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Social Affairs

World Mortality Report 2017

Highlights



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Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Population Division

World Mortality Report 2017

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Essential care, 2009, UNDP/Oliver Belarga

World Mortality Report 2017: Key trends

- The world has experienced substantial progress in life expectancy at birth since 1970, albeit with the persistence of significant differences across and within regions.
- From 1970 to 2015, the number of years that a newborn is expected to live, on average, increased by 14.5 years, or by about 3.2 years per decade, from 57.0 years to 71.4 years.
- In the less developed regions, the pace of the increase of life expectancy at birth was 3.6 years per decade, significantly higher than the 1.8 years per decade in the more developed regions, or the 2.4 years per decade of the longest-lived countries (see footnote 2).
- In 2015, 90 per cent of the global population lived in countries where the life expectancy was 63 years or more. Half of the global population lived in countries with a life expectancy at birth of 73 years or more, and 9 per cent lived in countries where the life expectancy was 80 years or more.
- Under-five mortality rates declined at a remarkable pace of 2.6 per cent per year between 1970 and 2015. Worldwide, child mortality reached 45 per 1,000 live births in 2015, about one third of the rate in 1970 (147). However, progress has been uneven: an increasing proportion of child deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia, and the relative difference between more and less developed regions increased from five to nine times during this period.
- Further reductions in under-five mortality will be necessary to reach target 3.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which aims to reduce the level of child mortality to no more than 25 deaths per 1,000 live births by 2030. While Asia is projected to meet this target, it is unlikely that Africa will succeed without an unprecedented effort.
- Mortality amongst young and middle-aged adults is increasingly preventable by reducing deaths related to accidents and violence, changing risk behaviours, such as tobacco use, substance abuse, lack of exercise or physical activity and unhealthy diet, and having access to timely medical assistance. Globally, the probability of dying between ages 15 and 60 decreased by 44 per cent between 1970 and 2015, or by about 1.3 per cent per year, about half the reduction of child mortality. Non-communicable diseases, the main causes of mortality amongst young and middle-aged adults, are more difficult to control than the major infectious diseases, the main causes of child mortality.
- In 2015, 90 per cent of the global population aged 15 to 59 years lived in countries where adult mortality was less than 22 per cent, half of the global population aged 15 to 59 years lived in countries with adult mortality lower than 13 per cent, and 10 per cent lived in countries where it was less than 7 per cent.
- Adult mortality, like child mortality, is closely linked to the level of development. In 2015, levels of adult mortality were 48 per cent higher in the less developed regions than in the more developed regions. However, between 1970 and 2015, adult mortality declined faster in the less developed regions than in the more developed regions.
- Mortality at older adult ages has also been improving significantly. Life expectancy at age 60 has been increasing steadily since 1970, by 0.9 year per decade. Given the mortality rates prevailing worldwide in 2015, a person aged 60 years could expect to live another 20.5 years, about 4 years more than in 1970.
- In 2015, 75 per cent of older persons aged 60 years or over, lived in countries where the remaining life expectancy at age 60 was 18 or more years.
- Different from the regional patterns of child and adult mortality decline, life expectancy at age 60 increased at about the same rate, 0.6 per cent per decade, in both the less developed regions and the more developed regions.
- Adult mortality is typically higher for men than for women in all regions of the world and across levels of development. Accordingly, life expectancy at birth as well as at older ages for women was almost always higher than for men.



AMISOM rehabilitates well in Mogadishu District, 2012, UN Photo/Tobin Jones

Introduction

Worldwide, the number of years that a newborn is expected to live, if current mortality patterns remain constant in the future, exceeded 71 years in 2015 and the life expectancy at birth is still growing. The history of increasing life expectancy at birth, however, is not long. In most countries, it started only after the Second World War. The fast increase of life expectancy at birth reflects the success of human development. Central to this transformation has been the epidemiological transition from predominantly infectious causes of death to a predominance of deaths due to chronic and degenerative diseases, such as cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes. The epidemiological transition also entailed a shift in the age pattern of mortality, from one in which childhood diseases and deaths were common to a situation where disease and mortality are concentrated at older ages. The driving force in this transition is socioeconomic development, including investments in public health and education.

This report analyses global trends in mortality based on the *2017 Revision of the World Population Prospects* (United Nations, 2017). Globally, it is estimated that life expectancy at birth increased by 14.4 years from 1970 to 2015, rising from 57.0 years to 71.4 years. The proportion of the world's population living in countries where life expectancy was below 60 years fell from 64 per cent in 1970 to 7 per cent in 2015. Conversely, the share of the world's population living in countries with life expectancy of 70 years or higher rose from 22 per cent to 57 per cent during the same period. The increase of life expectancy at birth is the combined result of the decline in mortality at different ages, but especially at younger ages in less developed regions. Globally, the probability of dying in early childhood—that is, the number of deaths below age five per 1,000 live births—fell from 147 to 45 per 1,000 live births between 1970 and 2015.¹

Despite this impressive progress, substantial inequalities remain in mortality levels, age patterns, and time trends between countries and regions. These differentials result from uneven progress in public health and development, reflecting unequal access to food, safe drinking water, sanitation, medical care and other basic human needs. They also reflect different risk factors, behavioural choices and societal contexts that affect the survival of individuals.

The reduction of mortality, particularly child and maternal mortality, has been a core target of the internationally agreed development goals, such as those contained in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (United Nations, 2015). Sustainable Development

¹ Major causes of child death are birth complications, pneumonia, birth asphyxia, diarrhoea and malaria (World Health Organization, 2017a). Data on child mortality is more frequently updated from surveys and estimated more reliably than life expectancy or any other mortality indicator. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), as part of the United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (IGME), has been regularly collecting, analysing and publishing child mortality estimates for most countries since the 1970s or earlier (see United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, 2017; available at www.childmortality.org). These estimates informed the 2017 Revision of the World Population Prospects.

Goal (SDG) 3, “Global Health and Well-Being”, for instance comprises targets that contribute directly to rising life expectancy. However, progress towards each of the 17 SDGs contributes to longer and healthier lives by improving living conditions for all.

The socioeconomic implications of diverse mortality levels and age patterns, and their potential future trends are critical for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Therefore, accurate estimates and projections of mortality are crucial for assessing progress towards these goals and the health of populations more generally.

This publication presents the patterns, levels and trends in mortality drawn from the latest demographic estimates and projections for the world, major geographic regions and development groups, and for the 201 countries or areas with 90,000 inhabitants or more in 2017, as published in the *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision* (United Nations, 2017). Annex table 1 provides data on summary indicators of mortality and life expectancy for infants, children, adults and older persons from 1970 to 2015.

Global levels and trends in mortality

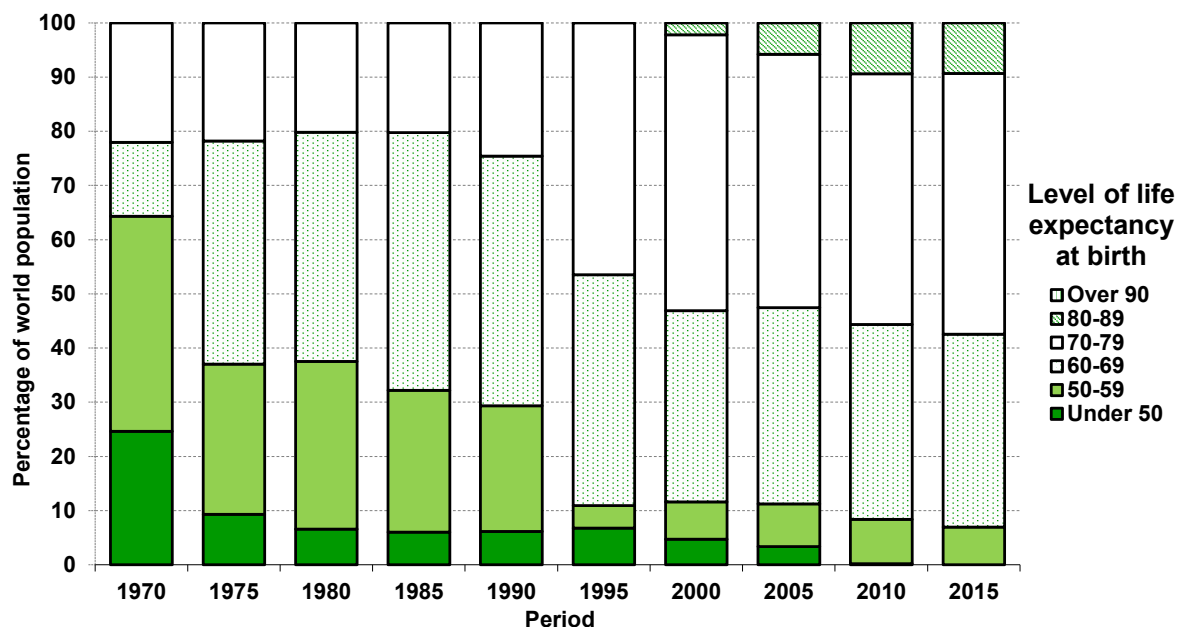
Globally, the number of years that a newborn is expected to live, given the prevailing risks of mortality, increased substantially by 14.5 years from 57.0 years in 1970 to 71.4 years in 2015, which represents a rise of about 3.2 years per decade over the past 45 years (table 1). In 2015, 57 per cent of the world's population lived in countries with a life expectancy at birth above 70 years, and 9 per cent lived in countries where the life expectancy was 80 years or more. In 1970, only 22 per cent of the world's population lived in countries with a life expectancy greater than 70 years, and, at that time, 64 per cent of the world's population lived in countries where the life expectancy at birth was less than 60 years (figure 1). The reductions of mortality since 1970 have been so substantial that the proportion of the population living in countries with a life expectancy below 60 years had decreased to only 7 per cent in 2015. In the less developed regions, the increase of life expectancy at birth was 3.6 years per decade between 1970 and 2015, which is double the gain in the more developed regions (1.8 years), and higher than the gain of 2.35 years per decade of the longest-lived countries (Oeppen and Vaupel, 2002).² The least developing countries recorded the highest increase (4.4 years) (figure 2).

Widespread and substantial increases in life expectancy at birth, but uneven progress across regions

² The “longest-lived countries” refer to the group of countries with the maximum life expectancy at birth at each year between 1840 and 2000. During this 160-year period, the maximum life expectancy at birth increased from 44 to 82 years or an average of 2.35 years per decade (dashed horizontal gray line on figure 2). The country with the maximum life expectancy at birth varied from year to year.

Figure 1.

