

The development of excess male mortality in EU countries in 1970-2005

Abstract

Men generally have shorter life than women. The objective of this study is to analyze the development of this phenomenon in EU countries, and to compare them. At the beginning, this study considers the historical development of excess male mortality and its general rules. It tries to answer the question, why male mortality rates exceeds female rates. This work also compares biological factors (e.g. genetics) and cultural factors (smoking, alcoholism etc.) This is followed by analytical part of this study, which considers the similarities and dissimilarities of analyzed countries. In this part, male excess mortality rates in different age groups and their development during analyzed period are examined. On the basis of discovered facts, it then tries to create a typology of EU countries by level and structure of excess male mortality. In the end, the study compares non-communist and postcommunist countries and tries to indicate the future development of this phenomenon.

Keywords : excess male mortality, mortality, gender differences, European Union, life expectancy