

**Premature mortality and potential years of life lost from stroke in the Balearic Islands, Spain**

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**Objectivos (Objectives):** Estimate premature mortality (PM) due to stroke in the Balearic Islands in 2008, asses its evolution over the last decade, and compare it to Spain national estimates

**Metodologia (Methodology):** By using I60 to I64 and I69, ICD-10 codes from the Spanish death registry, figures were analyzed and crude and adjusted mortality rates were estimated by means of the direct method using the European population as the standard. Setting the bench mark in 75 years, crude and adjusted Potential Years of Life Lost (PYLL) were estimated to assess PM

**Resultados (Results):** In 2008, 5.5% of all deaths in the Balearic Islands were caused by stroke (4.63% in men and 6.39% in women). This estimate is 1.37 percentage points below the Spanish aggregate. By gender, these differences are 1.02 percentage points below in men and 1.79 in women. In absolute figures, 410 persons died due to stroke, 44.1 and 55.9% of which were men and women, respectively. Stroke mortality rates in Spain have been decreasing over the last decade, and this trend has been more pronounced in the Balearic Islands. The crude death rate of stroke in the Balearic Islands fell from 66.70/100,000 in 2000 to 37.82/100,000 in 2008, whereas national estimates declined from 79.12/100,000 to 57.16/100,000. However, this pronounced decrease does not follow PM trends. In 2008, 5.03% of all premature deaths in the Balearic Islands were caused by stroke. In fact, 20.73% of all ictus deaths in the Balearic Islands were premature deaths (19.32% in Spain). By gender, more men than women died prematurely due to a stroke (29.28 and 13.97%, respectively). In 2008, 887.5 PYLL were attributable to stroke in the Balearic Islands (8.76/10,000; 10.66/10,000 in men and 6.77/10,000 in women).

**Conclusões (Conclusions):** In Spain, more women than men are dying from stroke and also this cause of death among women represents a greater weight, and this difference is greater in the Balearic Island than in Spain. However, more men die prematurely, and consequently more PYLL ensue. Premature mortality reduction is one of the important aspects considered in the Stroke Strategy of the Balearic Islands 2011-2015. Specific actions should be addressed first of all to proper control of risk factors which increase incidence of stroke and afterwards rapid/immediate identification and treatment. A special group on which to influence is especially young men.