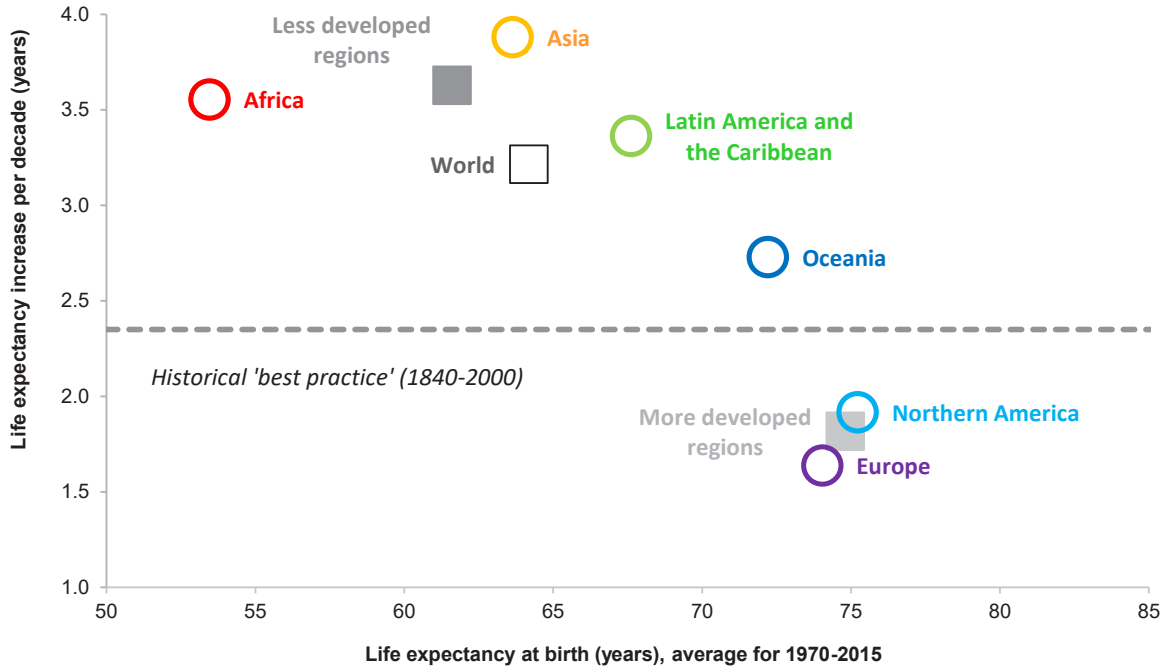
Distribution of the world's population by the level of life expectancy at birth for a person's country or area of residence, from 1970 to 2015



Source: United Nations (2017). *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision*.

Figure 2.

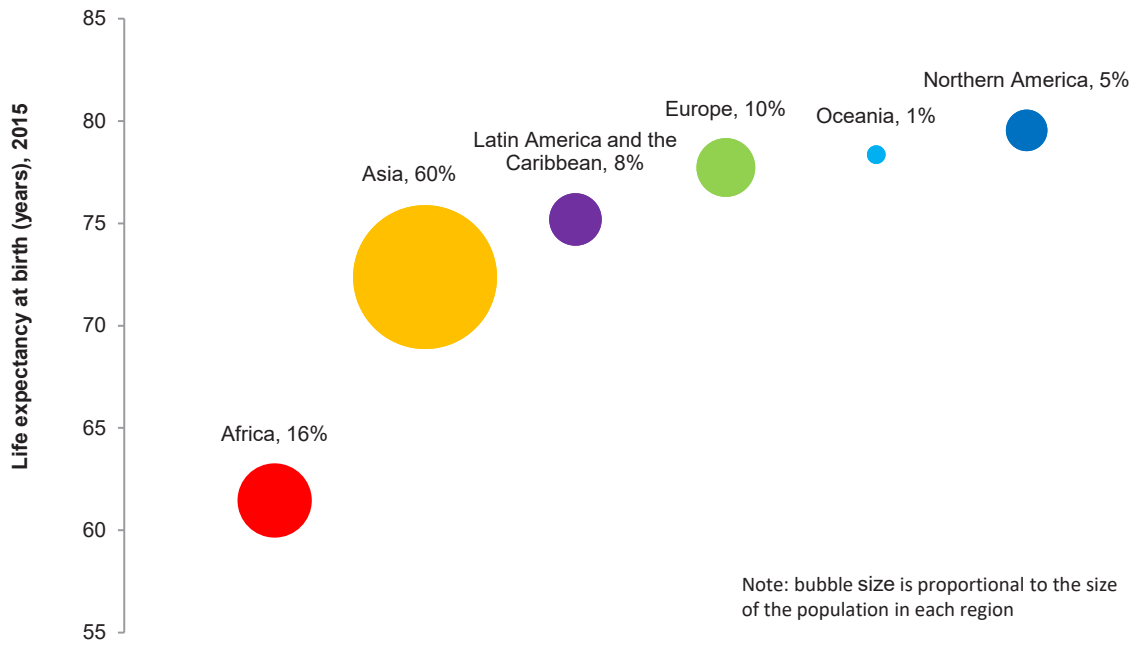
Increase in life expectancy at birth (years) per decade by region, 1970-2015



Source: United Nations (2017). *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision*.

Figure 3.

Life expectancy at birth and percentage of the world's population by region, 2015



Source: United Nations (2017). *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision*.

Gains in life expectancy varied greatly across the world. In 2015, Northern America reached the highest life expectancy (79.5 years), followed by Europe (77.7 years), Latin America and the Caribbean (75.2 years), Asia (72.4 years) and Africa (61.5 years) (table 1). Between 1970 and 2015, Asia recorded highest increases in life expectancy (3.9 years per decade), followed by Africa (3.6 years) and Latin America and the Caribbean (3.4 years).

Levels and improvements in life expectancy have varied greatly across the less developed regions. Among regions, the pace of improvements in life expectancy in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Oceania have exceeded the average pace of improvement per decade of the longest-lived countries with the highest life expectancy at birth, while the average experience for Europe and North America was far away from achieving the average gains from these longest-lived countries (figure 2). Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular, experienced steady increases in life expectancy at birth between 1970 and 2015, at a pace of 3.9 and 3.4 years per decade respectively. Latin America and the Caribbean had the highest level of life expectancy among large developing regions during this period, rising from 60.1 years in 1970 to 75.2 years in 2015 (table 1). But the largest increase in life expectancy among regions occurred in Asia, rising from 54.9 years in 1970 to 72.4 years in 2015.

Table 1.

Life expectancy at birth by development group and region, 1970 and 2015

	Life expectancy at birth (years)			
	1970	2015	Absolute change	Average change per decade
World	57.0	71.4	14.5	3.2
More developed regions	70.7	78.9	8.2	1.8
Less developed regions	53.4	69.8	16.3	3.6
Least developed countries	43.8	63.7	19.9	4.4
Other less developed countries	55.0	71.1	16.1	3.6
Africa	45.5	61.5	16.0	3.6
Asia	54.9	72.4	17.5	3.9
Europe	70.4	77.7	7.4	1.6
Latin America and the Caribbean	60.1	75.2	15.1	3.4
Northern America	70.9	79.5	8.6	1.9
Oceania	66.1	78.4	12.3	2.7

Source: United Nations (2017). *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision*.

In Africa, the progress in life expectancy increased until the early 1980s, but slowed down during the late 1980s and 1990s, mainly because of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Globally, HIV/AIDS remains a leading cause of death and the leading cause of death among women of reproductive age. In 2016, there were roughly 1.8 million new HIV infections, while an estimated 1 million people died from AIDS-related illnesses. Nevertheless, global HIV/AIDS prevalence, that is, the percentage of people aged 15 to 49 who are infected, has stabilised around 0.8 percent since 2001. Since 2005, the number of HIV/AIDS related deaths has declined due in part to increased access to antiretroviral treatment (ART). The expansion of ART coverage has dramatically improved survival among people living with HIV/AIDS. As a result, the estimated number of persons living with HIV/AIDS reached an all-time high of 36.7 million in

2016 (UNAIDS, 2017). Due to the improvement in child and adult survival in recent years, life expectancy in Africa has rebounded. By 2015, the estimated level of life expectancy at birth for the continent reached 61.5 years.

Despite remarkable progress in life expectancy at birth between 1970 and 2015, substantial differences, however, remain across regions. In the more developed regions, which include Europe, Northern America, Australia and New Zealand, and Japan, the average life expectancy at birth reached 78.9 years in 2015. Life expectancy at birth in the less developed regions, which include Africa, Asia (excluding Japan), Latin America and the Caribbean, and Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand), reached 69.8 years in 2015, about nine years below the level recorded in the more developed regions (table 1).

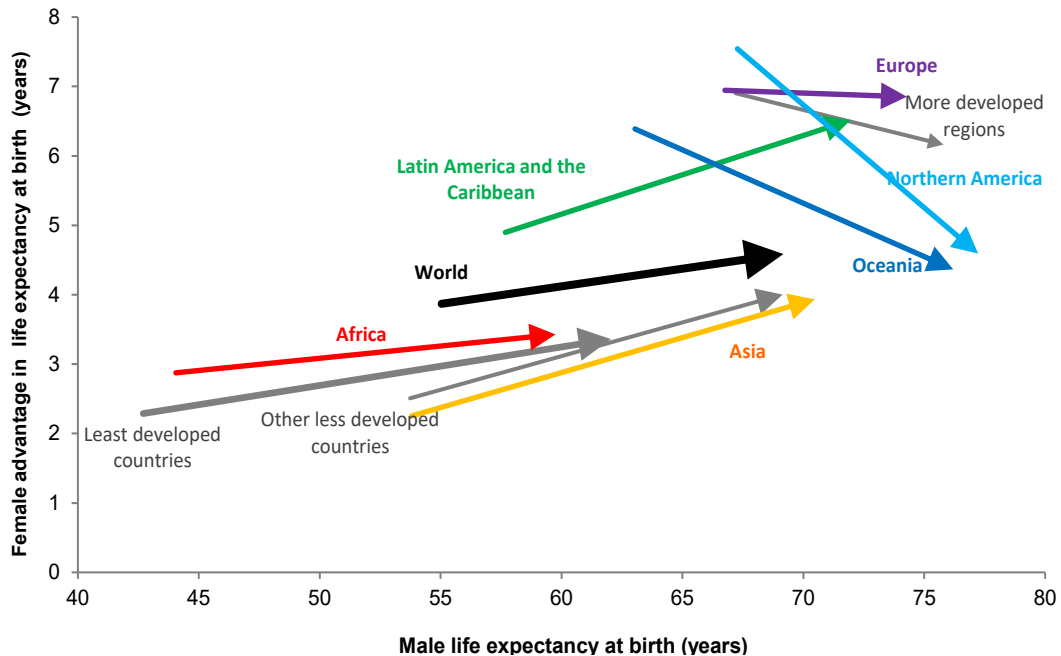
In 2015, 60 per cent of the world’s population resided in Asia where the average life expectancy at birth was 72 years, while 16 per cent of the global population lived in Africa with an average life expectancy of 61.5 years (figure 3). In addition, about 10 per cent of the global population resided in countries in Europe, where the average life expectancy was 77.7 years. About eight per cent of the world’s population resided in countries in Latin America and the Caribbean with an average life expectancy of 75.2 years. In Northern America, where five per cent of the world’s population lived, life expectancy had reached 79.5 years by 2015. Lastly, one per cent of the population resided in Oceania, where the life expectancy at birth reached 78.4 years in 2015.

