

# Latin America & Caribbean



The population of Latin America and the Caribbean is young on average; less than 10% of the population is 65 years or older in most countries (Table 1). There is considerable variability with countries across the region in terms of the proportion of people living in cities, and the number of health professionals per 1,000 people.

**Table 1. Summary regional Indicators for Latin America and Caribbean countries, 2010**

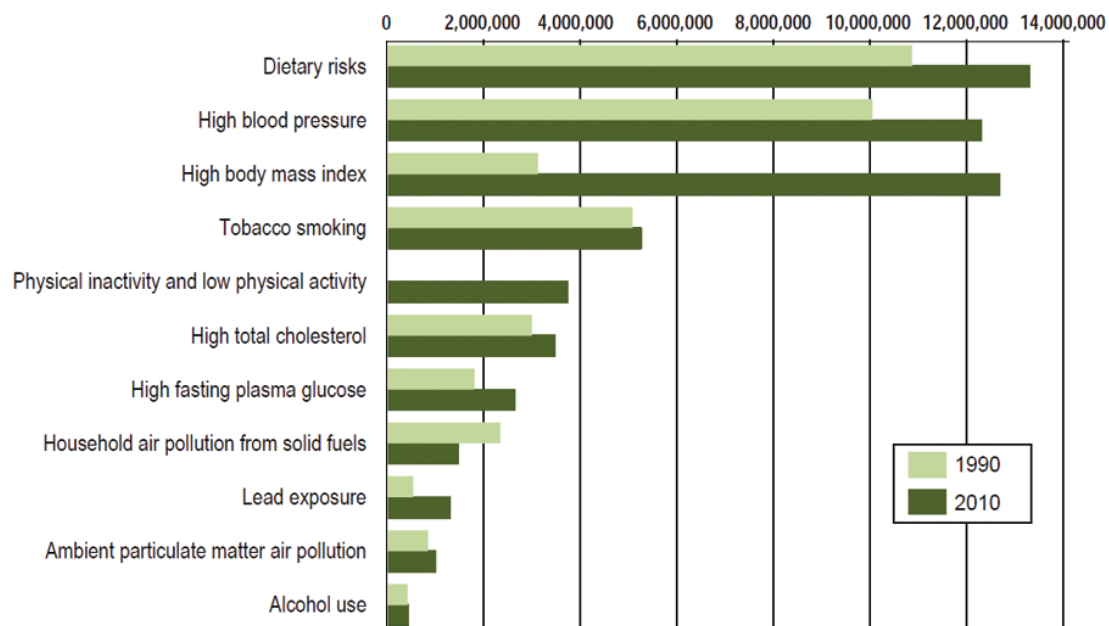
Country Indicator	Median among countries	Range among countries
Life expectancy (years)	73.4	61.9 – 79.3
Population ≥65 years of age (%)	6.5	3.3 – 13.9
Urban population (%)	65.3	13.4 – 93.3
Physicians per 1,000 people	1.6	0.1 – 6.7
Nurses or midwives per 1,000	2	0.1 – 9.1

Ischaemic heart disease, stroke, and hypertensive heart disease were the leading CVD causes of disease burden in Latin American and the Caribbean in 2010 (Figure 1). Ranking of CVDs according to disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) between 1990 and 2010 was generally consistent, except that peripheral vascular disease changed from ninth to fourth ranking (due to an over 20-fold increase in DALYs). Rheumatic heart disease was the only CVD to decrease in DALYs lost over that interval.

**Figure 1. Number of DALYs due to CVD, Latin America and Caribbean, both sexes, 1990 and 2010**

1. Ischaemic heart disease	6,485,540 (41.6%)	1. Ischaemic heart disease	8,787,050 (43.5%)
2. Stroke	5,171,173 (33.2%)	2. Stroke	5,709,963 (28.2%)
3. Hypertensive heart disease	903,613 (5.7%)	3. Hypertensive heart disease	1,351,130 (6.7%)
4. Cardiomyopathy	748,733 (4.8%)	4. Peripheral vascular disease	970,811 (4.8%)
5. Rheumatic heart disease	632,423 (4.0%)	5. Cardiomyopathy	937,994 (4.6%)
6. Aortic aneurysm	162,935 (1.0%)	6. Rheumatic heart disease	391,566 (1.9%)
7. Endocarditis	154,690 (0.9%)	7. Atrial fibrillation	319,700 (1.5%)
8. Atrial fibrillation	146,292 (0.9%)	8. Aortic aneurysm	258,000 (1.2%)
9. Peripheral vascular disease	43,317 (0.2%)	9. Endocarditis	156,314 (0.8%)
10. Other CV and circulatory diseases	1,131,832 (7.3%)	10. Other CV and circulatory diseases	1,318,967 (6.5%)

