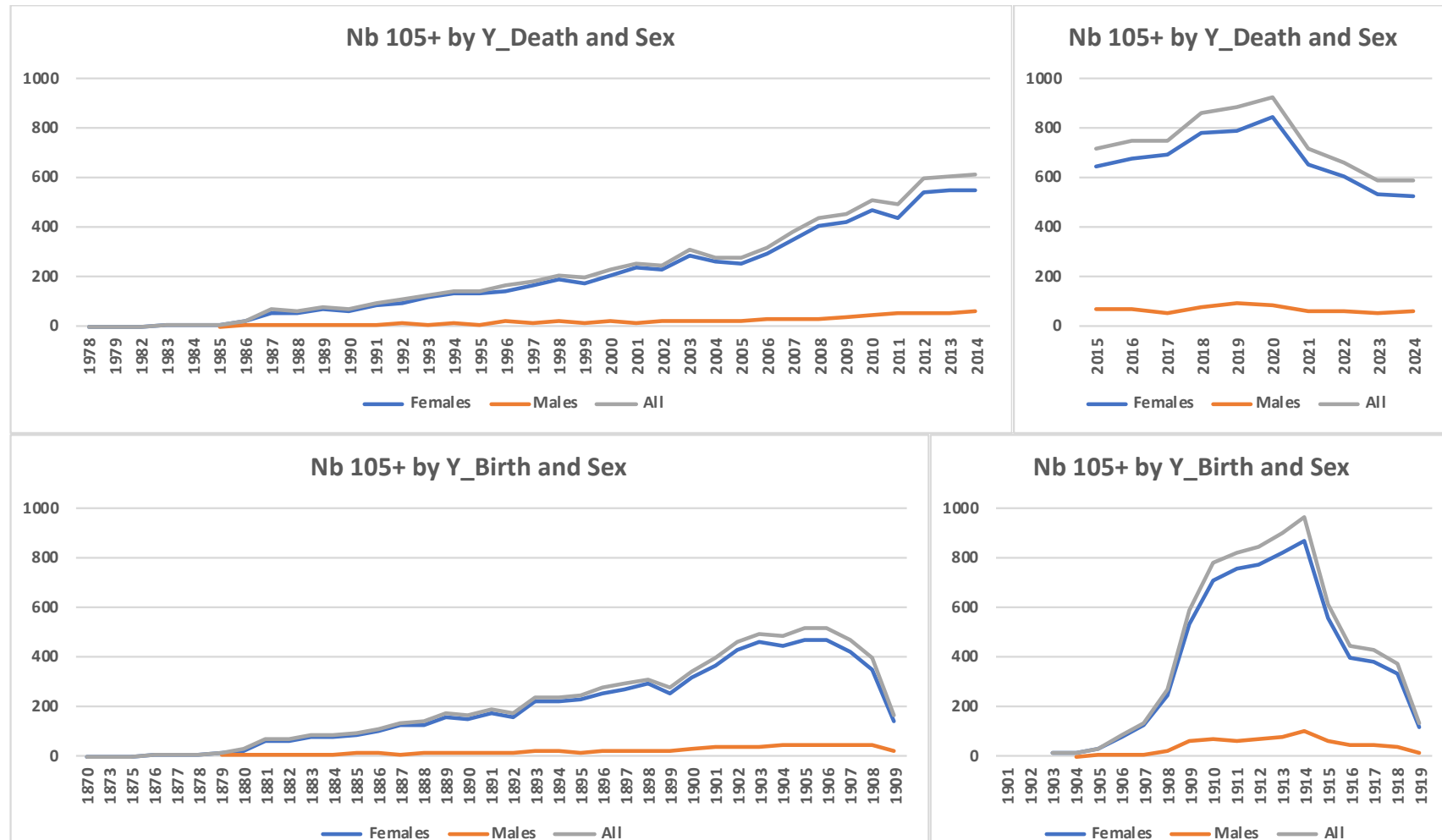
# Introduction

While the age at death of all individuals alleged to have died at age 110 or older is subject to thorough validation by the French IDL team, for individuals alleged to have died between the ages of 105 and 109, validation of ages at death was performed only on random samples, given the very large number of cases.

