

# Global trends in disability

## Highlights

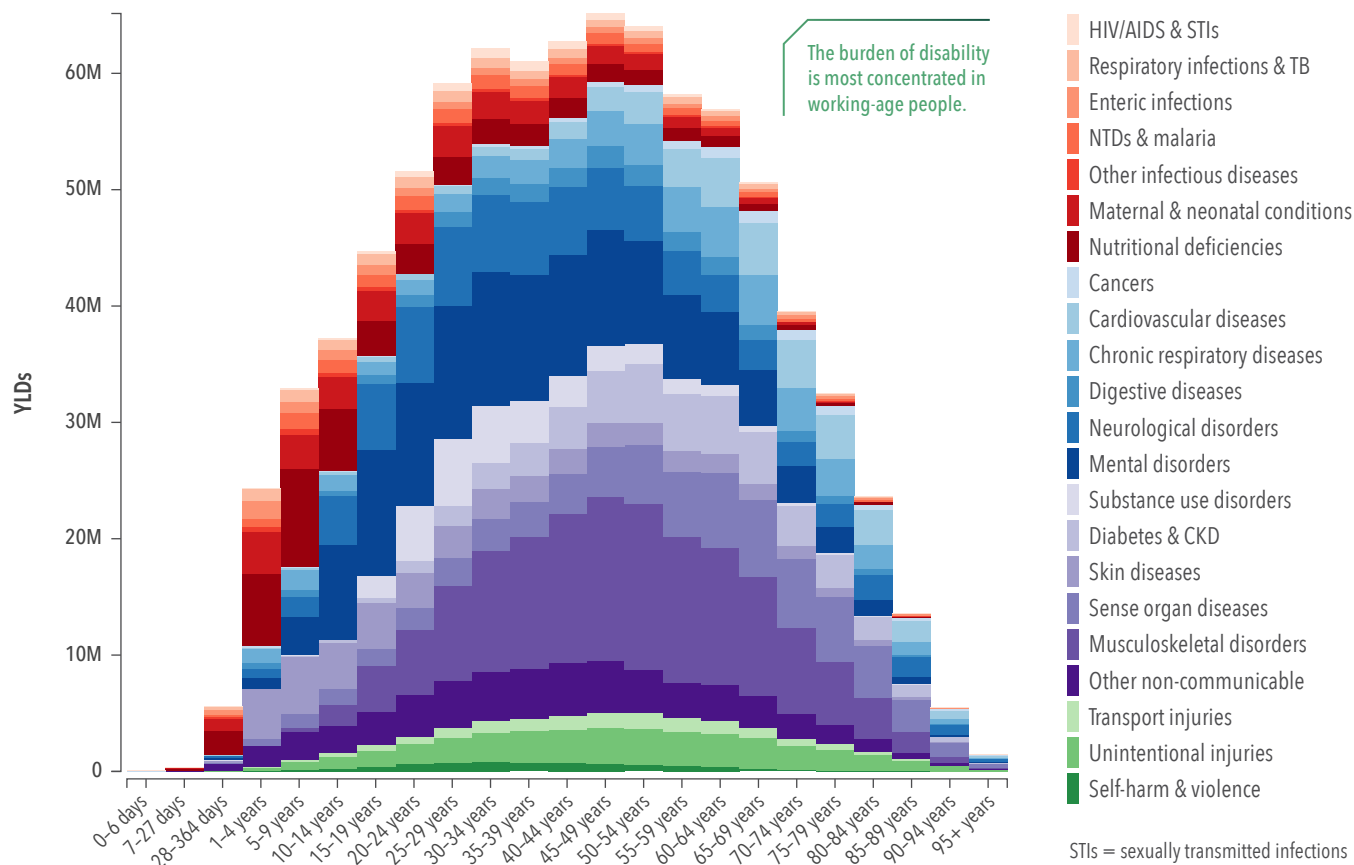
- » Globally, the total burden of disability increased by 52% between 1990 and 2017.
- » The burden of disability is driven mainly by non-communicable diseases, which caused 80% of disability in 2017.
- » Disability from metabolic conditions, such as type 2 diabetes and fatty liver disease, increased around the world and across levels of development.

## What's new in this study

“Global, regional, and national incidence, prevalence, and years lived with disability for 354 diseases and injuries 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 68,781 data sources used for the analysis of nonfatal causes of disease and injury. GBD 2017 added 19 new causes to its nonfatal analysis, for a total of 354 causes. The study includes a more detailed analysis of disability than previous versions of GBD.

## Years lived with disability (YLDs\*), 2017

Number of total YLDs, global, both sexes, by age group and cause, 2017

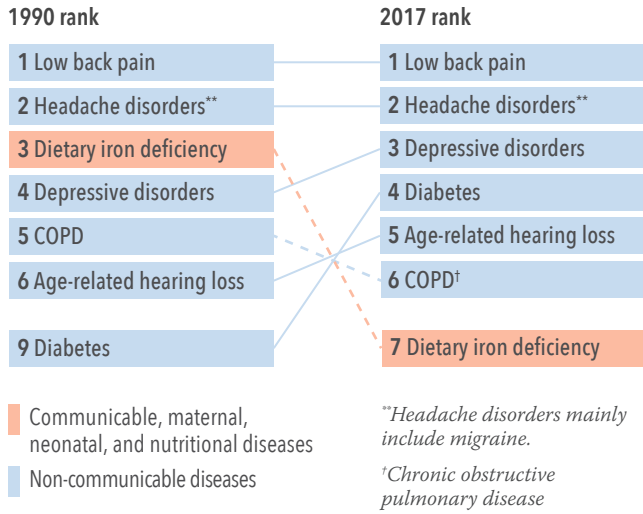


\*YLDs represent time lived in less-than-ideal health. Nutritional deficiencies primarily include iron deficiency anemia; mental disorders are mainly composed of anxiety and depression; musculoskeletal disorders consist largely of back pain and neck pain; and sense organ diseases mostly include hearing loss and vision loss.

