

Global trends in causes of death

Highlights

- » Between 1990 and 2017, early death from enteric infections*, respiratory infections and tuberculosis, and maternal and neonatal disorders dropped, with the greatest declines in the least developed countries.
- » Progress in reducing mortality from some common diseases has stalled or reversed, primarily for non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases and cancers.
- » An unintended consequence of greater access to health care globally is increases in mortality from diseases and disorders linked to antibiotic resistance.

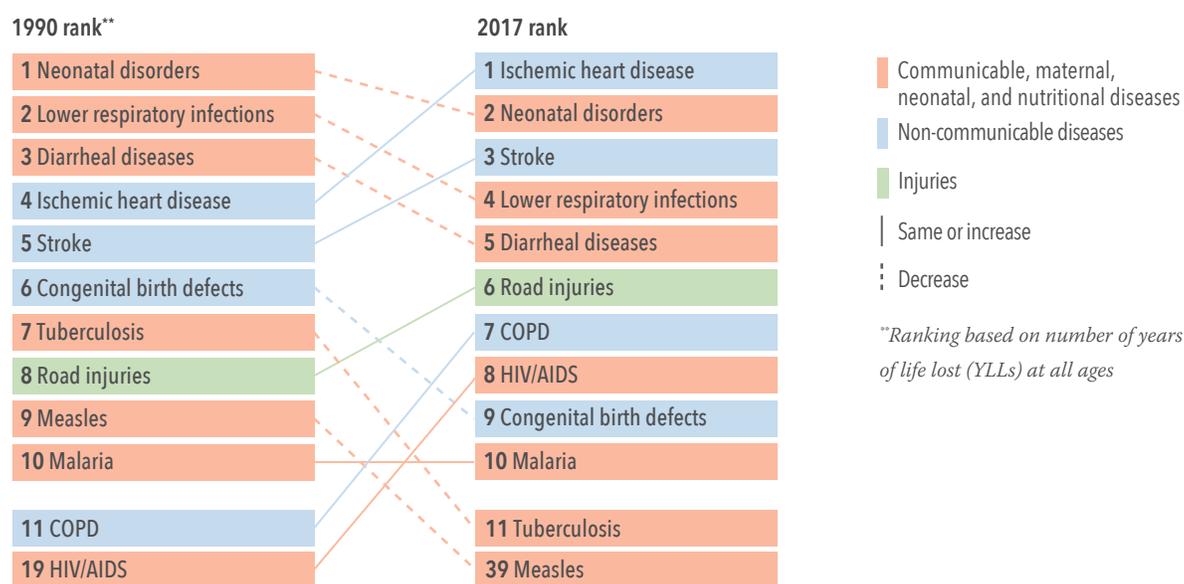
What’s new in this study

“Global, regional, and national age-sex-specific mortality for 282 causes of death in 195 countries and territories, 1980–2017: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017” estimated mortality for 282 causes of death in 195 countries from 1980 to 2017, adding 18 causes to its estimates compared to GBD 2016. In 2017, the GBD study added numerous data sources, including 127 country-years of vital registration data and 502 country-years of cancer registry data.

*Enteric infections include diseases such as diarrhea, typhoid and paratyphoid fevers, and other intestinal infections.

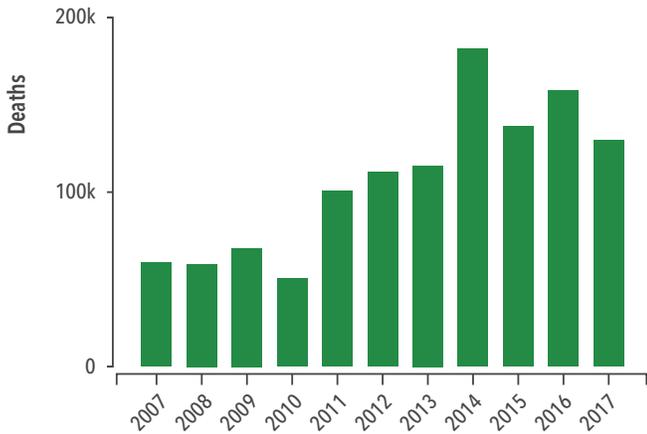
Leading causes of early death, 1990 and 2017

Ischemic heart disease, neonatal disorders, stroke, lower respiratory infections, diarrhea, road injuries, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) accounted for more than 1 million deaths each worldwide in 2017.



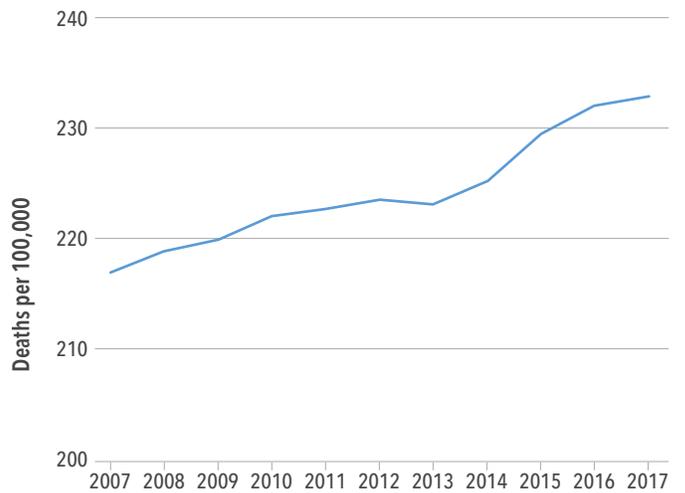
Deaths from armed conflict and terrorism, 2007–2017

Deaths from armed conflict and terrorism increased rapidly, rising by 118% from 2007 to 2017



Global mortality[†] from cardiovascular diseases, 2007–2017

Medications that prevent deaths from cardiovascular diseases, such as those that lower blood pressure and cholesterol, are among the most cost-effective interventions available to health systems. Despite this, mortality from cardiovascular diseases has increased since 2007 worldwide.



[†]Death rate at all ages and for both sexes

Change in mortality[‡] due to extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis, 2007–2017

Since 2007, there have been rapid increases in emerging diseases and disorders due to antibiotic use or resistance, including extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis, cellulitis, and *Clostridium difficile* diarrhea.