Worldwide, women lived on average, 4.6 years longer than men in 2015 (figure 4). This “female advantage” means that life expectancy for women globally was 6.6 per cent higher than for men. The female advantage was largest in the more developed regions, where women lived 6.2 years (or 8.1 per cent) longer than men in 2015. In the less developed regions, women’s life expectancy was 3.9 years (or 5.8 per cent) higher than men’s in the same period. The difference by sex is the smallest in the least developed countries, at 3.4 years (or 5.4 per cent) greater for women compared to men. In less developed regions, the female advantage in life expectancy increased

In all development groups and regions, women live longer than men

Figure 4.

Female advantage in life expectancy at birth* by level of male life expectancy, by region (arrow depict change from 1970 to 2015)



Source: United Nations (2017). *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision*.

* Female life expectancy at birth minus male life expectancy at birth.

from 2.4 years in 1970 to 3.9 years in 2015. The relatively small female advantage in Africa in 2015 was mainly a consequence of maternal mortality and the differential impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on mortality levels by sex, with HIV prevalence estimated to be higher among women than among men. In the more developed regions, the female advantage was larger in Europe (6.9 years or 9.2 per cent) than in Northern America (4.6 years or 5.9 per cent) and Oceania, which includes Australia and New Zealand. However, between 1970 and 2015, these regions experienced a reduction of their “female advantage” as a result of faster pace of improvement of life expectancy for men (1.9 years per decade) than for women (1.7 years per decade).

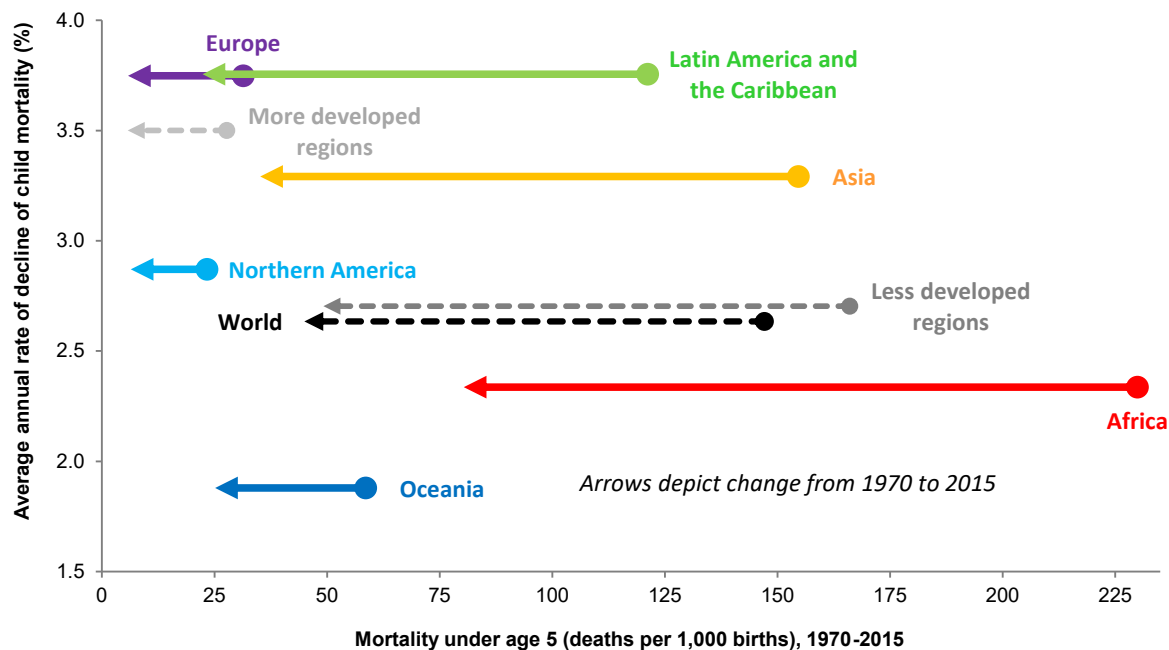
The global progress in child survival since 1970 has been substantial. Child mortality, or under-five mortality, is the probability of dying between birth and the age of 5 expressed as the number of deaths of children under the age of 5 years per 1,000 live births. Worldwide, child mortality reached 45 per 1,000 in 2015, which was only about one-third of the 147 per 1,000 in 1970. Between 1970 and 2015, child mortality at the world level declined at a remarkable rate of 2.6 per cent per year (figure 5). In the less developed regions, child mortality was higher (166 per 1,000 in 1970) and the average annual rate of decline was 2.7 per cent per year during this period, substantially lower than the 3.5 per cent per year decline in the more developed regions which experienced a much lower child mortality (28 per 1,000 in 1970). As a result, the disparity in under-five mortality between more and less developed regions increased: in 1970, child mortality in the less developed regions was about five times larger than in the more developed regions compared to nine times in 2015.

Rapid and uneven reductions in under-five mortality

Differences in the pace of decline of child mortality from 1970 to 2015 were also experienced at the regional level. The fastest rates of decline took place in Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe (3.8 and 3.7 per cent per year, respectively), followed by Asia with 3.3 per cent per year decline. The decline was lowest in Oceania (1.9 per cent per year) and Africa (2.3 per cent per year).

Figure 5.

Decline in under-five mortality by region, 1970-2015



Source: United Nations (2017). *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision*.

Box 1.

Africa is unlikely to reach the SDG target for the reduction of child mortality by 2030 without unprecedented effort to accelerate progress.

The reduction of child mortality by two-thirds between 1990 and 2015 was the central target of Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 4 of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the further reduction to below 25 deaths of children under age 5 per 1,000 live births by 2030 is target 3.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The 2017 Revision of World Population Prospects projects that, in 2030, under-five mortality in Africa will reach 54 deaths per 1,000 live births (figure 6). While such a level would mark a substantial reduction from 2015, when there were an estimated 80 deaths per 1,000 live births in Africa, it would remain far above the SDG target of 25 deaths per 1,000 live births. By contrast, Asia is projected to achieve the SDG target for under-five mortality by 2030. In Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and Oceania, under-five mortality levels fell below 25 deaths per 1,000 live births between 2000 and 2015. Europe and Northern America had already reached these levels before 2000.

Whether or not Africa will achieve SDG target 3.2 depends on the average annual rate of decline of the under-five mortality rate over the period from 2015 to 2030. The projected average annual rate of decline during 2015-2030 for Africa is slower than that estimated rate during 2000-2015 (figure 7). To reach SDG target 3.2 in 2030, Africa would need to achieve an average annual rate of decline in under-five mortality of about 8 per cent during 2015-2030. Since an average annual reduction of 8 per cent in under-five mortality is significantly higher than the average annual rates of decline estimated or projected for each of the six regions, it is unlikely that Africa will achieve SDG target 3.2 without an unprecedented effort to accelerate the pace of reduction of child mortality.

Figure 6.

Estimate and projection of under-five mortality by region, between 2000 and 2030

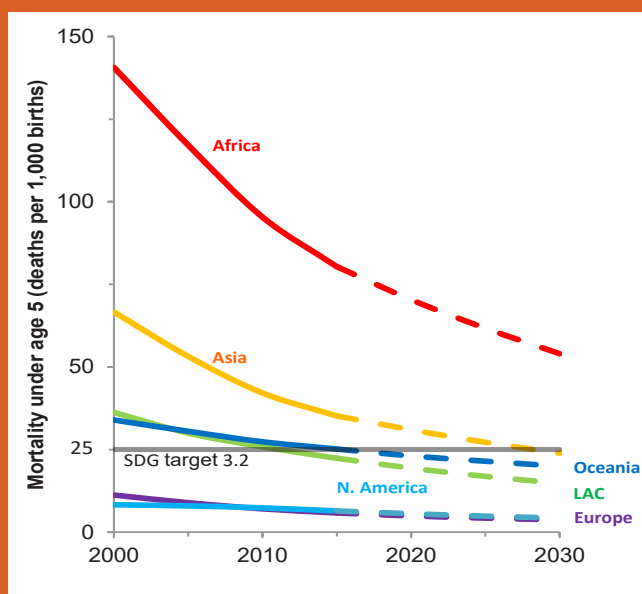
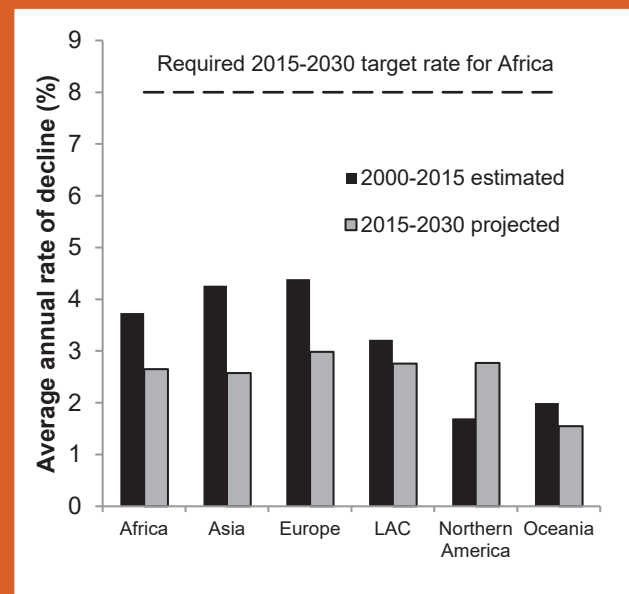


Figure 7.