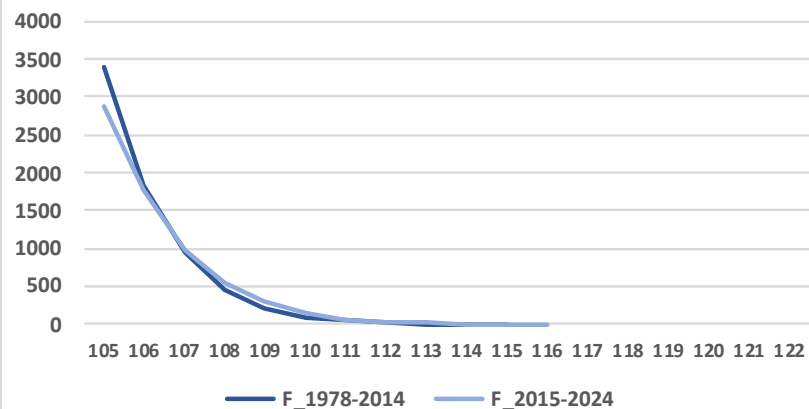
The individuals who died between 1978 and 2014 at the presumed ages of 105 to 109 were, thus, subject to two sample-based validations of their ages at death. These exercises demonstrated the high quality of the recorded ages, making it unnecessary to repeat them.

However, 10 years later, with the number of cases having doubled over that period, we wish to repeat the validation exercise for ages at death between 105 and 109 years, **especially since one of France's overseas territories is now suspected of harbouring a blue zone: namely, the French West Indies.**

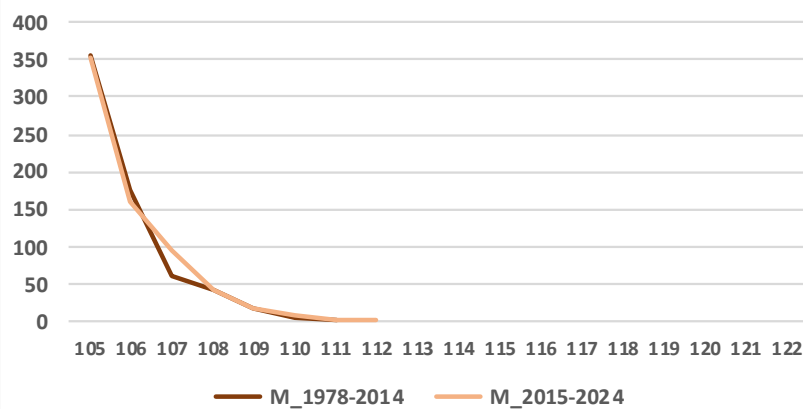
7,647 (50.5%) of these individuals died before 2015, between 1978 and 2014, and 7,407 (49.2%) since 2015, between 2015 and 2024, representing two groups of roughly equal size.



