

Global trends in risk factors leading to early death and disability

Highlights

- » The amount of early death and disability linked to risk factors declined between 2007 and 2017.
- » Leading risk factors changed considerably between 1990 and 2017. In 1990, the leading risk factors for early death and disability (number of all-ages DALYs) were child wasting, short gestation for birth weight, and low birth weight for gestation. In 2017, they were high blood pressure, smoking, and high blood sugar.

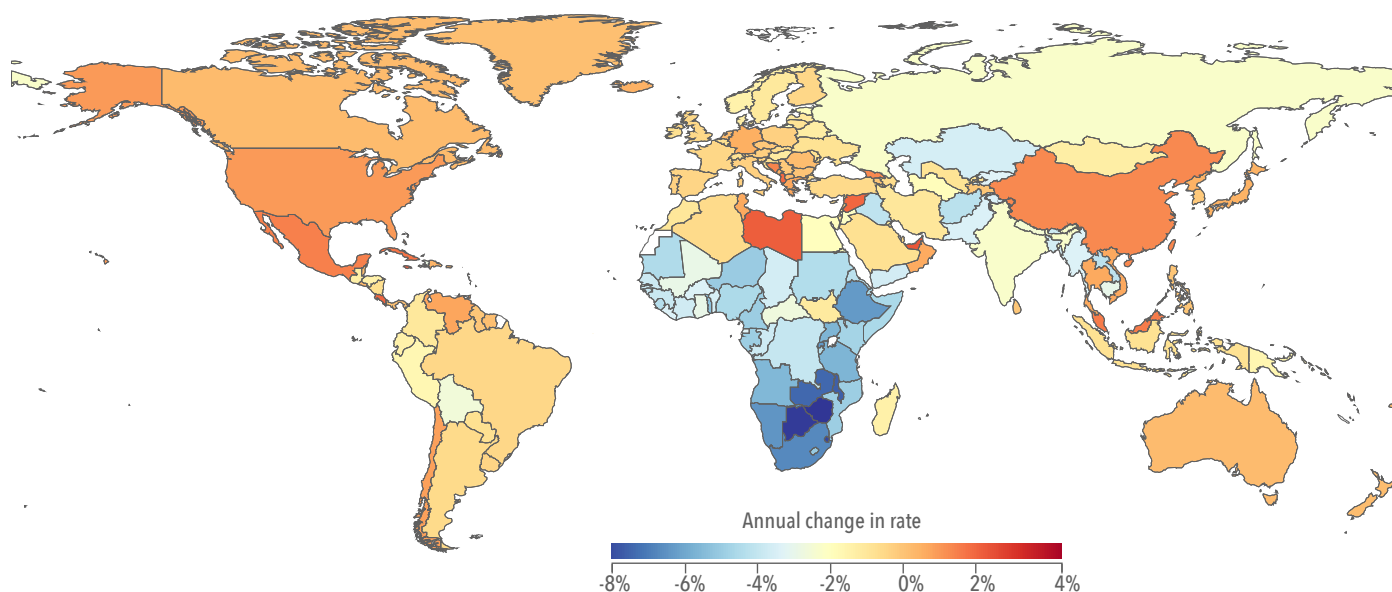
What's new in this study

“Global, regional, and national comparative risk assessment of 84 behavioural, environmental and occupational, and metabolic risks or clusters of risks for 195 countries and territories, 1990–2017: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017” is based on more data than ever before and includes 46,749 sources used for the analysis of risk factors affecting health. GBD 2017 added one new risk factor (bullying victimization) to the analysis. The study also examines how risks change according to level of development and includes a more accurate method of estimating smoking risk.

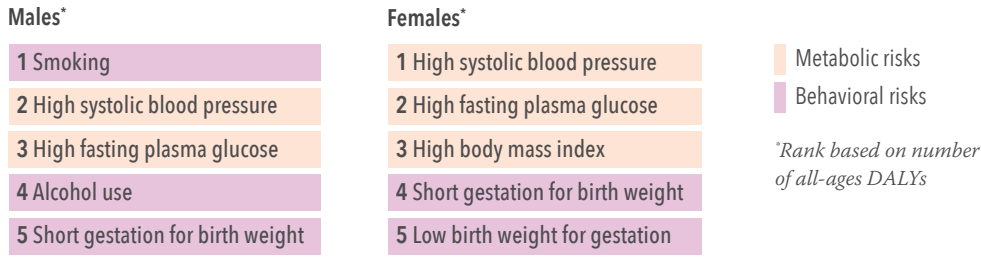
Changes in early death and disability linked to risk factors

Annual change in rate of disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) attributable to risk factors, both sexes, age-adjusted, 2000–2017

In sub-Saharan Africa, decreases in early death and disability linked to risk factors were especially pronounced.