Average annual rate of decline in under-five mortality by region between 2000-2015 and 2015-2030



In 2015 the main causes of death at adult ages throughout most of the world are non-communicable diseases (World Health Organization, 2017b). Mortality affecting young and middle-aged adults, that is, persons from ages 15 to 59 years, is becoming increasingly preventable³ or through medical interventions.⁴ Observed data on adult mortality are available for an increasing number of countries. In the 2017 Revision of World Population Prospects, for about 80 per cent of countries adult mortality was estimated on the basis of observed data.

Uneven reductions in preventable adult mortality between ages 15 and 60 years

In 1970, no country had a probability of dying between ages 15 and 60 years⁵ that was lower than 100 per 1,000 persons alive at age 15. In 2015, 35 per cent of the global adult age population lived in 67 countries where adult mortality was lower than 100 per 1,000 (figure 8). At the other end of the spectrum, in 1970, 26 per cent of the world's population aged 15 to 59 years lived in 74 countries where adult mortality was 300 per 1,000 or higher. By 2015, less than 5 per cent of the global population in this age group lived in 16 countries where adult mortality exceeded 300 per 1,000 persons alive at age 15.

Adult mortality, like child mortality, is highly correlated with the level of development. Adult mortality, like child mortality, is highly correlated with the level of development. In the less developed regions the risk of dying between ages 15 and 60 has been higher than in the more developed regions. In 2015, the probability that a 15-year-old child in the less developed regions dies before age 60 was 152 per 1,000, 44 per cent higher than in the more developed regions, where the risk of dying between ages 15 and 60 was 105 per 1,000. The least developed countries, where 223 per 1,000 of 15-year-olds die before age 60 are particularly disadvantaged in terms of adult survival.

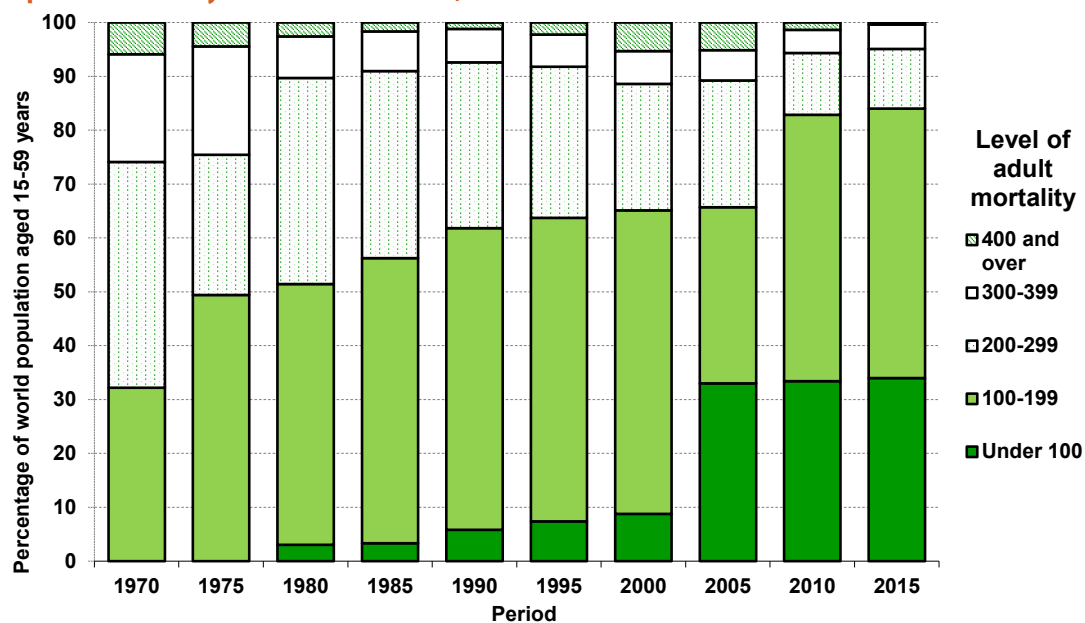
³ Examples include reductions in tobacco use, alcohol consumption and substance abuse, increased levels of exercise or physical activity, and improved diets.

⁴ Examples include early detection and treatment of cervical cancer, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes.

⁵ Also called the “adult mortality rate” or, less formally, “adult mortality”.

Figure 8.

Distribution of the world's population aged 15-59 years by the level of adult mortality for a person's country or area of residence, from 1970 to 2015



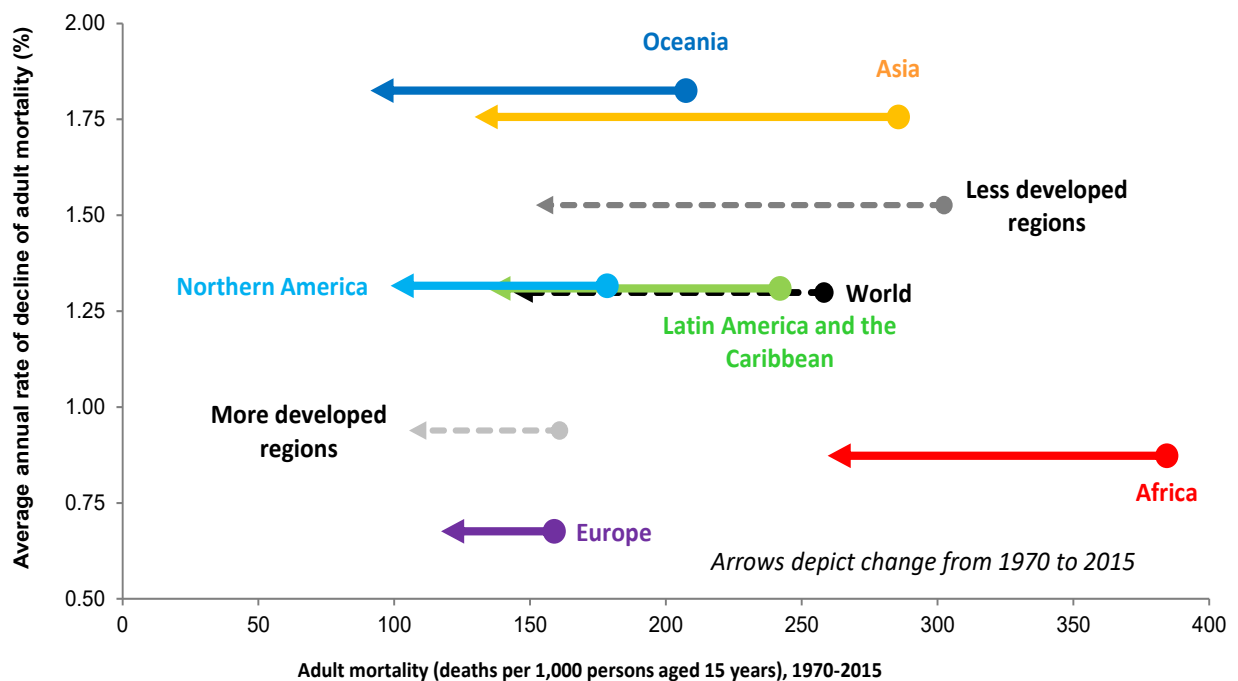
Source: United Nations (2017). *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision*.

Progress in reducing adult mortality has been uneven across regions. Adult mortality declined globally from 258 per 1,000 in 1970 to 144 per 1,000 in 2015, or by 1.3 per cent per year (figure 9). Differing sharply from the regional pattern of child mortality decline, adult mortality declined by 1.5 per cent per year in the less developed regions, markedly faster than the 0.9 per cent per year in the more developed regions. Between 1970 and 2015, the regional patterns of decline in adult mortality, the risk of dying between ages 15 and 60, revealed large disparities between region. The annual reduction in adult mortality in Oceania (-1.8 per cent) and Northern America (-1.3 per cent) was considerably higher than in Europe (-0.7 per cent). In Asia (-1.8 per cent) and Latin America and the Caribbean (-1.3 per cent) the annual decrease in adult mortality exceeded that in Africa (-0.9 per cent). In Africa, high mortality due to HIV/AIDS contributed to a slower pace in the reduction in adult mortality.

Why is reducing adult mortality more difficult than lowering child mortality? The answer is related to the main causes of deaths affecting different age groups. The main causes of death at ages 15 to 59 years are non-communicable diseases, such as cardiovascular diseases and cancer, which are more difficult to control than the major infectious diseases responsible for most deaths among children. Nonetheless, progress in reducing adult mortality has been achieved, even in the less developed regions, thanks to technology transfer and adoption of best practices. The less developed regions, especially Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, have reduced adult mortality at a faster pace than the more developed regions, where adult mortality is already low.

Figure 9.

Average annual rate of decline of adult mortality, 1970-2015



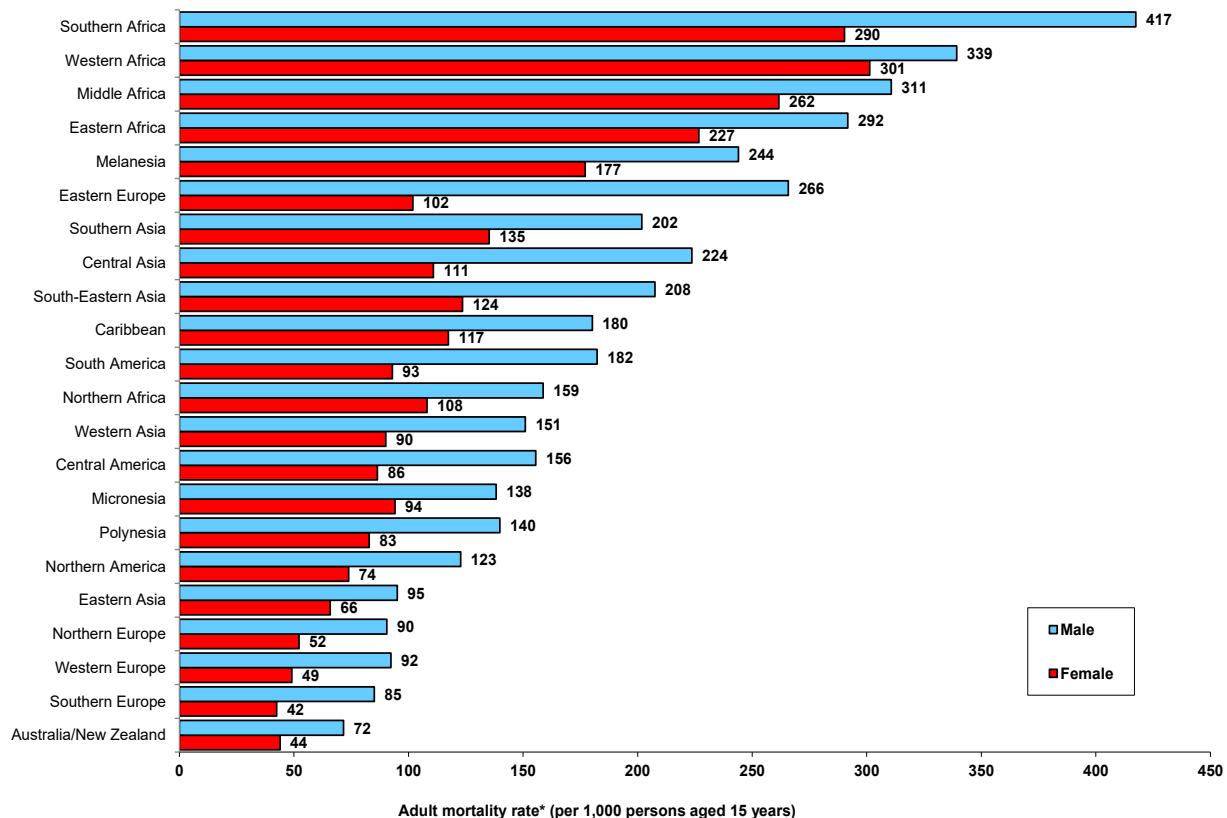
Source: United Nations (2017). *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision*.

