

Similarities and differences in the structure and intensity of mortality in the Scandinavian countries

Abstract

The aim of this bachelor thesis is to find similarities and differences in the structure and intensity of mortality from 1990 to 2014 in four Scandinavian countries (in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden). First, the mortality rate is compared in the total and then it is compared due to six selected classes of causes of death (diseases of the circulatory system, neoplasms, diseases of the respiratory system, external causes of morbidity and mortality, mental and behavioural disorders, and finally, diseases of the nervous system). In the analyzed period, life expectancy at birth increased in all of the analyzed countries for both sexes and it was higher for women than men, however the increase in males is higher than in females. Most of the increase in life expectancy at birth was caused by decrease in the mortality rate due to diseases of the circulatory system. In the early 1990s, the class of circulatory disease represented the cause of death for approximately half of all deaths in both sexes in all of the analyzed countries. Neoplasms were the cause of death for another 20 % of deaths, in Denmark 25 %. In the monitored period, the share of deaths due to circulatory system diseases decreased to one third of all deaths; on the contrary, neoplasms began to form a quarter of the deceased and in Denmark a third of all deceased. Mortality rates due to circulatory system diseases and due to neoplasms have a declining trend during the whole monitored period; on the other hand, mortality rates due to mental disorders and behavioral disorders and due to nervous system diseases are increasing.

Keywords: mortality, causes of death, Scandinavia, mortality rate, development