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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Directly Standardised Mortality Rate:

In order to compare the mortality experiences of two populations (the Republic of Ireland (RoI) and Northern Ireland (NI)), directly standardised mortality rate ratios are frequently used. These are ratios of directly standardised rates, expressed as a percentage, where the denominator serves the base for comparison. 1994 population estimates corresponding to the mid-point of the study period (1989-1998) were taken as denominators for mortality rates (Balandia and Wilde 2001).

Standardised Death Rate:

Comparison of the general (total) mortality rates in Member States of the EU is affected by the differences of age structure of the populations. In a relatively 'old population' there will be more deaths than in a 'young population' because mortality is higher in higher age groups. For comparisons the age effect can be offset by the use of a standard reference population. The standardised death rate is thus an adjusted crude rate that enables comparisons to be made between countries and between two sexes. However one should not recalculate absolute numbers from the given standardised death rates. The standard reference population is the 'standard European population', i.e. structured by age in the 'region of Europe' as defined by the World Health Organisation (Eurostat 2000).