Adult mortality was higher for men than for women in all regions of the world.

The magnitude of the difference in adult mortality by sex varies considerably across regions (figure 10). Australia and New Zealand, Northern, Southern and Western Europe, Eastern Asia and Northern America were the regions with the lowest levels of adult mortality. Within the more developed regions, men in Eastern Europe faced exceptionally high levels of adult mortality, where 266 out of every 1,000 15-year-old persons die before age 60. Eastern Europe had the largest sex differential in adult mortality of any world region, with a male-to-female ratio of 2.6 (figure 11). Central Asia and Southern Europe were the only two other regions where the male-to-female ratio in adult mortality exceeded 2.0. Unlike Eastern Europe, where the high ratio resulted from exceptionally high male mortality, Southern Europe's high ratio was attributable mainly to exceptionally low female mortality.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, the highest levels of adult mortality for both men and women were found in the four regions of sub-Saharan Africa: Eastern, Middle, Southern and Western Africa. Amongst the regions of the world, the highest levels of adult mortality were found in Southern Africa, where 417 out of every 1,000 men and 290 out of every 1,000 women were expected to die between the ages of 15 and 60 years given the age-specific mortality risks observed in 2015. Southern Africa has been heavily affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, which continues to contribute to these relatively high risks of adult mortality.

Figure 10.
Adult mortality rate* by sex and region, 2015

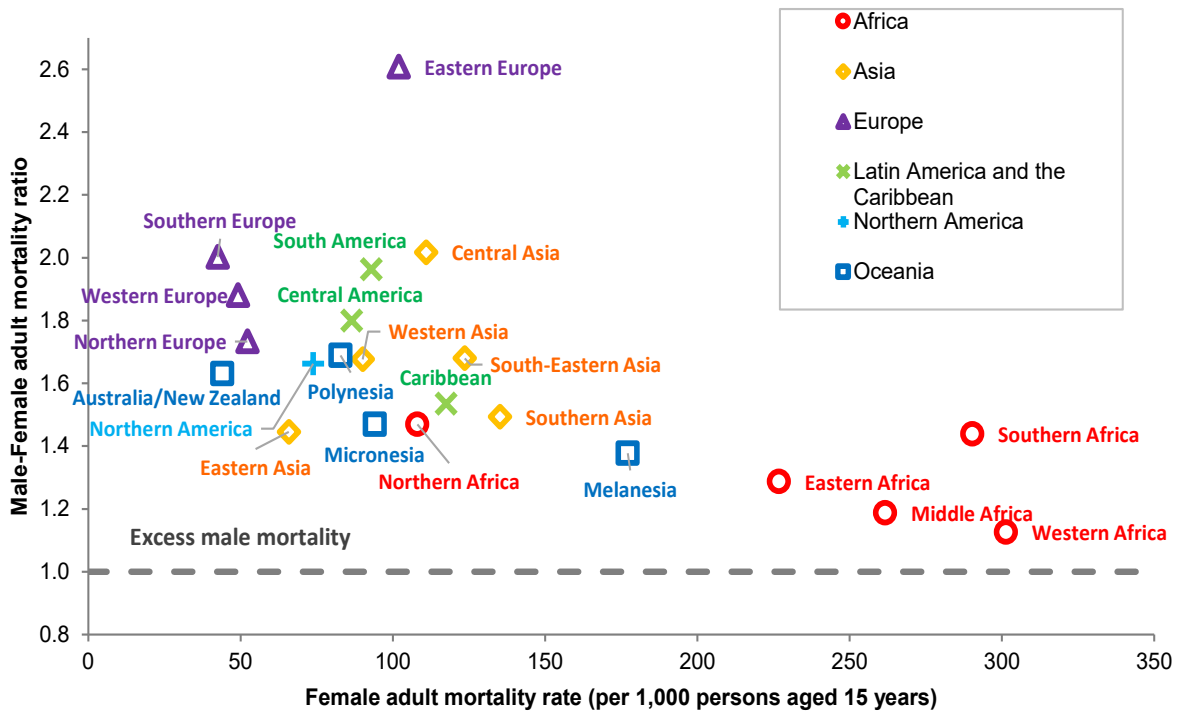


Source: United Nations (2017). *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision*.

* Probability of dying between exact ages 15 to 60 years, sorted by the level of mortality for both sexes combined.

Figure 11.

Male excess adult mortality* by level of female adult mortality by region and subregion, 2015

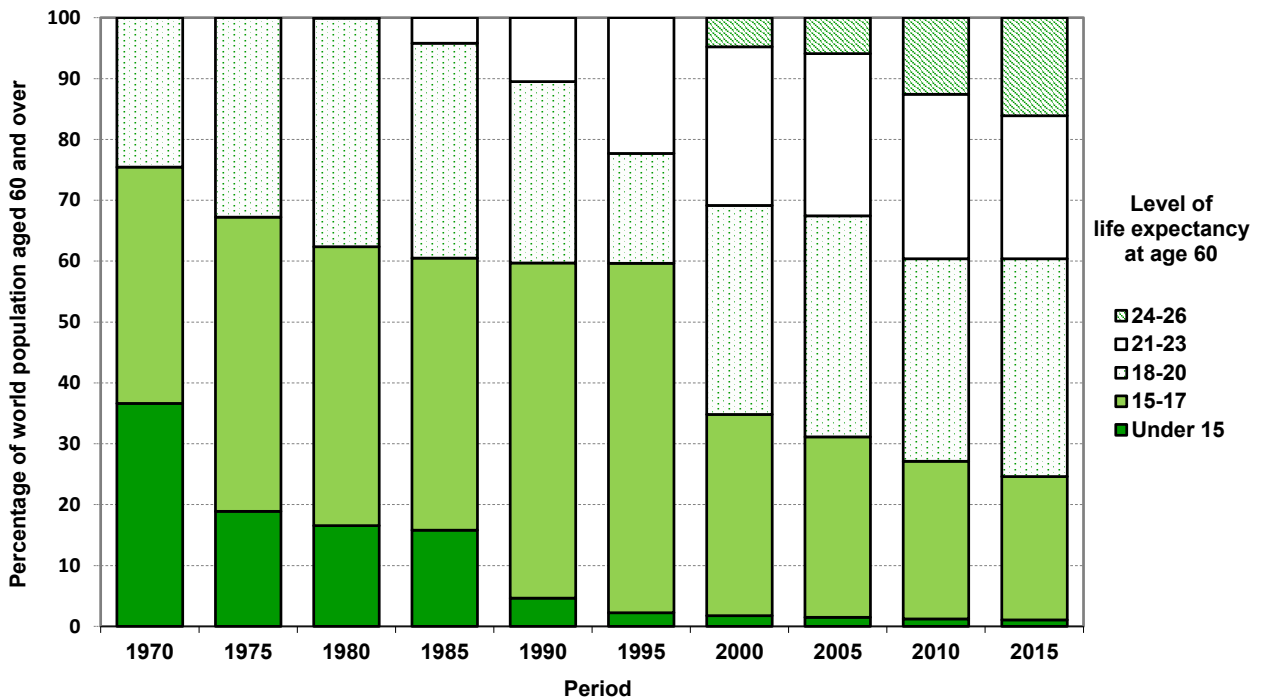


Source: United Nations (2017). *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision*.

*Probability of dying between exact ages 15 to 60 years for male divided by the female probability at the same age.

Figure 12.

Distribution of the global population aged 60 years or over by level of life expectancy at age 60 years in a person's country or area of residence, from 1970 to 2015



Source: United Nations (2017). *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision*.

Worldwide, the number of remaining years of life after age 60 increased steadily since 1970 at a pace of 0.9 year per decade. Given the mortality rates prevailing worldwide in 2015, a person aged 60 years could expect to live another 20.5 years, about 4 years more than in 1970. This trend in life expectancy at age 60 is even more impressive when considering the size of the populations involved. In 1970, 37 per cent of older persons (aged 60 years or over) lived in 67 countries where the remaining life expectancy at age 60 was less than 15 years. In 2015, that fraction was reduced to only one per cent of the population of older persons. Conversely, before 2000, no country had a life expectancy at age 60 that was higher than 24 years. In 2000, Japan became the first country to cross that threshold, and by 2015, about 16 per cent of the global population aged 60 years or older was living in 25 countries or areas where life expectancy at age 60 reached between 24 and 26 years. Changes from 1970 to 2015 in the distribution of the world's older population by the level of remaining life expectancy at age 60 are depicted in figure 12.