STIs = sexually transmitted infections  
 TB = tuberculosis  
 NTDs = neglected tropical diseases  
 CKD = chronic kidney disease

### Leading causes of disability, 1990 and 2017

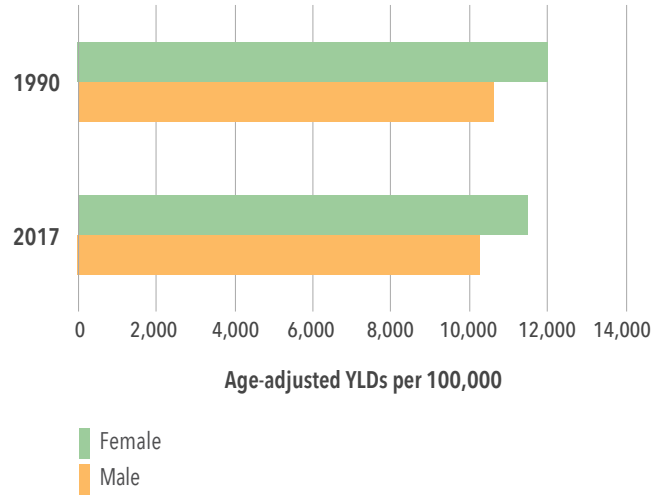
Global all-age YLDs



While diabetes emerged as the fourth-leading cause of disability globally in 2017, many of the top leading causes of disability in 1990 remain so in 2017, namely low back pain, headaches, and depression. This reflects a lack of progress in addressing these conditions.

### Differences in disability by sex

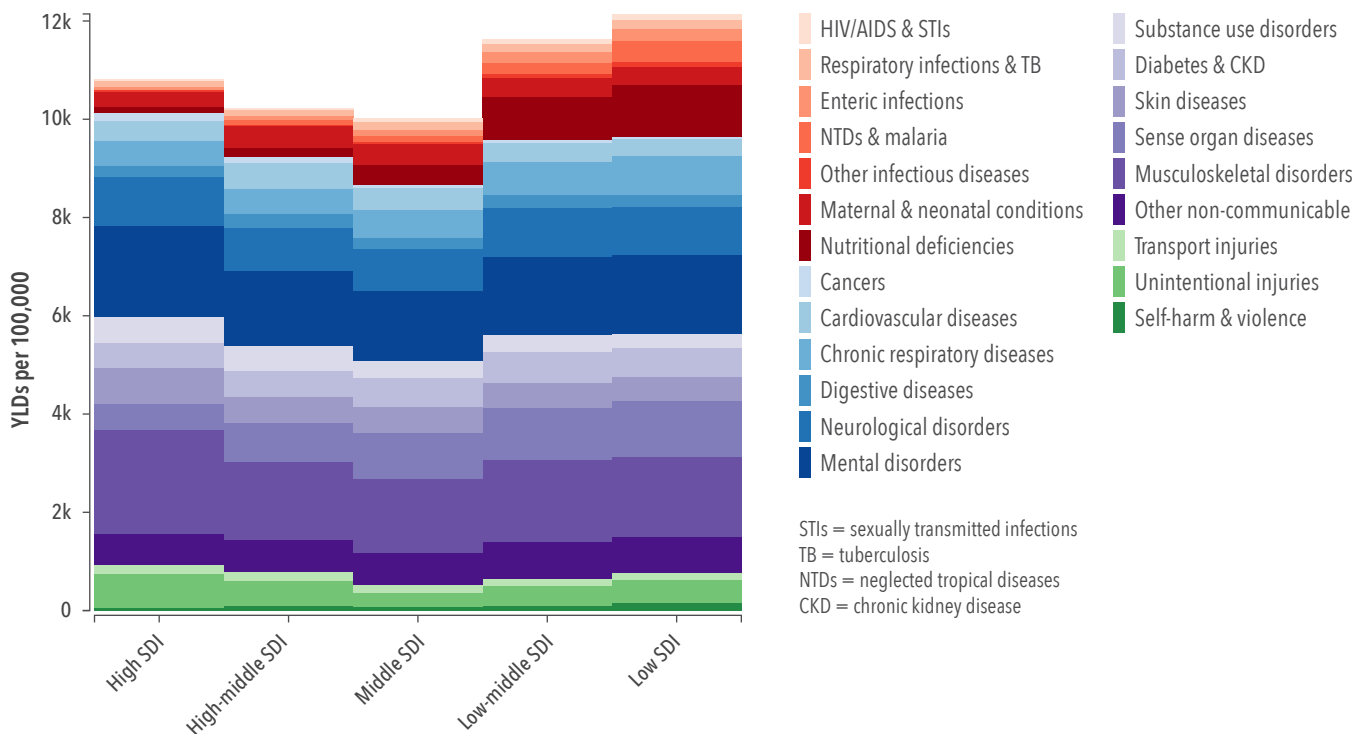
In general, females have had—and continue to experience—higher levels of disability than males.



### Disability and development

Years lived with disability by Socio-demographic Index (SDI) grouping - YLDs per 100,000, age-adjusted, 2017

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



Source: GBD 2017 Disease and Injury Incidence and Prevalence Collaborators. Global, regional, and national incidence, prevalence, and years lived with disability for 354 diseases and injuries for 195 countries and territories, 1990–2017: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017. *The Lancet*. 8 Nov 2018: 392.