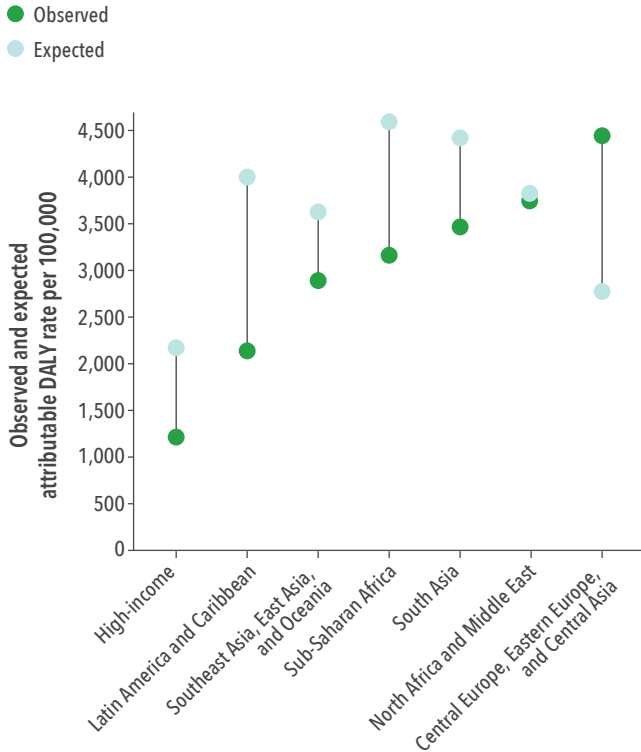
Leading risk factors causing early death and disability, by sex, 2017



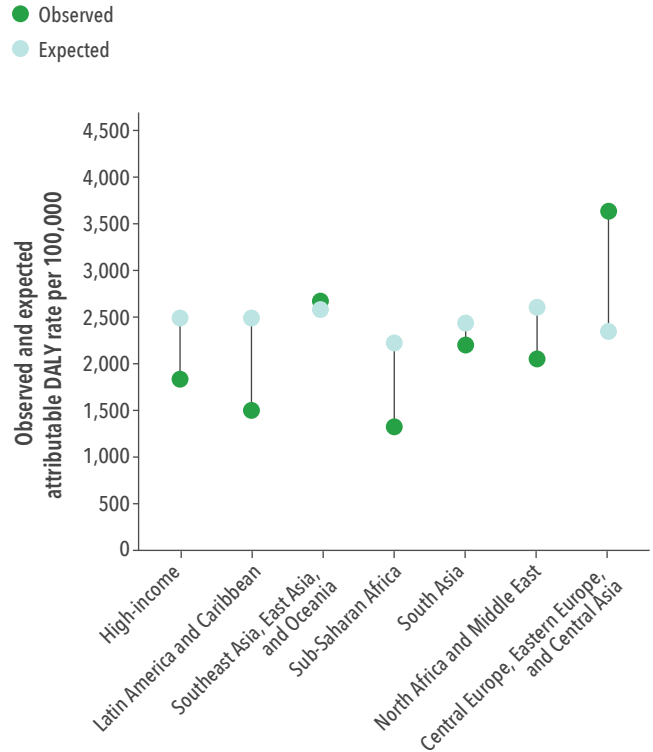
Performance in high blood pressure and smoking among GBD super-regions

As of 2017, the leading global risk factors causing early death and disability for all ages combined were high blood pressure and smoking. The disease burden caused by these two risk factors, compared to the burden expected based on the level of socioeconomic development, varied considerably by region.

Age-adjusted DALY rates from high blood pressure, both sexes, observed compared to expected, 2017



Age-adjusted DALY rates from smoking, both sexes, observed compared to expected, 2017



Source: GBD 2017 Risk Factor Collaborators. Global, regional, and national comparative risk assessment of 84 behavioural, environmental and occupational, and metabolic risks or clusters of risks for 195 countries and territories, 1990–2017: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017. *The Lancet*. 8 Nov 2018: 392.