



Population Ageing and the Non-communicable Diseases

This fact sheet explains the implications of current and future trends in population ageing for the burden of mortality due to non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Analyses demonstrate that with no changes in age-specific NCD death rates, the annual number of NCD deaths in Africa would grow from 3.7 million in 2008 to close to 14 million in 2050. About 45 per cent of that increase would be due to population growth, while the remaining 55 per cent would be due to the ageing of the population. In Eastern Europe, where exceptionally low fertility is projected to lead to declining population size, population ageing would account for all of the 54 per cent increase in NCD deaths by 2050.

Towards Global Equity in Longevity

This fact sheet summarizes the results of analyses from the Changing Levels and Trends in Mortality (2012) report. It illustrates how as life expectancy increases, the communicable diseases account for a declining share of the gaps in longevity, while the share that is due to non-communicable diseases grows. It identifies the causes of death that need to be addressed – such as HIV/AIDS, pneumonia, diarrhoeal diseases, and NCDs – in order for developing regions to achieve the longevity presently observed among the world's longest-lived populations.

Towards global equity in longevity

1. The ability to enjoy a long life is a fundamental aspect of human development.

- Longer lives are often healthier lives: life expectancy increases when morbidity and mortality are postponed to older ages.

Expert Group Meeting (Report)

The Population Division organized an expert group meeting on the subject “Mortality crises: conflicts, violence, famine, natural disasters and the growing burden of non-communicable diseases” in New York on 14 and 15 November 2011. The main objective of the meeting was to provide a comprehensive overview of the current situation and to discuss the impact of mortality crises on development and to identify ways to address these challenges.

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World Mortality Report 2011. The expert group meeting also considered the impact of mortality from non-communicable diseases with the objective of identifying assumptions about future mortality trends. The Report of the meeting provides a comprehensive overview of the current situation and to discuss the impact of mortality crises on development and to identify ways to address these challenges.

Also available in other formats:

World Mortality 2011 (wall chart) (United Nations Publication, Sales No. E.11.XIII.9)

World Mortality Report 2011 (CD-ROM) (POP/DB/MORT/2011)

Population and HIV/AIDS 2010 (wall chart) (United Nations Publication, Sales No. E10.XIII.9)