“Lifetime stroke risk” is the probability of a person developing a stroke at some point during their remaining lifespan, after accounting for other risks of death.

On average across the globe, as many as one in four adults will have a stroke sometime in their lives.

Stroke accounted for 10% of deaths globally in 2016, and over 75% of those deaths occurred in low- and middle-income countries.

REGIONAL-LEVEL VIEW

In 2016, the greatest lifetime stroke risk was in:

- East Asia: 38.8%
- Central Europe: 31.7%
- Eastern Europe: 24.4%
- Central Asia: 23.8%
- High-income North America: 17.6%

From 1990 to 2016, lifetime stroke risk rose the most in:

- East Asia: 29.7%
- South Asia: 17.6%
- Southeast Asia: 10.4%
- Eastern sub-Saharan Africa: 9.8%
- Central Europe: 8.7%

COUNTRY-LEVEL VIEW

Lifetime risk of stroke occurrence (in %) in both sexes combined, 2016

In 2016, the lifetime stroke risk ranged from 8% to 39%, depending on where people live.

1. China 39.3%
2. Latvia 37.0%
3. Romania 36.2%
4. Montenegro 36.0%
5. Bosnia and Herzegovina 35.7%

Note: The lower risk of lifetime stroke in sub-Saharan Africa does not necessarily represent a lower incidence of stroke or more effective prevention and treatment strategies. Instead, populations in these geographies are at higher risk of dying of another disease first.