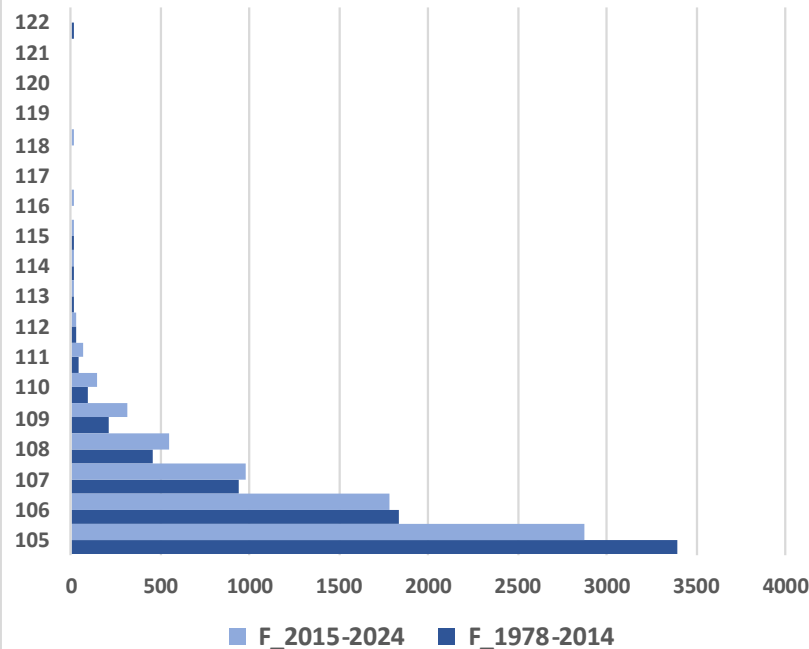
Females



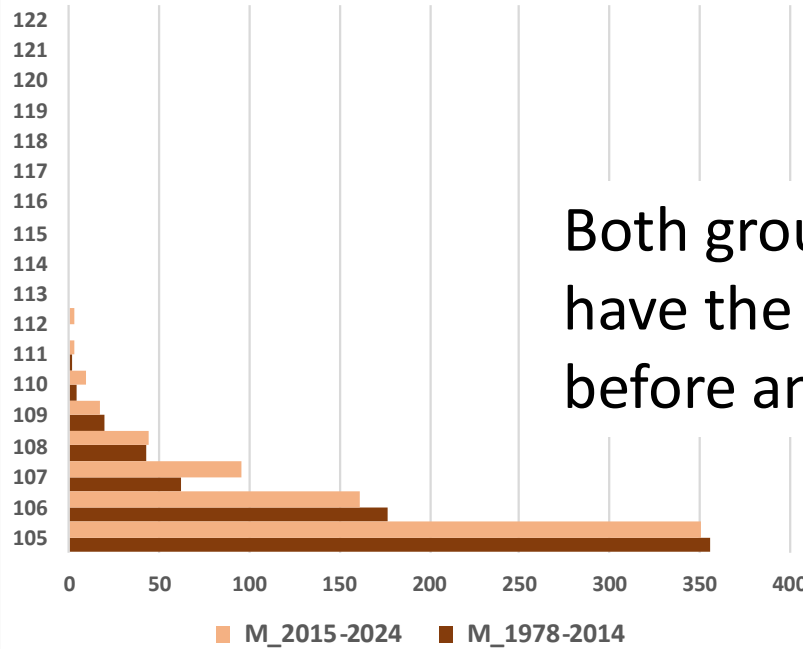
Males



Females



Males



Both groups seem to have the same longevity before and after 2015

# Age at death validation protocol

To determine whether the alleged supercentenarians and semi-supercentenarians lived as long as implied by the RNIPP, the accuracy of the information relative to the person's birth is first verified by referring to the person's birth certificate, available at the town hall of his/her birthplace. Then, the accuracy of the person's exact date of death is verified, using the death certificate, available at the town hall of his/her deathplace.



Among the RNIPP data set at our disposal in 2004, 2,031 individuals had supposedly lived to ages 105–109. Given the size of the group, we limited the exhaustive check to the oldest individuals (alleged ages 107, 108, and 109), while half of cases at alleged age 106 and a third of cases at alleged age 105 were checked. The Table shows the age-specific sampling fractions used for both sexes combined.

place in 2004 and in 2014

for alleged semi-  
supposedly born 1883–1897 and died

centenarians in France

Age at death (years)	Number of cases	Sample		Validation procedure			
		Number of cases	Sampling fraction (%)	Birth and death certificates or other legal documents were found <sup>b</sup>		Dates of birth and death were validated	
				Number of cases	In %	Number of cases	In %
105	1,047	352	33.6	349	99.1	349	100.0
106	560	274	48.9	274	100.0	272	99.3
107	262	262	100.0	261	99.6	260	99.6
108	111	111	100.0	111	100.0	111	100.0
109	51	51	100.0	51	100.0	51	100.0
Total	2,031	1,050	51.7	1,046	99.6	1,043	99.7

