



## Understanding graphs

### How easy is it to draw evidence-based conclusions from graphs?

You will need the graph that compares deaths from known causes (but without a vertical values and scales) in order to complete the first part of this exercise.

#### 1. Initial observations

Look at the shape of the graphs **only** and compare the two years 1950 and 2010.

- (a) What conclusions can you come to about changes in death rates from heart disease, stroke, pneumonia/flu and cancer? Support your conclusions with evidence.
- (b) What conclusions can you come to about the comparative rates of death across the causes, just by looking at the shape of the graphs? Support your conclusions with evidence.

#### 2. Using the values and scales on the graph

Now read the values from the scales on the graph, as well as using the general shape of the graph to extend your conclusions. Does this give you more information about how the death rates have changed? Have you changed your conclusions? Are you able to make any more conclusions? If so, what are they? Remember to say where your evidence has come from.

#### 3. Using percentages

What information from the graph would you use to work out the percentage change in death rates between 1950 and 2010? Using the information from the graph, work out the change in percentage for each of the death rates between 1950 and 2010. Has this given you more information from the graph? If so, what is it and why? Has this information made you change your conclusions/make more conclusions from the graph?

#### 4. Lessons learnt – reflecting on your learning

If you were looking at a graph like this again, what steps would you take to ensure you get as many conclusions as possible from the graph?