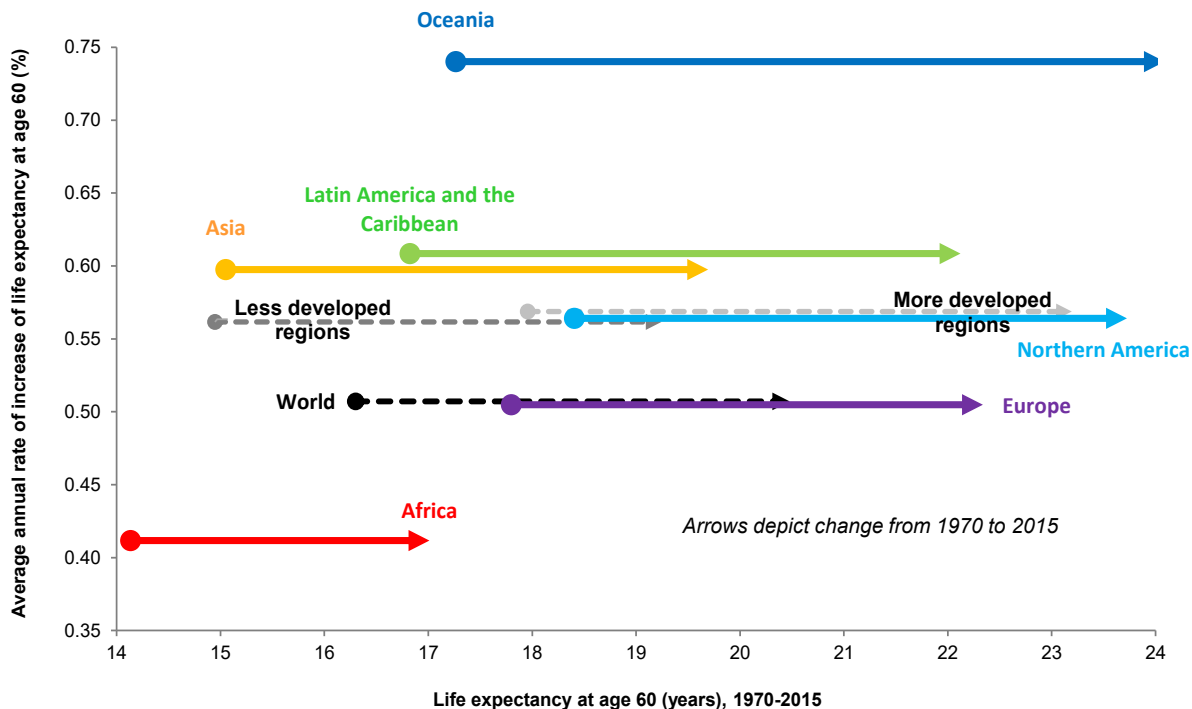
Increases in life expectancy at age 60 years

Overall, living in countries or areas with high levels of life expectancy at age 60 is becoming increasingly common. Whereas living in a location with a life expectancy at age 60 of 18 years or more was rare in 1970, this situation had become a reality for the majority of the older persons in the world by 2015.

Between 1970 and 2015, life expectancy at age 60 increased worldwide by 0.51 per cent per year. Life expectancy at age 60 increased at about the same rate, 0.56 per cent per year, in both the less developed regions and more developed regions (figure 13). In the less developed regions, life expectancy at age 60 in 2015 was 19.2 years, compared to 23.2 years in the more developed regions. Older persons in the least developed countries were the most disadvantaged in terms of survival, with 60-year-olds expected to live an average of 17.6 additional years.

Figure 13.

Average annual rate of increase of life expectancy at age 60 (percentage), 1970-2015



Source: United Nations (2017). *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision*.

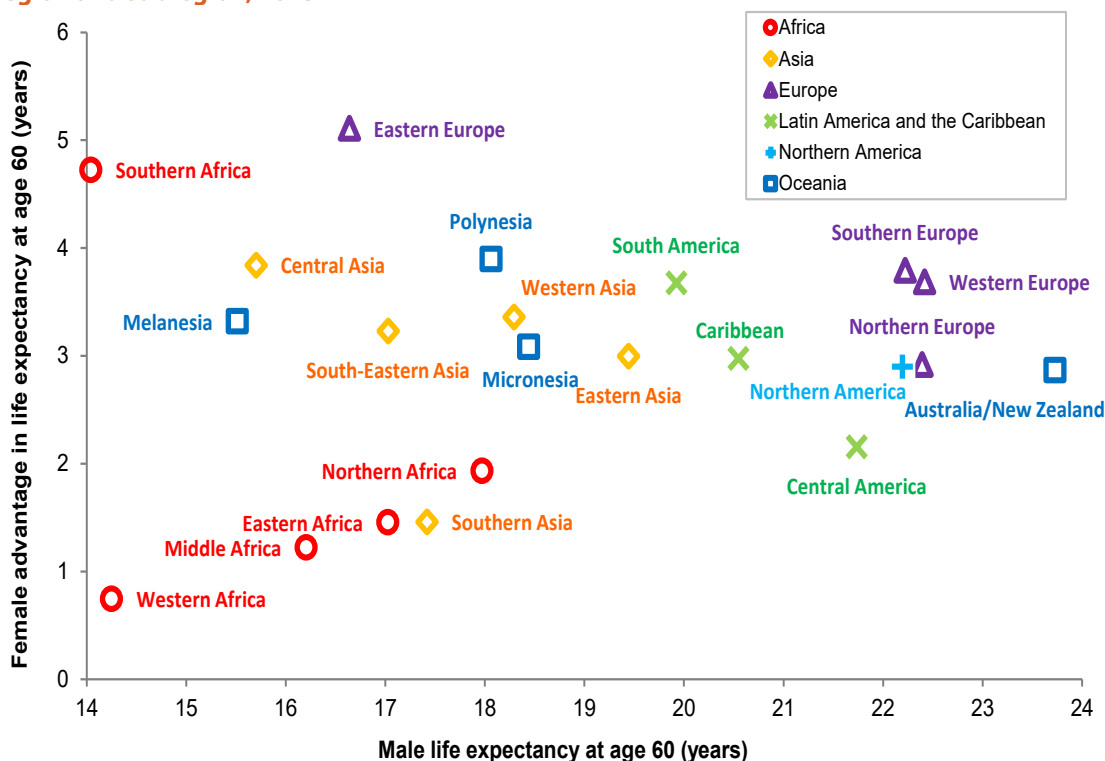
Between 1970 and 2015, the average annual rate of increase in life expectancy at age 60, that is, the number of years a person aged 60 is expected to live if current mortality patterns remain constant in the future, was the highest in Oceania (0.74 per cent), Latin America and the Caribbean (0.61 per cent) and Asia (0.60 per cent). In Africa, the increase in life expectancy at age 60 (0.41 per cent) was below the global average, however. In Africa, survival prospects at older ages lagged behind those of other regions: with a life expectancy at age 60 of 17.0 years, 60-year olds in Africa had seven fewer years of life remaining relative to their peers in Oceania, which includes Australia-New Zealand, where the life expectancy at age 60 of 24.1 years was the highest worldwide.

Differences by sex or location in mortality above age 60 followed a pattern that is similar to the differences observed at younger ages. On average, women at older ages outlived their male counterparts in all regions of the world (figure 14). Worldwide, in 2015, a 60-year-old woman was expected to live, on average, 2.8 years longer than a 60-year-old man.

The female advantage was largest in the more developed regions, where women at age 60 lived on average 3.8 years longer than men in 2015. In the less developed regions, women's life expectancy at age 60 was 2.3 years (12.6 per cent) higher than men's in the same period. The difference by sex was the smallest in the least developed countries, where women aged 60 lived 1.4 years longer than men. In the more developed regions, the female advantage is largest in Eastern Europe (5.1 years) followed by Western and Southern Europe (3.7 years) and Northern Europe, Northern America and Australia and New Zealand (2.9 years).

Figure 14.

Female advantage in life expectancy at age 60* by level of male life expectancy at age 60 years, by region and subregion, 2015



Source: United Nations (2017). *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision*.

*Female life expectancy at age 60 minus life expectancy at age 60.

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Indigenous groups in Thailand, 2011, UN Photo/Kibae Park

Annex table

Country or area	Life expectancy at birth (years)		Under-five mortality (per 1,000 live births)		Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)		Adult mortality (15-60 years) (per 1,000 alive at age 15)		Life expectancy at age 60 (years)
	1970	2015	1970	2015	1970	2015	Males	Females	Both
							2015	2015	
WORLD	57.0	71.4	147	45	99	33	173	113	20.5
More developed regions ^a	70.7	78.9	28	6	23	5	142	68	23.2
Less developed regions ^b	53.4	69.8	166	49	111	36	180	123	19.2
Least developed countries ^c	43.8	63.7	245	77	152	52	249	197	17.6
Other less developed countries ^d	55.0	71.1	153	40	105	30	170	113	19.4
Less developed regions, excluding China	51.1	68.1	185	55	124	40	213	144	18.9
High-income countries ^e	70.4	80.8	33	5	26	4	102	56	24.2
Middle-income countries ^e	55.2	70.6	156	41	106	31	181	116	19.2
Upper-middle-income countries ^e	59.9	74.9	118	17	83	14	141	83	20.1
Lower-middle-income countries ^e	50.3	67.2	195	55	131	41	223	150	17.9
Low-income countries ^e	42.9	61.8	246	83	145	55	277	224	17.1
Sub-Saharan Africa ^f	43.8	59.3	236	88	139	57	325	265	16.3
AFRICA	45.5	61.5	230	80	139	53	288	231	17.0
Eastern Africa	45.1	62.9	223	72	133	49	292	227	17.8
Burundi	43.8	57.1	234	116	139	73	325	266	16.5
Comoros	45.6	63.5	219	73	146	55	253	203	16.3
Djibouti	49.2	62.3	186	79	112	53	274	228	17.6
Eritrea	43.2	64.6	237	51	144	40	294	221	16.3
Ethiopia	42.9	65.0	242	61	144	41	249	197	18.1
Kenya	52.2	66.7	160	50	98	37	261	177	18.6
Madagascar	44.8	65.5	220	49	139	33	245	195	17.0
Malawi	40.6	62.7	302	79	175	62	348	232	18.2
Mauritius ¹	63.2	74.6	85	13	66	11	193	94	20.5
Mayotte	62.4	79.9	70	4	53	4	136	53	23.7
Mozambique	39.3	57.7	278	98	165	65	374	301	17.0
Réunion	63.1	80.1	70	4	53	4	136	53	23.9
Rwanda	44.3	66.7	230	56	136	40	230	175	18.4
Seychelles	65.7	73.3	68	11	54	9	236	91	19.5
Somalia	41.0	55.9	262	123	154	74	340	282	16.2
South Sudan	35.8	56.3	313	113	187	72	343	316	16.5
Uganda	48.8	59.6	189	87	113	57	351	268	17.3
United Republic of Tanzania ²	46.7	65.0	208	58	123	41	274	212	18.3
Zambia	49.0	61.4	187	73	112	50	343	249	17.7
Zimbabwe	54.9	60.4	138	62	86	43	390	334	17.8