<sup>a</sup>Metropolitan France and French overseas *départements* (excluding Mayotte)

<sup>b</sup>Excludes errors up to 3 days in the birthdate (8 cases)

In summary, among the 1,050 females and males in our sample, the birth and death certificates were found for nearly all of them (1,046 or 99.6%), and among the 1,046 checked cases the dates of birth and death recorded in the RNIPP were exact in 1,043 instances (99.7%). Only two of these three cases turned out to be false semi-supercentenarians.

It should be noted that the one with a 10-year error on her year of birth was born and died outside mainland France, namely in Guadeloupe.

The high quality of RNIPP data was further confirmed by an additional age validation study of 100 cases (20 for each year of age from 105 to 109), randomly selected among the 10,305 cases from the 2014 RNIPP extract. No error was found either in the dates of birth or death among the 99 cases which could be validated (for the one remaining case, we were unable to find the birth and death certificates).

Nevertheless, following this validation exercise, we decided to exclude in our analysis of the French data all semi-supercentenarians and supercentenarians born or died in French overseas territories.

More details in: Ouellette N, Meslé F, Vallin J, Robine JM (2021) *Supercentenarians and Semi-supercentenarians in France*. In Maier, H., Jeune, B., Vaupel, J. W. (eds.), *Exceptional Lifespans*, Demographic Research Monographs, [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-49970-9\\_1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-49970-9_1)

## The new validation of 2026 (work in progress)

The initial idea was to replicate the validation carried out on the 2014 RNIPP extract, using a sample of 100 records covering the period 2015–2024 and with the same distribution as the original sample, namely 20 men and 20 women who are believed to have died at ages 105-109.

Given that a blue zone is now suspected to exist in the French West Indies, it has been decided to validate two sets of 100 records, one for the French West Indies (Martinique and Guadeloupe) and the other for mainland France

Given the extremely high proportion of male semi-supercentenarians in the French West Indies and their small numbers, it was decided to validate all male records in the French West Indies whilst keeping the total sample size unchanged at 100 records

## Are the French West Indies a blue zone?

This question has arisen in recent years. For IDL, it concerned the number of supercentenarians, which was 8 times higher than in mainland France when calculated as a ratio per 100,000 inhabitants. One possibility that had to be ruled out was that of poor quality civil registration records in the West Indies. This led to two research missions to the West Indies led by Jacques Vallin, which concluded that the quality of civil registration documents in the West Indies was similar to that in mainland France.

Reference: J. Vallin (2021) Eight times more supercentenarians in the French West Indies than in metropolitan France. *Gérontologie et société*, 166, 43: 143-165

# Number of deaths among people aged 105 to 109 over the period 2015–2024: mainland France vs the French West Indies

Population size in 2024				
	Mainland	Fr West Indies	La Martinique	La Guadeloupe
Males	31800000	357000	176000	181000
Females	33200000	372000	183000	189000
<b>Total</b>	<b>65000000</b>	<b>729000</b>	<b>359000</b>	<b>370000</b>
Nb deaths at age 105-109, from 2015 to 2024				
	Mainland	Fr West Indies	La Martinique	La Guadeloupe
Males	604	60	27	33
Females	6192	215	128	87
<b>Total</b>	<b>6796</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>120</b>
Nb deaths 105-109 in 2015-2024 for 100,000 inhabitants in 2024				
	Mainland	Fr West Indies	La Martinique	La Guadeloupe
Males	1,9	16,8	15,3	18,2
Females	18,7	57,8	69,9	46,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,5</b>	<b>37,7</b>	<b>43,2</b>	<b>32,4</b>
<b>F/M ratio</b>	<b>9,8</b>	<b>3,4</b>	<b>4,6</b>	<b>2,5</b>
<b>WI/Mainland ratio</b>	<b>1,0</b>	<b>3,6</b>	<b>4,1</b>	<b>3,1</b>

