

Global trends in mortality and life expectancy

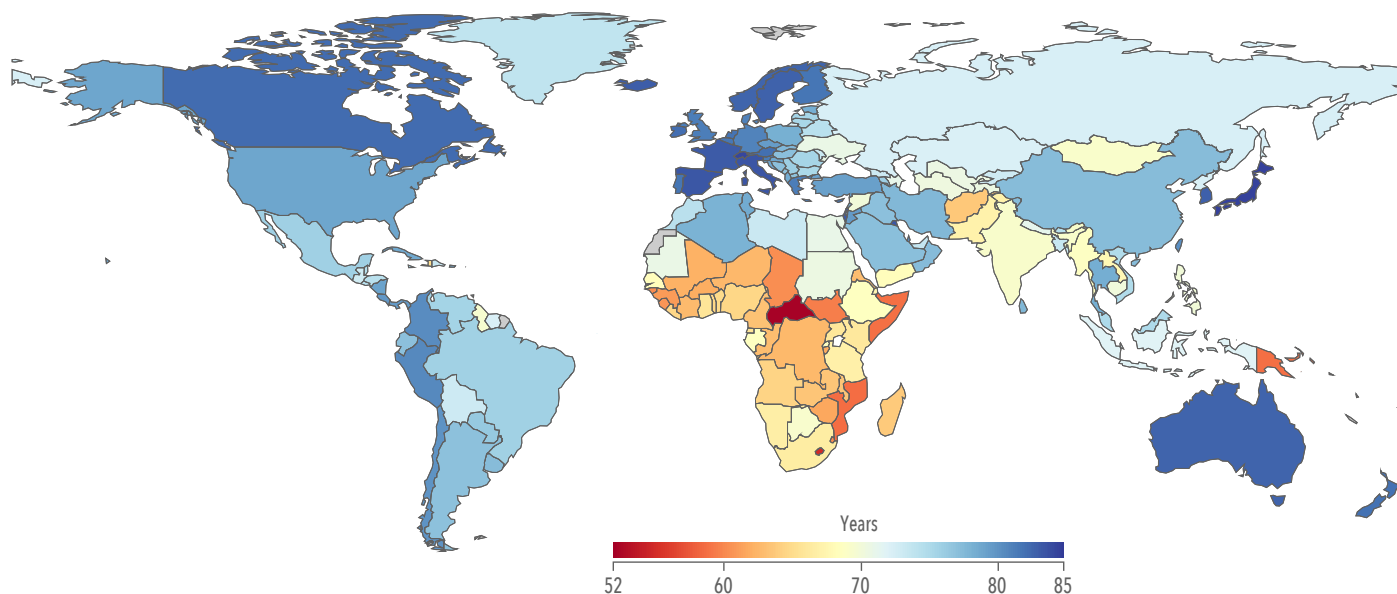
Highlights

- » There was rapid progress in life expectancy from 1950 to 2017:
 - » Males, up from 48 years in 1950 to 71 years in 2017
 - » Females, up from 53 years in 1950 to 76 years in 2017
- » Among age groups, the under-5 age group experienced huge reductions in mortality between 1950 and 2017, while adults have made much less progress, particularly adult males.
- » While females tend to live longer than males, the gap in life expectancy between them varies substantially by level of socioeconomic development.

What's new in this study

“Global, regional, and national age-sex-specific mortality and life expectancy, 1950–2017: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017” is based on more data than ever before and includes 622 new data sources, for a total of 8,259 data sources. The 2017 study produced and used a new set of population estimates, which has led to substantial changes in mortality estimates in many countries. The analysis has been extended in time by two decades to start in 1950, and the statistical methods have been improved.