Country or area	Life expectancy at birth (years)		Under-five mortality (per 1,000 live births)		Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)		Adult mortality (15-60 years) (per 1,000 alive at age 15)		Life expectancy at age 60 (years)
	1970	2015	1970	2015	1970	2015	Males	Females	Both
Middle Africa	42.9	58.6	243	105	144	68	311	262	16.9
Angola	37.0	61.2	301	94	179	61	279	205	17.2
Cameroon	46.1	57.6	213	96	126	63	361	328	16.9
Central African Republic	41.9	51.4	252	139	149	87	432	403	15.8
Chad	41.3	52.6	258	138	153	86	385	342	15.9
Congo	53.4	64.1	151	59	93	42	282	245	18.2
Democratic Republic of the Congo	43.9	59.2	234	107	138	69	286	237	16.8
Equatorial Guinea	39.7	57.4	273	101	162	65	350	308	16.9
Gabon	46.7	65.7	208	52	124	38	259	219	18.5
Sao Tome and Principe	55.9	66.5	131	61	82	43	220	164	18.3
Northern Africa	52.1	71.7	207	35	140	26	159	108	19.0
Algeria	50.4	75.9	199	30	128	26	108	85	21.8
Egypt	52.2	71.3	246	22	169	17	189	112	17.4
Libya	56.1	71.8	139	27	104	23	175	98	18.3
Morocco	52.6	75.6	180	29	118	25	75	66	20.4
Sudan	52.2	64.3	160	70	97	46	252	195	17.9
Tunisia	51.1	75.5	187	19	158	17	113	71	20.0
Western Sahara	42.1	69.2	251	38	168	31	185	139	17.2
Southern Africa	55.2	61.7	131	43	93	34	417	290	16.6
Botswana	54.6	65.8	140	38	98	31	310	193	17.5
Lesotho	49.0	53.7	188	71	127	54	564	463	15.6
Namibia	52.3	63.8	157	41	108	33	359	266	17.3
South Africa	55.9	62.0	125	41	90	32	416	287	16.6
Eswatini	48.0	57.1	197	64	133	49	508	354	16.1
Western Africa³	40.6	55.9	268	101	152	64	339	301	14.6
Benin	42.2	60.6	265	100	157	64	268	221	17.2
Burkina Faso	39.1	59.9	292	90	163	59	275	245	15.4
Cabo Verde	53.7	72.6	147	25	102	21	150	104	18.5
Côte d'Ivoire	43.7	53.1	233	90	156	64	419	381	14.2
Gambia	37.8	61.0	286	71	120	47	290	236	15.3
Ghana	49.3	62.4	183	63	110	43	266	227	15.7
Guinea	36.7	59.4	318	91	190	59	279	255	15.2
Guinea-Bissau	41.5	57.0	267	126	156	75	299	246	15.1
Liberia	39.3	62.0	278	71	186	53	263	225	15.7
Mali	32.4	57.5	374	114	184	72	280	261	15.4
Mauritania	49.1	63.1	197	89	110	66	226	182	16.5
Niger	35.9	59.7	325	110	154	61	265	237	16.1
Nigeria	41.0	53.0	259	112	153	69	377	340	13.9
Senegal	39.2	66.8	292	48	111	39	225	156	16.8
Sierra Leone	34.6	51.4	344	122	196	86	403	395	13.2

Country or area	Life expectancy at birth (years)		Under-five mortality (per 1,000 live births)		Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)		Adult mortality (15-60 years) (per 1,000 alive at age 15)		Life expectancy at age 60 (years)
	1970	2015	1970	2015	1970	2015	Males	Females	Both
							2015	2015	
Togo	46.6	59.9	220	79	120	52	287	255	15.2
ASIA	54.9	72.4	155	35	106	28	156	102	19.7
Eastern Asia	60.4	77.2	110	12	75	10	95	66	20.9
China ⁴	59.1	76.1	119	12	81	11	94	68	19.8
China, Hong Kong SAR ⁵	71.7	83.8	26	2	20	1	69	36	26.0
China, Macao SAR ⁶	69.4	83.7	40	4	30	3	61	26	25.7
China, Taiwan Province of China	68.2	79.7	37	5	27	4	131	56	23.6
Dem. People's Republic of Korea	59.7	71.5	71	21	51	16	169	100	17.7
Japan	72.4	83.6	17	3	13	2	75	39	26.1
Mongolia	55.4	69.1	171	25	111	20	297	130	17.2
Republic of Korea	61.1	81.9	67	3	50	3	90	38	24.6
South-Central Asia⁷	48.5	68.7	210	50	143	40	203	134	18.1
Central Asia	61.6	70.3	120	32	95	26	224	111	17.8
Kazakhstan	62.5	69.7	99	15	81	12	295	119	17.2
Kyrgyzstan	60.5	70.8	124	21	105	17	247	108	17.9
Tajikistan	60.1	70.9	165	45	129	36	164	105	18.5
Turkmenistan	58.5	67.7	141	53	116	45	247	132	17.4
Uzbekistan	62.4	71.2	118	34	89	29	179	102	18.1
Southern Asia	48.0	68.6	213	51	145	41	202	135	18.1
Afghanistan	36.7	63.3	309	74	207	60	250	208	16.2
Bangladesh	47.5	72.2	246	36	170	30	151	110	19.5
Bhutan	39.6	69.8	264	33	163	27	207	212	20.5
India	47.7	68.3	211	48	142	38	216	142	17.9
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	50.9	75.7	188	15	139	13	99	61	19.7
Maldives	44.2	77.0	261	9	174	7	82	57	19.9
Nepal	40.5	69.9	268	35	179	29	177	135	17.5
Pakistan	52.8	66.3	188	83	140	67	178	142	17.8
Sri Lanka	64.1	75.1	72	9	49	7	201	75	20.7
South-Eastern Asia	56.2	71.0	131	28	91	22	208	124	18.7
Brunei Darussalam	66.9	77.0	46	7	35	6	104	74	20.7
Cambodia	41.6	68.6	183	29	122	25	210	144	17.3
Indonesia	54.5	69.0	164	28	114	23	206	147	16.6
Lao People's Democratic Republic	46.3	66.3	213	55	143	43	219	175	16.8
Malaysia ⁸	64.4	75.1	56	7	42	6	159	86	19.8
Myanmar	51.0	66.5	170	55	116	43	227	165	16.8
Philippines	60.8	69.0	87	27	63	21	263	138	17.2
Singapore	68.1	82.8	27	2	22	2	65	39	24.9
Thailand	59.4	75.1	97	12	70	10	205	94	22.0
Timor-Leste	39.5	68.6	278	50	186	39	176	125	17.1
Viet Nam	59.6	76.1	83	22	55	18	184	67	22.6

Country or area	Life expectancy at birth (years)		Under-five mortality (per 1,000 live births)		Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)		Adult mortality (15-60 years) (per 1,000 alive at age 15)		Life expectancy at age 60 (years)
	1970	2015	1970	2015	1970	2015	Males	Females	Both
							2015	2015	
Western Asia	55.4	73.3	165	27	122	21	151	90	20.0
Armenia	70.1	74.4	71	15	65	12	176	75	19.4
Azerbaijan ⁹	63.1	71.9	129	33	102	29	174	86	18.5
Bahrain	63.4	76.8	81	8	58	6	75	59	19.7
Cyprus ¹⁰	72.6	80.3	33	5	28	4	70	34	22.5
Georgia ¹¹	67.5	73.1	59	12	55	10	231	80	18.8
Iraq	58.2	69.7	115	35	80	30	195	132	17.6
Israel	72.2	82.3	26	4	22	3	70	40	24.7
Jordan	60.2	74.2	96	18	71	16	128	93	19.2
Kuwait	66.0	74.6	63	10	47	8	94	58	17.8
Lebanon	66.1	79.4	56	10	44	9	71	51	22.4
Oman	50.3	76.8	188	10	120	9	110	69	21.0
Qatar	68.3	78.0	63	8	43	7	66	47	20.9
Saudi Arabia	52.7	74.4	182	14	122	12	98	79	18.6
State of Palestine ¹²	55.7	73.3	129	22	91	19	138	96	18.7
Syrian Arab Republic	58.8	69.9	113	20	81	17	297	85	19.2
Turkey	52.3	75.5	198	16	153	11	141	72	21.1
United Arab Emirates	61.7	77.1	92	7	67	6	81	57	20.1
Yemen	41.2	64.7	293	59	196	45	246	199	16.3
EUROPE	70.4	77.7	31	6	27	5	163	70	22.3
Eastern Europe	69.2	72.8	35	8	29	7	266	102	19.5
Belarus	70.5	72.7	27	4	22	3	278	95	18.9
Bulgaria	71.0	74.6	32	9	28	8	186	84	19.6
Czechia	69.9	78.6	24	3	21	2	118	55	21.7
Hungary	69.5	75.8	40	5	36	5	185	85	20.2
Poland	70.1	77.4	37	5	33	4	167	65	21.7
Republic of Moldova ¹³	65.0	71.5	53	15	47	13	242	96	17.4
Romania	68.1	75.3	55	9	45	8	186	80	20.2
Russian Federation	68.5	70.9	33	9	28	8	318	120	19.0
Slovakia	70.2	76.7	30	6	25	5	156	65	20.7
Ukraine ¹⁴	70.8	71.8	27	9	21	8	280	106	18.6
Northern Europe¹⁵	72.1	81.0	20	4	17	3	90	52	23.9
Channel Islands ¹⁶	71.8	81.0	29	9	24	8	61	43	23.5
Denmark	73.3	80.6	16	4	14	3	88	54	23.3
Estonia	70.4	77.4	26	4	21	3	176	64	21.9
Finland ¹⁷	70.2	81.1	16	2	13	2	104	45	24.1
Iceland	73.8	82.6	16	2	12	2	62	37	24.7
Ireland	71.0	81.3	23	3	20	3	76	45	23.8
Latvia	70.3	74.4	25	7	20	6	232	83	20.0
Lithuania	71.4	74.5	28	5	23	4	254	89	20.7