Mainland sample (100 IDL_French records) of lifespans ranging from 105 to 109 years and ending between 2015 and 2024															
	Number of observed lifespans			Sample to be validated			Sampling rate in per cent (%)			Number of lifespans validated			Success rate in per cent (%)		
	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total
105	2751	322	3073	10	10	20	0,4	3,1	0,7	10	10	20	100	100	100
106	1695	142	1837	10	10	20	0,6	7,0	1,1	10	10	20	100	100	100
107	946	84	1030	10	10	20	1,1	11,9	1,9	10	10	20	100	100	100
108	508	40	548	10	10	20	2,0	25,0	3,6	10	10	20	100	100	100
109	292	16	308	10	10	20	3,4	62,5	6,5	10	10	20	100	100	100
TOTAL	6192	604	6796	50	50	100	0,8	8,3	1,5	50	50	100	100	100	100
French West Indies sample (100 IDL_French records) of lifespans ranging from 105 to 109 years and ending between 2015 and 2024															
	Number of observed lifespans			Sample to be validated			Sampling rate in per cent (%)			Number of lifespans validated			Success rate in per cent (%)		
	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total
105	89	27	116	8	27	35	9,0	100,0	30,2	WORK IN PROGRESS			WORK IN PROGRESS		
106	61	18	79	8	18	26	13,1	100,0	32,9						
107	30	10	40	8	10	18	26,7	100,0	45,0						
108	25	4	29	8	4	12	32,0	100,0	41,4						
109	10	1	11	8	1	9	80,0	100,0	81,8						
TOTAL	215	60	275	40	60	100	18,6	100,0	36,4						
Martinique sample (100 IDL_French records) of lifespans ranging from 105 to 109 years and ending between 2015 and 2024															
	Number of observed lifespans			Sample to be validated			Sampling rate in per cent (%)			Number of lifespans validated			Success rate in per cent (%)		
	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total
105	47	11	58	4	11	15	8,5	100,0	25,9	WORK IN PROGRESS			WORK IN PROGRESS		
106	40	12	52	4	12	16	10,0	100,0	30,8						
107	18	3	21	4	3	7	22,2	100,0	33,3						
108	18	1	19	4	1	5	22,2	100,0	26,3						
109	5		5	4		4	80,0		80,0						
TOTAL	128	27	155	20	27	47	15,6	100,0	30,3						
Guadeloupe sample (100 IDL_French records) of lifespans ranging from 105 to 109 years and ending between 2015 and 2024															
	Number of observed lifespans			Sample to be validated			Sampling rate in per cent (%)			Number of lifespans validated			Success rate in per cent (%)		
	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total
105	42	16	58	4	16	20	9,5	100,0	34,5	WORK IN PROGRESS			WORK IN PROGRESS		
106	21	6	27	4	6	10	19,0	100,0	37,0						
107	12	7	19	4	7	11	33,3	100,0	57,9						
108	7	3	10	4	3	7	57,1	100,0	70,0						
109	5	1	6	4	1	5	80,0	100,0	83,3						
TOTAL	87	33	120	20	33	53	23,0	100,0	44,2						

