United Kingdom
Findings from the Global Burden of Disease Study

Life expectancy globally and in the United Kingdom, 1990-2013

Male life expectancy increased by 6.2 years from 1990 to 2013 in the UK, while female life expectancy increased by 4.4 years.

The Global Burden of Disease: 2013 study results

This profile provides findings from the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study 2013. The GBD study empowers decision-makers to compare the impacts of different health threats that kill people prematurely and cause poor health to see how much progress they have made in tackling these threats. GBD 2013 tracks years lost from more than 300 diseases, injuries, and risk factors. GBD can be used at the global, national, and local levels to understand health trends over time and to measure whether people are getting healthier. Decision-makers can also use GBD to benchmark their country’s health progress relative to its peers and identify health disparities within its borders.

GBD estimates are based on more than 50,000 different data sources such as death certificates, household surveys, and examination surveys. GBD researchers use statistical modeling to produce the most scientifically rigorous estimates possible. Estimates from the Global Burden of Disease study may differ from national statistics due to differences in data sources and methodology.

GBD brings together a strong community of health specialists who are passionate about improving health through science. Through their knowledge about local and regional health, more than 1,000 GBD experts, who hail from government agencies, universities, and research institutions in 120 countries, are answering some of the world’s most important questions about health. As the coordinators of the GBD study, we invite you to join this groundbreaking effort by becoming a GBD expert.

For more information, visit www.healthdata.org/gbd. Please send feedback and questions to engage@healthdata.org.

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Leading causes of disability-adjusted life years in 2013 and percent change, 1990-2013

- Communicable, maternal, newborn, and nutritional disorders
- Non-communicable diseases
- Injuries

Disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) are the sum of years of healthy life lost to premature death and years lived with disability.

The leading cause of disease burden in 1990, ischemic heart disease, saw a 55% decline in burden between 1990 and 2013 in the UK.

Leading causes of years of life lost to premature death, 1990 and 2013, and percent change, 1990-2013

- Communicable, maternal, newborn, and nutritional disorders
- Non-communicable diseases
- Injuries

While the list of leading YLLs in 2013 is very similar to 1990, the absolute burdens of all but Alzheimer’s disease and pancreatic cancer decreased substantially.

Years of life lost (YLLs) are years of life lost due to premature mortality.
Burden of disease attributable to leading risk factors, 2013
expressed as a percentage of UK DALYs

Risk factors are potentially modifiable causes of disease and injury.

Leading causes of years lived with disability, 1990 and 2013, and percent change, 1990–2013

Low back and neck pain continue to be major contributors to the UK’s burden of disabling conditions - responsible for nearly three times as many YLDs in 2013 as sense organ diseases.

Years lived with disability (YLDs) are years lived in less than ideal health. This includes conditions that may last for only a few days, as well as conditions that can last a lifetime.
### Rates of premature death* in the UK versus comparison countries, 2013

**Commonwealth country**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commonwealth country</th>
<th>Rank 1</th>
<th>Rank 2</th>
<th>Rank 3</th>
<th>Rank 4</th>
<th>Rank 5</th>
<th>Rank 6</th>
<th>Rank 7</th>
<th>Rank 8</th>
<th>Rank 9</th>
<th>Rank 10</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ischemic heart disease</strong></td>
<td>653</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>256</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lung cancer</strong></td>
<td>1,170</td>
<td>1,181</td>
<td>1,451</td>
<td>761</td>
<td>1,335</td>
<td>2,054</td>
<td>1,481</td>
<td>761</td>
<td>525</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Stroke</strong></td>
<td>272</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>962</td>
<td>504</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>638</td>
<td>632</td>
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<td><strong>COPD</strong></td>
<td>210</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>137</td>
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<td>362</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>185</td>
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<td>554</td>
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<td><strong>Lower respiratory infections</strong></td>
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<td>316</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>290</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Colorectal cancer</strong></td>
<td>282</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>289</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Alzheimer's disease</strong></td>
<td>243</td>
<td>233</td>
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<td>278</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>201</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Breast cancer</strong></td>
<td>394</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>578</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>512</td>
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<td><strong>Self-harm</strong></td>
<td>260</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>198</td>
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<td><strong>Congenital anomalies</strong></td>
<td>260</td>
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<td>341</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>198</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Rates are in years of life lost per 100,000 and are age standardized.

This table shows the top 10 causes of premature death in the UK. It can be used to compare rates* across countries relative to the group average. Comparison groups were chosen based on income classifications.