Country or area	Life expectancy at birth (years)		Under-five mortality (per 1,000 live births)		Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)		Adult mortality (15-60 years) (per 1,000 alive at age 15)		Life expectancy at age 60 (years)
	1970	2015	1970	2015	1970	2015	Males	Females	Both
Norway ¹⁸	74.1	82.0	16	3	12	2	72	43	24.4
Sweden	74.5	82.3	13	3	11	2	66	41	24.5
United Kingdom	71.9	81.4	21	5	18	4	81	52	24.2
Southern Europe¹⁹	70.6	81.6	40	4	35	4	85	42	24.2
Albania	66.9	78.2	85	15	67	14	80	51	21.8
Bosnia and Herzegovina	66.2	76.7	67	8	60	7	128	65	20.5
Croatia	68.3	77.5	33	4	29	4	133	57	20.9
Greece	71.0	81.0	33	4	29	3	95	43	23.9
Italy	71.6	82.8	33	3	29	3	68	37	25.0
Malta	71.4	80.7	25	5	21	4	70	40	23.0
Montenegro	69.9	76.9	45	6	40	3	125	65	20.5
Portugal	67.3	81.0	65	3	53	2	108	46	24.0
Serbia ²⁰	67.7	75.1	66	11	59	9	151	78	19.4
Slovenia	69.4	80.8	19	3	16	2	97	45	23.5
Spain ²¹	72.0	83.0	31	3	28	3	77	38	25.4
North Macedonia ²²	66.3	75.5	82	9	75	8	127	68	19.2
Western Europe²³	71.4	81.5	23	4	19	3	92	49	24.3
Austria	70.4	81.4	29	3	25	3	88	44	24.1
Belgium	71.0	81.0	24	4	20	3	92	55	23.9
France	71.8	82.4	22	4	18	3	104	50	25.6
Germany	70.9	80.8	25	3	22	3	93	49	23.6
Luxembourg	70.0	81.6	23	4	19	3	79	46	24.2
Netherlands	73.8	81.7	16	4	12	3	67	48	24.0
Switzerland	73.1	83.1	19	4	15	4	63	37	25.4
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	60.1	75.2	121	22	86	17	176	93	22.1
Caribbean²⁴	62.1	73.0	107	37	77	26	180	117	22.1
Antigua and Barbuda	65.9	76.2	56	11	45	8	154	108	21.7
Aruba	69.1	75.7	39	17	32	14	116	72	20.1
Bahamas	65.9	75.5	52	13	36	9	199	119	22.5
Barbados	65.6	75.8	54	10	40	9	125	74	19.8
Cuba	69.8	79.6	51	6	45	5	109	71	23.4
Curaçao	69.0	78.3	38	11	31	10	136	66	22.9
Dominican Republic	58.5	73.7	145	26	102	23	205	120	22.0
Grenada	63.8	73.5	65	12	49	9	185	98	19.0
Guadeloupe ²⁵	65.0	81.1	52	6	37	5	121	49	24.9
Haiti	47.2	63.1	213	73	142	44	275	213	18.0
Jamaica	68.3	75.8	57	17	45	14	165	100	22.4
Martinique	66.0	81.8	52	7	40	6	94	44	25.1
Puerto Rico	71.6	79.7	34	7	29	6	140	54	23.9
Saint Lucia	63.0	75.3	70	14	50	10	166	108	21.4

Country or area	Life expectancy at birth (years)		Under-five mortality (per 1,000 live births)		Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)		Adult mortality (15-60 years) (per 1,000 alive at age 15)		Life expectancy at age 60 (years)
	1970	2015	1970	2015	1970	2015	Males	Females	Both
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	65.1	73.1	76	20	64	16	182	129	20.1
Trinidad and Tobago	65.1	70.6	59	30	46	24	215	123	18.3
United States Virgin Islands	69.1	79.6	39	10	32	9	76	47	22.5
Central America	59.8	76.3	121	23	82	19	156	86	22.9
Belize	65.6	70.2	82	15	64	13	222	131	17.1
Costa Rica	66.4	79.6	83	11	64	9	114	60	23.9
El Salvador	55.0	73.3	171	18	106	16	263	104	21.7
Guatemala	52.5	73.2	176	30	119	25	215	114	21.9
Honduras	52.5	73.4	178	38	112	26	174	121	22.3
Mexico	61.4	76.9	109	22	74	18	143	80	22.9
Nicaragua	53.7	75.1	161	21	105	18	193	105	22.7
Panama	65.5	77.8	76	19	47	14	151	80	24.2
South America²⁶	59.9	75.1	123	20	89	16	182	93	21.9
Argentina	66.4	76.4	64	15	53	13	153	75	21.6
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	45.7	68.8	231	66	141	39	217	154	21.4
Brazil	59.2	75.3	130	17	96	14	195	96	22.0
Chile	62.3	79.3	91	8	78	7	112	68	23.3
Colombia	60.9	74.2	108	24	78	17	192	90	21.6
Ecuador	57.8	76.1	146	24	101	20	163	86	23.2
French Guiana	65.3	79.7	60	11	47	9	79	41	22.7
Guyana	61.8	66.5	75	40	56	32	248	172	16.1
Paraguay	65.5	73.0	76	34	56	28	165	125	21.2
Peru	53.5	74.7	183	27	118	17	154	95	21.6
Suriname	63.3	71.3	68	22	46	16	221	120	18.6
Uruguay	68.6	77.3	52	14	47	12	136	77	22.2
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	64.6	74.4	77	15	55	13	194	91	20.9
NORTHERN AMERICA²⁷	70.9	79.5	23	6	20	5	123	74	23.7
Canada	72.5	82.2	22	5	18	4	76	49	25.0
United States of America	70.8	79.2	23	7	20	6	128	76	23.6
OCEANIA	66.1	78.4	59	25	42	20	109	73	24.1
Australia and New Zealand	71.2	82.6	21	4	17	4	72	44	25.2
Australia ²⁸	71.2	82.7	21	4	18	3	71	42	25.3
New Zealand	71.5	81.7	21	5	17	4	78	51	24.6
Melanesia	50.7	66.5	140	54	94	42	244	177	17.2
Fiji	59.9	70.1	81	18	44	15	235	138	17.2
New Caledonia	62.4	76.8	80	14	59	12	105	60	20.7
Papua New Guinea	48.5	65.4	151	60	102	47	259	194	16.9
Solomon Islands	54.3	70.4	140	32	98	27	168	130	17.6
Vanuatu	52.4	71.9	156	27	108	23	158	106	18.2

Country or area	Life expectancy at birth (years)		Under-five mortality (per 1,000 live births)		Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)		Adult mortality (15-60 years) (per 1,000 alive at age 15)		Life expectancy at age 60 (years)
	1970	2015	1970	2015	1970	2015	Males	Females	Both
							2015	2015	
Micronesia²⁹	60.9	73.3	91	33	67	27	138	94	20.0
Guam	65.7	79.4	58	10	45	9	78	47	22.4
Kiribati	54.4	66.1	141	57	98	45	241	158	16.9
Micronesia (Fed. States of)	61.6	69.1	86	39	63	32	182	150	17.3
Polynesia³⁰	59.3	75.1	81	17	64	14	140	83	20.0
French Polynesia	60.2	76.6	80	7	76	6	130	76	20.6
Samoa	54.8	74.8	102	20	73	17	142	83	19.9
Tonga	64.9	72.9	50	24	40	20	168	101	18.8

Definitions of indicators

Life expectancy at birth: The average number of years of life expected by a hypothetical cohort of individuals who would be subject throughout their lives to the age-specific mortality rates of a given period.

Infant mortality: Probability of dying between birth and exact age 1. It is expressed as deaths per 1,000 live births.

Under-five mortality: Probability of dying between birth and exact age 5. It is expressed as deaths per 1,000 live births.

Adult mortality: The probability that an individual alive at exact age 15 would die before exact age 60, given the mortality conditions of 2015. This probability reflects mortality risks among adults and is expressed as deaths per 1,000 persons reaching age 15.

Life expectancy at age 60: The average number of years of life after age 60 expected by a hypothetical cohort of individuals who would be subject throughout their remaining lives to the mortality conditions of 2015.

Data sources

Life expectancy at birth and at age 60, infant mortality, under-five mortality, and adult mortality are based on annually interpolated values from 5-year period estimates and projections from the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition. New York: United Nations. Accessed on 26 Dec. 2017 at: <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Download/Standard/Mortality/>

Notes

- *) Countries or areas listed individually are only those with 90,000 inhabitants or more in 2017; the rest are included in the aggregates but are not listed separately.
- a) More developed regions comprise Europe, Northern America, Australia and New Zealand and Japan.
- b) Less developed regions comprise all regions of Africa, Asia (except Japan), Latin America and the Caribbean plus Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia.
- c) The group of least developed countries, as defined by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolutions (59/209, 59/210, 60/33, 62/97, 64/L.55, 67/L.43, 64/295 and 68/18) included 47 countries in June 2017: 33 in Africa, 9 in Asia, 4 in Oceania and 1 in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- d) Other less developed countries comprise the less developed regions excluding the least developed countries.
- e) The country classification by income level is based on 2016 gross national income (GNI) per capita from the World Bank.
- f) Sub-Saharan Africa refers to all of Africa except Northern Africa.
 - 1 Including Agalega, Rodrigues and Saint Brandon.
 - 2 Including Zanzibar.
 - 3 Including Saint Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha.
 - 4 For statistical purposes, the data for China do not include Hong Kong and Macao, Special Administrative Regions (SAR) of China, and Taiwan Province of China.
 - 5 As of 1 July 1997, Hong Kong became a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China.
 - 6 As of 20 December 1999, Macao became a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China.
 - 7 The regions Southern Asia and Central Asia are combined into South-Central Asia.
 - 8 Including Sabah and Sarawak.
 - 9 Including Nagorno-Karabakh.
 - 10 Refers to the whole country
 - 11 Including Abkhazia and South Ossetia.
 - 12 Including East Jerusalem.
 - 13 Including Transnistria.
 - 14 Including Crimea
 - 15 Including Faeroe Islands, and Isle of Man.
 - 16 Refers to Guernsey, and Jersey.
 - 17 Including Åland Islands.
 - 18 Including Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands.
 - 19 Including Andorra, Gibraltar, Holy See, and San Marino.
 - 20 Including Kosovo.
 - 21 Including Canary Islands, Ceuta and Melilla.
 - 22 The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
 - 23 Including Liechtenstein, and Monaco.
 - 24 Including Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Caribbean Netherlands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sint Maarten (Dutch part) and Turks and Caicos Islands.
 - 25 Including Saint-Barthélemy and Saint-Martin (French part).
 - 26 Including Falkland Islands (Malvinas).
 - 27 Including Bermuda, Greenland, and Saint Pierre and Miquelon.
 - 28 Including Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Norfolk Island.
 - 29 Including Marshall Islands, Nauru, Northern Mariana Islands, and Palau.
 - 30 Including American Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue, Pitcairn, Tokelau, Tuvalu, and Wallis and Futuna Islands.



Accurate, consistent and timely data on global trends in child, adult and old-age mortality are critical for assessing past and recent progress of regions and countries with respect to health, morbidity and well-being and for setting policy priorities to further improve child survival, reduce premature adult mortality and increase longevity at older ages. This publication presents the highlights of the *World Mortality Report 2017*, which summarizes for the period from 1970 to 2015, the levels and trends in mortality drawn from the latest United Nations estimates, as published in *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision*.

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