# Work in progress in the French West Indies

French West Indies sample (100 IDL_French records) of lifespans ranging from 105 to 109 years and ending between 2015 and 2024															
	Number of observed lifespans			Sample to be validated			Sampling rate in per cent (%)			Number of lifespans validated			Success rate in per cent (%)		
	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total
105	89	27	116	8	27	35	9,0	100,0	30,2	07	23	30	88	85	86
106	61	18	79	8	18	26	13,1	100,0	32,9	06	16	22	75	89	85
107	30	10	40	8	10	18	26,7	100,0	45,0	06	09	15	75	90	83
108	25	4	29	8	4	12	32,0	100,0	41,4	06	04	10	75	100	83
109	10	1	11	8	1	9	80,0	100,0	81,8	06	01	7	75	100	78
TOTAL	215	60	275	40	60	100	18,6	100,0	36,4	31	53	84	78	88	84
Martinique sample (100 IDL_French records) of lifespans ranging from 105 to 109 years and ending between 2015 and 2024															
	Number of observed lifespans			Sample to be validated			Sampling rate in per cent (%)			Number of lifespans validated			Success rate in per cent (%)		
	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total
105	47	11	58	4	11	15	8,5	100,0	25,9	03	11	14	75	100	93
106	40	12	52	4	12	16	10,0	100,0	30,8	03	10	13	75	83	81
107	18	3	21	4	3	7	22,2	100,0	33,3	03	03	6	75	100	86
108	18	1	19	4	1	5	22,2	100,0	26,3	03	01	4	75	100	80
109	5		5	4		4	80,0		80,0	04	00	4	100		100
TOTAL	128	27	155	20	27	47	15,6	100,0	30,3	16	25	41	80	93	87
Guadeloupe sample (100 IDL_French records) of lifespans ranging from 105 to 109 years and ending between 2015 and 2024															
	Number of observed lifespans			Sample to be validated			Sampling rate in per cent (%)			Number of lifespans validated			Success rate in per cent (%)		
	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total
105	42	16	58	4	16	20	9,5	100,0	34,5	04	12	16	100	75	80
106	21	6	27	4	6	10	19,0	100,0	37,0	03	06	9	75	100	90
107	12	7	19	4	7	11	33,3	100,0	57,9	03	06	9	75	86	82
108	7	3	10	4	3	7	57,1	100,0	70,0	03	03	6	75	100	86
109	5	1	6	4	1	5	80,0	100,0	83,3	02	01	3	50	100	60
TOTAL	87	33	120	20	33	53	23,0	100,0	44,2	15	28	43	75	85	81

By March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026

# Short stories



# Montserrat Mercédès BARDIA-LARIBAL

The 100 cases in the new metropolitan sample were validated in terms of lifespan, ranging from 105 to 109 years, but the

Bardia Laribal  
2192 En Barcelona, a ochu de septien  
d'octubre de mil novecents i quinze,  
Jo. Dr. D. Francisco de Paula G  
Pbr. Domènec de esta Santa E  
glia la Fedal Baillia, bauti  
flem nomen i una dona, que se  
dona el trenta i una del mes de  
nov, en la calle de Susau, qui  
mercedosa principal; hija de  
padres desconeguts. Se le pu  
pos. nombrats, Montserrat, i heren  
des. Teresa Padrinos: D. Domingo  
Lluntana, del comerç i d'heren  
des. Cornells, carater, natural de  
de Barcelona. En fecho de la qual se fa  
una fecho ut supra. D. Francisco de Paula G  
Domingo

DESIGNATION		NUMÉROS PAR QUARTIER, VILLAGE, hameau ou rue			NOMS DE FAMILLE	PRÉNOMS	ANNÉE de NAISSANCE	LIEU DE NAISSANCE	NATIO- NALITÉ	SITUATION PAR RAPPORT au chef de ménage.	PROFESSION	Pour les patrons, chefs d'entrepri- se, ouvriers à domicile, inscri- re : patron.  Pour les employés ou ouvriers, in- diquer le nom du patron ou de l'entreprise qui les emploie.
des quartiers villages ou hameaux	DES RUES dans les villes.	des mai- sons.	des mén- ges.	des indivi- dus.								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
La Serre	1	1	121	Bapay	Aimée	1916	Loos	franc	filie	-		
			122	Bapay	Henri	1926	id	id	filie			
	2	2	123	Gaseogne	Jean Marie	1903	Cardelhan H.	id	chef	Charrey		
			124	Gaseogne mi Schaups	Alice	1907	Lamogues H.	id	jeune			
			125	Gaseogne	Odette	1927	Loos	id	filie			
			126	Sherwin	Auguste	1894	id	id	chef	Cull		
	3	3	127	Dupin	Jean	1879	Landorthe H.	id	seure	id		
			128	Dupin mi Jherwin	Marie	1882	Loos	id	filie			
			129	Bardia Laribal	Muriel	1915	Boulonn	id	enfant adopté			
			130	Tourment	Jean Marie	1870	Loos	id	chef	Cull		

