

Western Europe



Western Europe’s population has an average life expectancy at birth greater than 80 years, and about 17% of the population is 65 or more years old (Table 1). The number of health professionals per 1,000 people varies substantially among the countries in the region.

Table 1. Summary regional Indicators for Western Europe countries, 2010

Country Indicator	Median among countries	Range among countries
Life expectancy (years)	80.7	79 – 82.2
Population ≥65 years of age (%)	16.8	10.4 – 20.8
Urban population (%)	81.1	60.5 – 97.5
Physicians per 1,000 people	3.67	2.74 – 6.17
Nurses or midwives per 1,000	7.97	0.24 – 23.96

Ischaemic heart disease, stroke, and hypertensive heart disease were the leading CVD cause of death and disability in Western Europe in both 1990 and 2010 (Figure 1). Disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) lost due to almost all CVD causes decreased between 1990 and 2010. Notable exceptions were atrial fibrillation (DALYs increased by a factor of 2.0) and peripheral vascular disease (DALYs increased by a factor 1.84).

Figure 1. Number of DALYs due to CVD, Western Europe, both sexes, 1990 and 2010

1. Ischaemic heart disease	13,765,500 (45.9%)	1. Ischaemic heart disease	9,467,910 (49.7%)
2. Stroke	6,619,490 (22.0%)	2. Stroke	4,718,900 (24.8%)
3. Hypertensive heart disease	797,300 (2.6%)	3. Hypertensive heart disease	769,586 (4.0%)
4. Rheumatic heart disease	560,470 (2.2%)	4. Atrial fibrillation	666,959 (3.5%)
5. Cardiomyopathy	556,807 (1.8%)	5. Cardiomyopathy	621,036 (3.2%)
6. Aortic aneurysm	428,386 (1.4%)	6. Aortic aneurysm	414,772 (2.9%)
7. Atrial fibrillation	334,133 (1.1%)	7. Rheumatic heart disease	332,088 (1.7%)
8. Peripheral vascular disease	107,998 (0.3%)	8. Peripheral vascular disease	199,244 (1.0%)
9. Endocarditis	78,501 (0.2%)	9. Endocarditis	61,834 (0.3%)
10. Other CV and circulatory diseases	1,700,210 (5.6%)	10. Other CV and circulatory diseases	1,770,480 (9.3%)

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