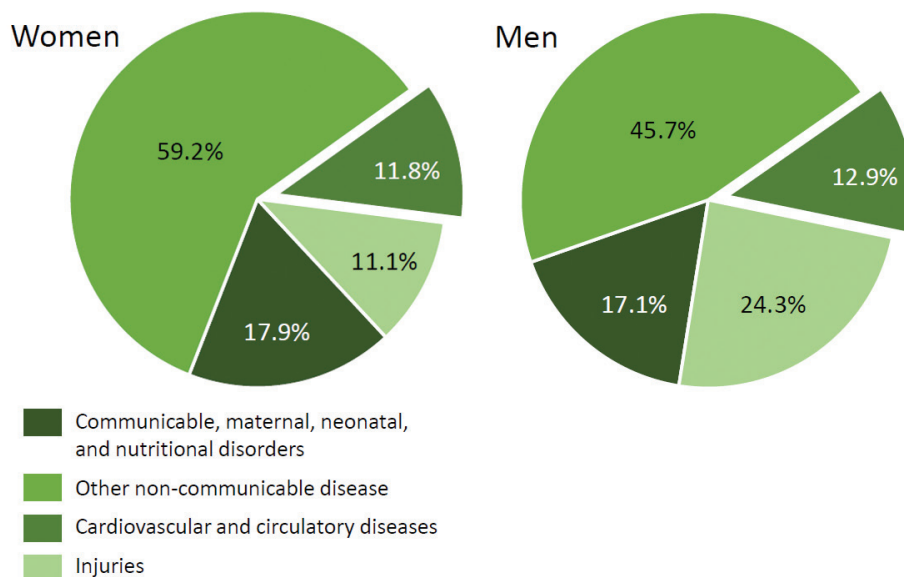
**Figure 2. Number of DALYs due to CVD risk factors, Latin America and Caribbean, both sexes, 1990 and 2010\***



\*Note that DALYs attributed to risk factors overlap, that is, the sum for all CVD causes is greater than total CVD DALYs.

CVD burden attributable unhealthy diet, high blood pressure, and metabolic risk factors increased since 1990 (Figure 2). CVD DALYs attributable to lead exposure increased by over two-fold over the same period. Over 10% of all disease burden was attributed to CVDs in 2010 for men and women alike (Figure 3).

**Figure 3. DALYs by cause, Latin America and Caribbean, 2010**



Absolute CVD DALYs per 100,000 people varied from the low rate of 1,958 per 100,000 in Guatemala (95% uncertainty interval 1,757 to 2,143) to rates over 5,000 per 100,000 in Cuba, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti and Trinidad and Tobago (Figure 4). Age standardized and absolute CVD DALY rates decreased in most countries in the region between 1990 and 2010 (Figure 5). In the few countries where absolute numbers of CVD DALY per 100,000 people increased by over 10% (the Dominican Republic, Paraguay, and Mexico), age-standardized CVD DALYs decreased over the same interval (by 14.6%, 7.3%, and 5.5%, respectively).

The Atlas of CVD reports point estimates. Trends may not be statistically significant. Uncertainty intervals for all point estimates should be considered and are available at <http://viz.healthmetricsandevaluation.org/gbd-compare/>.

**Figure 4. 2010 DALYs by country, Latin America and Caribbean**

### CVD DALYs per 100,000 persons, 2010

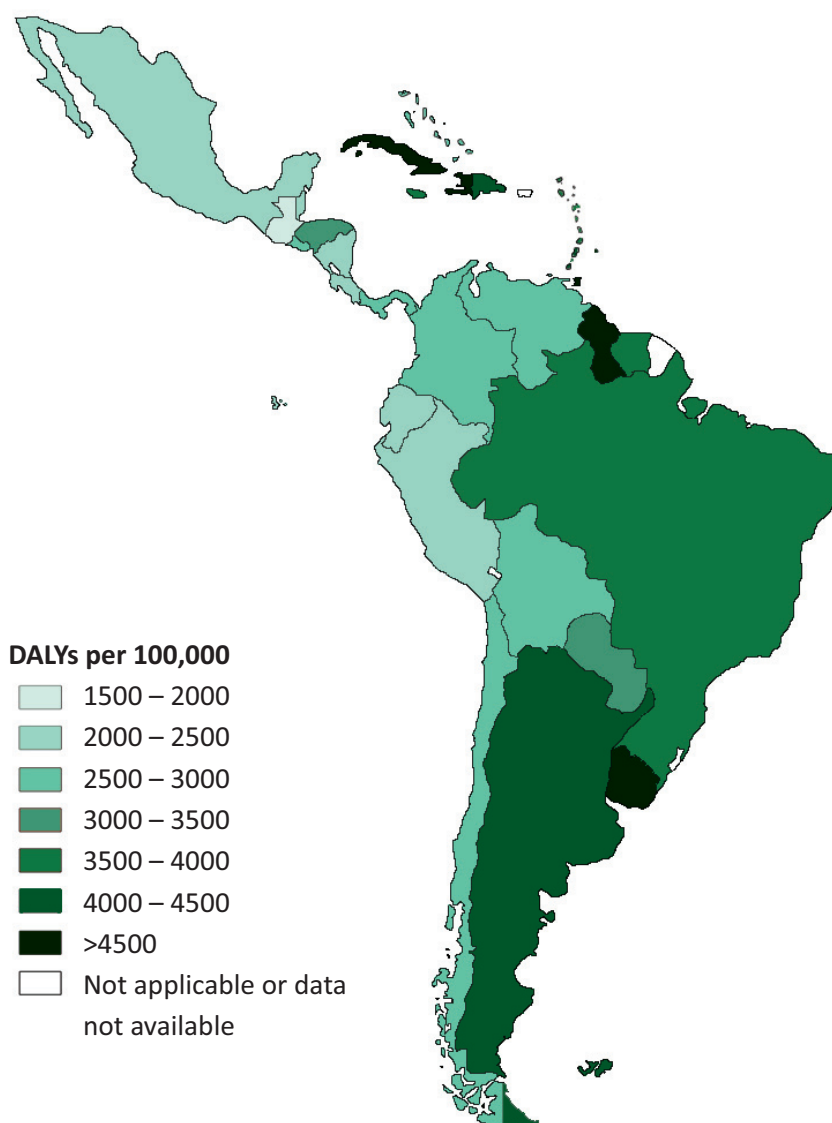


Figure 5. Change in CVD DALYs, 1990-2010, Latin America and Caribbean

Percent change in CVD DALYs per 100,000 between 1990 and 2010