In the West Indies, there are many children who were not recognized by both parents at the time of their birth. Thus, out of the 100 cases in the sample, we were able to obtain the full birth certificate for many of them. Twenty-nine were recognized after birth, generally by their father but sometimes by their mother, through a simple acknowledgment of paternity or legitimization by the marriage of both parents.

## Michel Georges MORVILLE

Michel Georges MORVILLE, who died at the age of 105 years and 79 days, was registered on September 29, 1917. He was the unacknowledged natural child of Julie Ann GROSSE-PIÈCE. She acknowledged him in 1919 under the name Julie Anne MORVILLE, as she herself was acknowledged on the same day by her own father, Eloy Philippe MORVILLE, Michel Georges's grandfather.

## Marie VALBON

Marie VALBON, who died at the age of 106 years and 10 days, was registered on September 10, 1912. Marie was a child born out of wedlock who was acknowledged by her mother, Primice BEAUDRY.

On November 11, 2015, Élise BEAUDRY, mother of Primice BEAUDRY, married Auguste VALBON, who recognized Primice as his child on the same day. Following this recognition, the surname of Primice and that of Marie, her daughter, were changed to VALBON. A note was added in the margin of their respective birth certificates.

Since no good story is complete without a crime,  
I need to tell you about the 2025 data we've just received,  
which is still being verified.



# Eugène, Julien, René BENOIST

le 14 Mars 2026 INSEE cent us e n u n t r a n s f e r f r o m t h e D N I D D

Acte de décès n°1445/1

Eugène, Julien, René BENOIST

Date et heure du décès : Décès constaté le quatre avril deux mille vingt-cinq --  
dont la date n'a pu être établie. -----  
Lieu du décès : le corps a été trouvé en son domicile, 6, impasse Gruney, ----  
Toulouse (Haute-Garonne). -----

NOM du défunt : BENOIST -----  
Prénom(s) : Eugène, Julien, René -----  
Né : le 20 février 1915 -----  
À : Toulouse (Haute-Garonne) -----  
Profession : retraité -----  
Domicile : 6, impasse Gruney, Toulouse (Haute-Garonne) -----  
Fils de : Aimable, Eugène BENOIST, décédé -----  
et de : Henriette TRAPÉ, décédée -----  
Situation matrimoniale : veuf de Thérèse, Marie, Jeanne BROËNS -----

Déclarant : Christophe CHANAVAT, âgé de 52 ans, conseiller funéraire, exerçant à  
Toulouse (Haute-Garonne), 83 chemin de Ribaute. -----

Date et heure de l'acte : 20 juin 2025 à 15 heures 23 minutes -----  
Après lecture et invitation à lire l'acte, Nous, Nathalie LACOSTE, Fonctionnaire  
de la Mairie de Toulouse, Officier de l'Etat Civil par délégation du Maire avons  
signé avec le déclarant. -----

Copie délivrée selon procédé informatisé.  
À Toulouse, le 09 juillet 2025

Pour le Maire,  
L'officier de l'état civil par délégation



Nicolas PAGES

## L'ÉVÈNEMENT

TOULOUSE

# Un riche centenaire enterré par son fils dans son jardin

L'un des deux plus vieux hommes de France, 109 ans, a été retrouvé mort enterré dans son jardin. Son fils, en fuite depuis deux mois, a été arrêté cette semaine par la police judiciaire de Toulouse. Le sexagénaire évoque une promesse funèbre et nie toute mauvaise intention. Récit d'une affaire aussi étonnante que déroutante.

