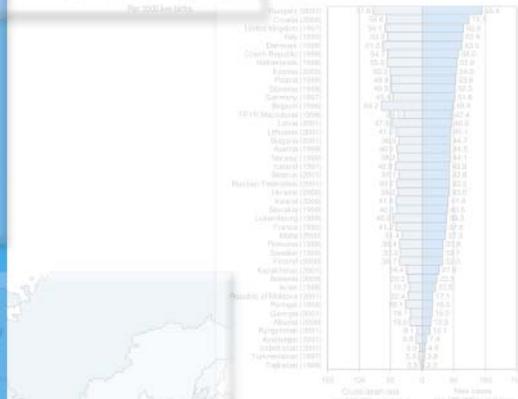
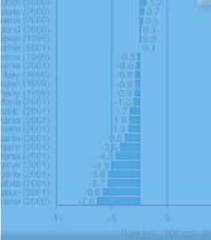
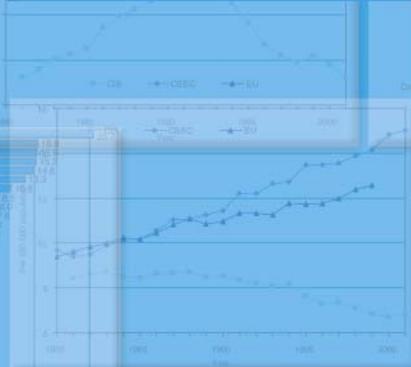
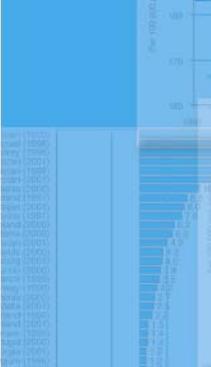
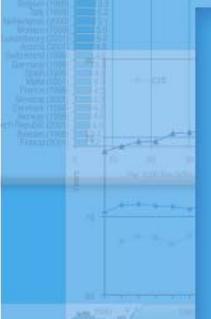
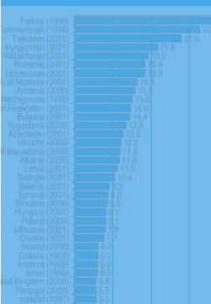


# Atlas of health *in Europe*



Per 100 000 population

per 100 000 population

The World Health Organization was established in 1948 as a specialized agency of the United Nations serving as the directing and coordinating authority for international health matters and public health. One of WHO's constitutional functions is to provide objective and reliable information and advice in the field of human health, a responsibility that it fulfils in part through its publications programmes. Through its publications, the Organization seeks to support national health strategies and address the most pressing public health concerns.

The WHO Regional Office for Europe is one of six regional offices throughout the world, each with its own programme geared to the particular health problems of the countries it serves. The European Region embraces some 870 million people living in an area stretching from Greenland in the north and the Mediterranean in the south to the Pacific shores of the Russian Federation. The European programme of WHO therefore concentrates both on the problems associated with industrial and post-industrial society and on those faced by the emerging democracies of central and eastern Europe and the former USSR.

To ensure the widest possible availability of authoritative information and guidance on health matters, WHO secures broad international distribution of its publications and encourages their translation and adaptation. By helping to promote and protect health and prevent and control disease, WHO's books contribute to achieving the Organization's principal objective – the attainment by all people of the highest possible level of health.

# Atlas of health in Europe

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## Foreword

*Decisions in the area of public health are based on a profound understanding of a wide range of factors, health statistics among them. Policy-makers consider all the available data on the health status in their countries, and shape their policies and design their actions accordingly. The comparison of national with international health data is a major part of the complex picture of public health: statistics backed up by in-depth analyses can be a powerful resource to help health authorities identify failures and successes, constraints and good practices.*

*The WHO Regional Office for Europe offers this atlas to a wide range of public health and medical professionals, as well as to a broader audience. Rich and elaborate data from various sources have been gathered, systematized, grouped and formatted to present readers with the most complete picture of the health of Europe that can be expressed through figures.*

*We hope this statistical atlas will be useful for those committed to the improvement of public health Europe-wide.*

**Marc Danzon**

*Regional Director*

*WHO Regional Office for Europe*

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## Technical notes

This publication contains basic health-related statistics for the 51 Member States of the WHO European Region. The data cover the main aspects of health and its determinants, i.e. basic demographic data, health status in terms of mortality and morbidity, and some indicators on lifestyles and the environment, health care resources and their utilization. The period covered runs from 1980 at the earliest to 2001 at the latest, depending on the data available in the various countries. The only exception is the mid-year population graph, which shows data for 2002.

Most of the data used in this publication come from the Member States themselves, usually from statistical units of ministries of health or public health institutions, and national statistical institutions. These data are systematically collected by the technical units of WHO (at the Regional Office for Europe or in headquarters) or by WHO collaborating centres. All these data, and more, are available in databases accessible on the WHO/Europe web site (<http://www.euro.who.int>) Information sources > Data > European health for all database; and on the WHO headquarters web site (<http://www.who.int>) Research tools > WHOSIS. For the sake of completeness, some publicly available data collected and published by other international organizations (such as the International Labour Office (ILO), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) have also been included when appropriate, with the information source acknowledged.

Data were compiled, validated and processed in a uniform way in order to improve the international comparability of statistics. Nevertheless, many factors, such as variations in national definitions, incomplete registration in some countries or other national specificities in data recording and processing, may influence the accuracy and comparability of the national statistics.

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Therefore, statistics, particularly in international comparisons, should always be interpreted with caution. The same applies to statistics for countries with very small populations (figures tend to “jump” up and down purely because of the small numbers registered). On the other hand, the “statistical noise” from possible data inaccuracies or random fluctuations due to small figures is usually not so high as to mask completely what the statistics show.

