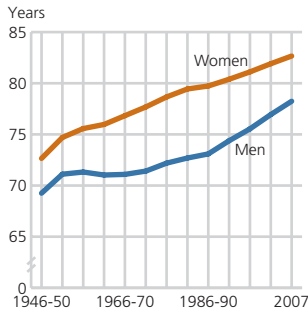


Life and death

Life expectancy at birth for men and women



Remaining life expectancy at different ages. 2007

	Women	Men
0 years	82.7	78.2
10 years	73.0	68.6
20 years	63.1	58.7
30 years	53.3	49.2
40 years	43.5	39.6
50 years	34.0	30.2
60 years	24.9	21.4
70 years	16.5	13.7
80 years	9.2	7.4

Life expectancy at birth in selected countries. 2006

	Women	Men
Japan	85.8	79.0
Spain	84.4	77.7
France	84.4	77.3
Switzerland	84.2	79.2
Finland	83.1	75.9
Sweden	83.1	78.8
Norway	82.9	78.2
Iceland	82.9	79.5
Austria	82.8	77.2
Germany	82.4	77.2
Belgium	82.3	76.6
Portugal	82.3	75.5
Ireland	82.1	77.3
Netherlands	82.0	77.7
Greece	81.9	77.2
Denmark	80.7	76.1
Poland	79.7	70.9

Source: Eurostat and Statistics Bureau of Japan.

A long life

Estimated life expectancy often serves as an indicator of the population's general health. Today a baby boy can expect to live until the age of 78.2 years and a baby girl to 82.7. This is a marked increase since the period 1946-1950, when the figures were 69.3 and 72.7 respectively.

In the 1950s and 1960s, there was an increasing gap between men and women as regards life expectancy. This was mainly due to the rising male mortality rate for cardiovascular diseases. This gap has decreased over the last ten years.

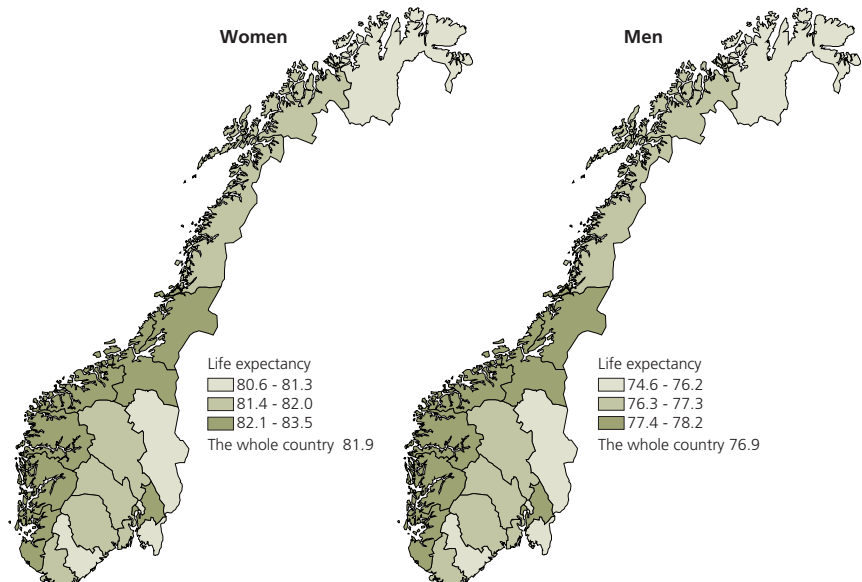
Norwegian women no longer live longest

Previously, Norwegian women had the world's highest estimated life expectancy, while today women in several countries can expect to live longer; Japanese women top the list with a life expectancy of almost 86 years. Other women too, for example those from the south of Europe, can expect to live longer than their Norwegian counterparts.

There seems to be a north-south divide when it comes to gender differences in life expectancy. Whereas Icelandic and Swedish women only live four years longer than their men, Spanish, French and Portuguese women live around seven years longer.

Internationally there are large differences in life expectancy, and this is also the case for regions in Norway. For example, a woman in Sogn og Fjordane might expect to live for almost 84 years while in Finnmark the figure is around 81.

Life expectancy for men and women. 2001-2005



Causes of death. Per cent

	Women			Men		
	1951-1955	1971-1975	2001-2005	1951-1955	1971-1975	2001-2005
All causes	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Violent deaths	3.7	4.4	4.3	8.6	7.5	7.0
Diseases:						
Tuberculosis and other infectious diseases	2.6	0.8	1.5	3.9	0.8	1.4
Cancer	19.2	19.1	22.6	18.1	18.6	27.0
Diabetes	1.0	0.9	1.7	0.7	0.5	1.6
Cardiovascular diseases	45.0	51.3	40.1	40.1	50.5	37.3
Respiratory diseases (e.g. pneumonia)	8.6	10.2	9.8	7.7	8.4	9.5
All other diseases	19.9	13.3	20.0	21.0	13.8	16.4

Causes of death

Before, during and immediately after World War II, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases were still common causes of death. After 1960, deaths caused by these diseases were less common, while cardiovascular diseases became more common and were the cause of more than half of all deaths at the beginning of the 1970s. The significance of these diseases was then somewhat reduced. In contrast, cancer deaths have increased throughout the whole period, especially for men.

The number of violent deaths has remained relatively stable in the post-war period. Earlier, death by drowning and accidents related to fishing and shipping dominated the statistics, while today falls, traffic accidents and suicides dominate. However, these causes of death have declined in recent years.

Sickness absence

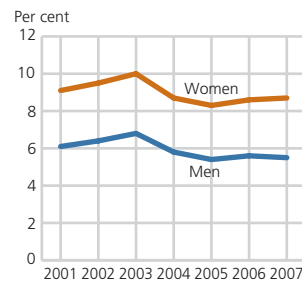
The sickness absence rate increased until 2003. After a decline in 2004, it has now stabilised. Women have a higher sickness absence rate than men, especially when it comes to sickness absence certified by a doctor, which is related to the fact that this also includes absence in connection with pregnancy and birth.

Fewer daily smokers

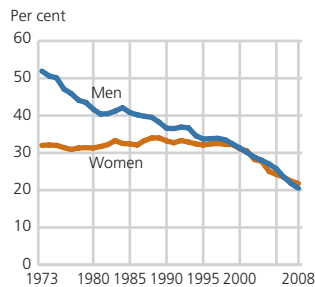
Since the beginning of the 1970s, the proportion of daily smokers has decreased considerably. For men, the percentage has fallen from over 50 to 21 per cent. For women, the percentage remained stable at just over 30 for a long period, while today the percentage has declined to 22. In addition, 10 per cent say that they smoke occasionally.

While there is a decrease in the proportion of men who smoke, there has in recent years been an increase in the percentage of those who take snuff; around 10 per cent of men aged 16-74 say that they take snuff daily and 5 per cent take snuff occasionally. Previously, snuff was mostly used by elderly men, while today it is most common among younger men. There are still very few women who take snuff.

Sickness absence rates. Women and men



Percentage daily smokers. Women and men 16-74 years¹



¹ Three year moving average.