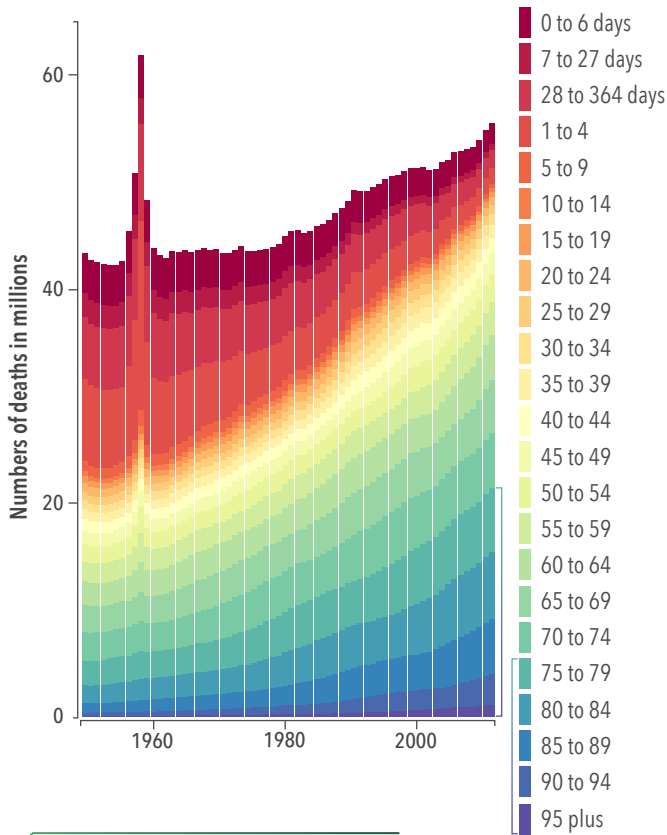
Life expectancy, 2017*



*Data shown in the figure represent life expectancy at birth for both sexes.

Total number of global deaths, 1950–2017

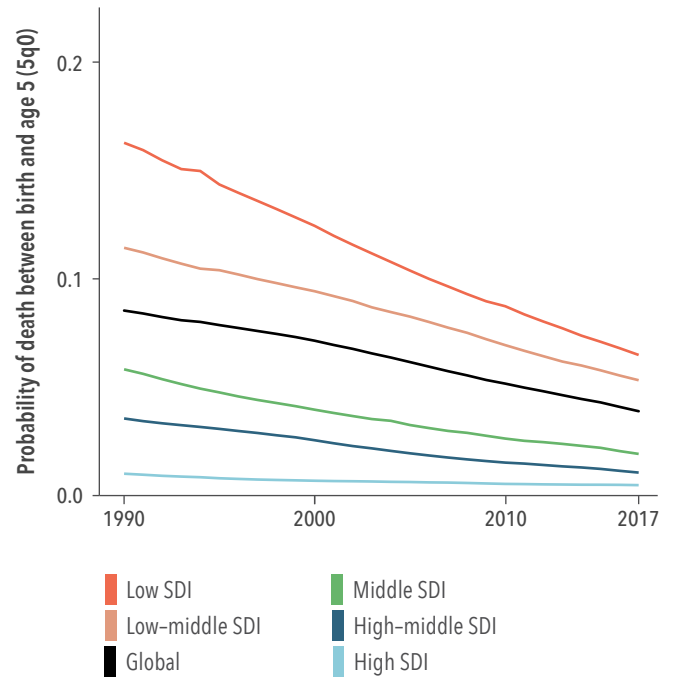
The proportion of deaths in those over age 75 increased from 12% of total deaths in 1950 to 39% in 2017.



There have been dramatic declines in under-5 mortality, but there were still 5.4 million deaths among children under 5 worldwide in 2017.

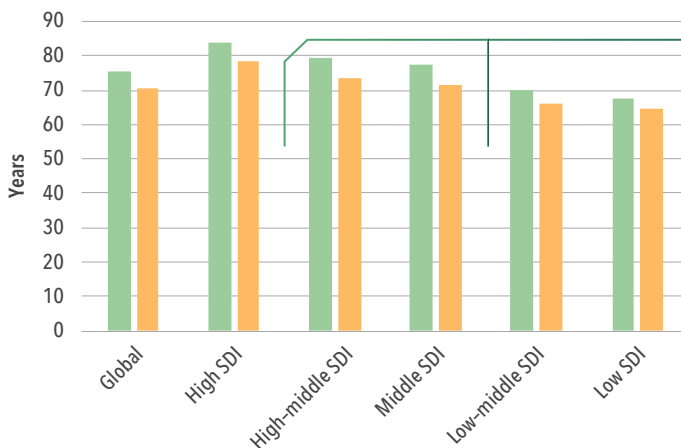
Under-5 mortality by level of socioeconomic development, 1990–2017

Declines in under-5 mortality were fastest among countries at the lowest level of Socio-demographic Index (SDI)**



**SDI captures three different aspects of development: income, education, and fertility.

Life expectancy† by sex globally, and by level of socioeconomic development, 2017



Disparities in life expectancy between males and females were greatest in countries at the high-middle and middle levels of development.

†Data shown in the figure represent life expectancy at birth.