Most of the data in this publication are presented in three standard graphic forms.

***The ranked bar-chart*** shows the relative position of each country in relation to other countries. The data used are from 2001, or the latest available year. But as the timing of data reporting to WHO varies a lot, data from different years often have to be used. As more recent data are provided, rankings may change. Serbia and Montenegro is still referred to as Yugoslavia, because that was the name that pertained at the time the data apply.

***The map*** aims to reveal specific geographical patterns in the data, such as the east–west mortality gradient. Again, data from different years may have to be used, although 2001 is the most common year.

***The line chart*** shows health trends over the last 20 years, in different parts of the Region. Technically, it is difficult to present trends separately for each of the 51 countries on one line chart. On the other hand, had only the average trends for the whole Region been given, some important sub-regional differences in health trends would not have been visible. Therefore, sub-regional population-weighted averages for each indicator are calculated for three groups of countries, representing the trends in the eastern, central and western parts of the Region. The first (eastern) group consists of the 12 countries of the former USSR that now constitute the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The second (central) group is the 15 central and south-eastern European countries (CSEC) in rapid transition, including the three Baltic states. The third (western) group represents the western part of the Region, consisting of the 15 member states of the European Union (EU).

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Unless otherwise stated, death rates are age-standardized death rates (SDR), i.e. the number of deaths per 100 000 people in a “standard” population. This facilitates international comparability by removing differences in rates caused by different population age structures between countries. The European standard population (see the table below) was used to calculate the SDR.

The mortality rates used cover all age groups: those aged under 65 (so called premature mortality) or aged 25–64 (representing the working age). Readers interested in other or more detailed age groups may consult the European health for all database.

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The European standard population structure

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Age (years)	Percent of population	Age (years)	Percent of population
0	1.6	45–49	7
1–4	6.4	50–54	7
5–9	7	55–59	6
10–14	7	60–64	5
15–19	7	65–69	4
20–24	7	70–74	3
25–29	7	75–79	2
30–34	7	80–84	1
35–39	7	85+	1
40–44	7	All ages	100

---



# 1. Demography

## Notes

### **Population** (p. 9)

In mid-2002, the population of the 51 countries of the WHO European Region totalled 874.6 million. The six largest countries (the Russian Federation, Germany, Turkey, France, United Kingdom, and Italy) make up more than half of the Region's population. The data are estimates published by United Nations Statistical Division.

### **Natural population growth** (pp.10–11)

In the 1990s, the decline in the number of births and the increase in the number of deaths reached a cross-over point for several countries, mostly in the central and eastern part of the Region. Deaths now exceed births in the European Region as a whole.

### **Age structure** (pp.11–14)

European countries generally have an ageing population. Every seventh person is aged 65 years or more and this proportion is growing while the proportion of children is declining. The ageing process is more advanced in the western part of the Region. The graphs are based on population data by age, as most recently reported by countries to WHO.

### **Births** (pp.15–18)

Live birth rates are declining in European countries and this decline is particularly sharp in eastern, central and south-eastern parts of the Region. This is most likely due to the profound socioeconomic changes and economic crises in this group of European countries.

The proportion of infants with low birth weight (below 2500 g) is growing throughout the entire Region. The worst situation seems to be in the central and south-eastern parts of the Region, although

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low-weight births may also be high but underreported in some countries of the eastern part of the Region.

While births to young mothers are most common in the eastern part of the Region, births to mothers over 35 years of age are most frequent in western countries.

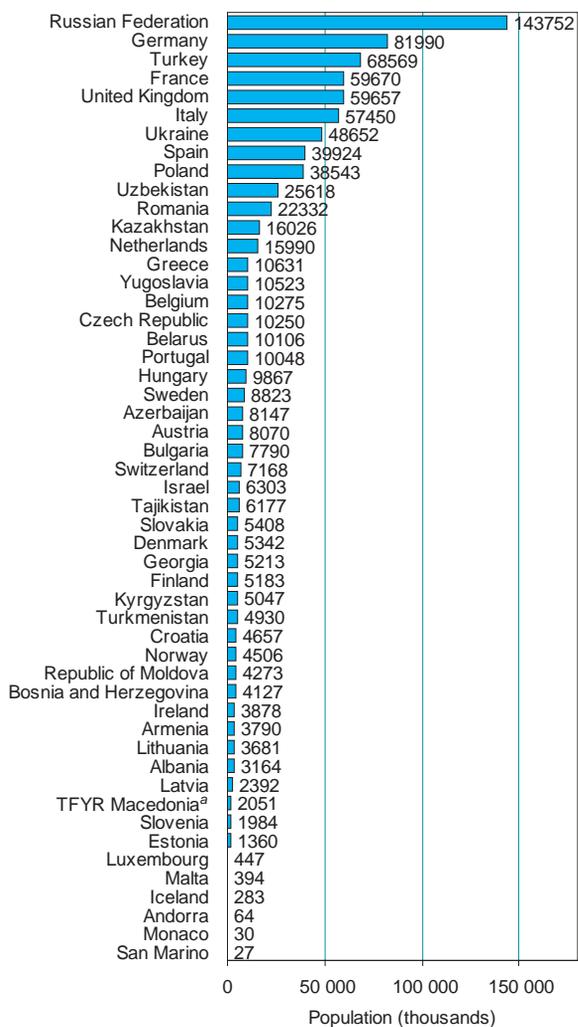
**Abortions (p. 19)**

The legal requirements for abortion vary between countries. The dramatic increase in the average rate of abortions in the central and south-eastern part of the Region in 1990 was caused by a six-fold increase in the number of abortions in Romania after a change in the law.

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## Population

## Mid-year population, 2002



<sup>a</sup> The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

## Population

### Natural population growth