Considéré comme le deuxième homme le plus vieux du pays, René B. devait fêter ses 110 ans le 20 février dernier. Mais ce Toulousain a mystérieusement disparu avant que son corps ne soit retrouvé enterré dans le jardin de l'une de ses vastes propriétés. Son fils, Jean, âgé de 67 ans, vient d'être arrêté après deux mois de cavale par la division de lutte contre la criminalité organisée et spécialisée de Toulouse (DCOS). « Il est mis en examen pour escroqueries aggravées auprès de la Caisse nationale d'assurance vieillesse (Cnav), pour continuer à percevoir la retraite, abus de confiance puisqu'il a utilisé des moyens financiers de son défunt père, et inhumation sur un terrain privé sans autorisation. Il a été placé sous contrôle judiciaire », confirme auprès de La Dépêche le procureur de la République David Charmatz. Cette affaire en tous points extraordinaire débute à la suite du signalement de l'une des petites-filles du



Le corps a été retrouvé dans la propriété du nord de Toulouse. / DDM - Marc Salvat

centenaire. Alors qu'elle tente à plusieurs reprises de joindre son grand-père par téléphone, c'est finalement son oncle Jean qui décroche. Depuis toujours, ce dernier vit avec son père entre la propriété toulousaine et le domaine familial situé à Lamothe-Capdeville (Tarn-et-

seuile, le centenaire, héritier de la noblesse française, possédait plusieurs millions d'euros placés dans l'immobilier, ainsi que des domaines de plusieurs hectares. L'histoire familiale bascule donc au mois de mars. Alertée de la disparition du retraité, la police judiciaire

deur, au fond d'une allée bordée de cyprès. Le parquet de Toulouse ouvre alors une information judiciaire pour « homicide ». L'autopsie du corps momifié, pratiquée dans la foulee, ne révèle aucune lésion traumatique. L'expertise médico-légale écarte rapidement l'intervention

avoué avoir enterré son père. Dans ses déclarations, Jean affirme avoir simplement respecté les dernières volontés de celui-ci, indiquant qu'il voulait être mis en terre à la manière des plus anciennes traditions catholiques, dans un tombeau recouvert de lauriers. Le fils

## René B., un siècle d'histoire, d'art et de culture

Né à Toulouse le 20 février 1915, ancien professeur de dessin et d'histoire de l'art au lycée Ozenne de Toulouse, René B. incarnait à lui tout seul un siècle de culture. En 2015, les cent ans du professeur sont célébrés au château de Thégra, à Balma, avec, à ses côtés, son épouse Henriette, elle aussi centenaire et qui décède en 2016. L'anniversaire réunit leurs deux enfants, Jean et Odile, l'époux de cette dernière, ses petits-enfants, Stéphanie, Ludovic et Aurélie et ses arrière-petits-enfants, Louis-Julien, Thibaut, Adélaïde, Clémence, Enguerrant et Roland.

Léopard de la longévité  
À l'occasion de cet anniversaire, Christophe Alves, con-



Le défunt a enseigné au lycée Ozenne de Toulouse, archives DDM.

qu'il leur porte qu'ils peuvent poursuivre une paisible retraite. Homme discret, cultivé et profondément attaché à la transmission de son héritage,

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# SUPERCENTENARIANS



Campus Condorcet, Paris  
April 09-10, 2026,

Thank you for your attention!

Résa



Somme de Nb		Étiquettes de colonnes		
Étiquettes de lignes	F	M	Total général	
■ A		6986	661	7647
1		6724	629	7353
2		86	13	99
3		126	16	142
4		5	2	7
5		40	1	41
6		5		5
■ B		6724	683	7407
1		6421	615	7036
2		97	34	131
3		134	29	163
4		9	1	10
5		63	4	67
Total général		13710	1344	15054