



Croatia

**Population**

4,058,000

Area88,073 km²**Capital**

Zagreb

3 largest cities

Zagreb (806,000)

Split (170,000)

Rijeka (117,000)

Neighboring countries

Bosnia Herzegovina,

Hungary, Montenegro,

Serbia, Slovenia

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1. Migration history

Due to their affiliation to the former Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, a large number of people from other parts of the monarchy (Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Italy, Ukraine, and Poland) came to Croatia between the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. Today, the descendants of these immigrants represent the core of the ethnic minority population. Between 1918 and 1941, immigration from economically disadvantaged regions of Bosnia-Herzegovina increased. Overall, Croatia's migration until the 1970s was characterised by immigration from economically disadvantaged parts of Yugoslavia [1]. In the second half of the 20th century, there was a trend of immigration from the Middle East. After the violent dissolution of Yugoslavia in 1991, many people from other parts of the former Yugoslavia immigrated to Croatia. EU accession in 2013 has led to an increase in the number of immigrants in recent years [2]. Historically, Croatia has been a country of emigration. The history of mass emigration began as a result of the wars between the Ottomans and the Habsburgs during the 15th and 18th centuries. Between 1890 and 1914, approximately 350,000 to 450,000 people emigrated, most of

them to Germany, Belgium, or France. After the Second World War around 250,000 people left Croatia, many of them overseas (Canada, Australia, New Zealand). During the socialist period, there were two waves of emigration. The first wave, in 1946–1963, was mainly characterised by illegal emigration to Italy and Austria. The second wave, 1964–early 1970s, was characterised by the state-supported mass emigration of workers to Western European countries (mainly Germany). The dissolution of Yugoslavia and the war between 1991 and 1995 were followed by the last major wave of emigration [1]. In the past, Croatia was characterised by larger waves of emigration, but also by immigration flows from neighbouring countries. In 2013, the largest migrant groups were from Bosnia Herzegovina (499,100), Serbia (118,100), Slovenia (47,800), Montenegro (39,357), and North Macedonia (20,677) [3]. The migrant population (born abroad, 674,100 to 518,000) and the proportion of migrants in the total population (14.6 to 12.5%) decreased slightly between 1995 and 2019 [4]. The net migration rate has been negative since the 1990s, and as of 2020 is -1.9 [5]. This shows that Croatia is still a country of emigration.

2. Estimated number of people with a migration background with dementia

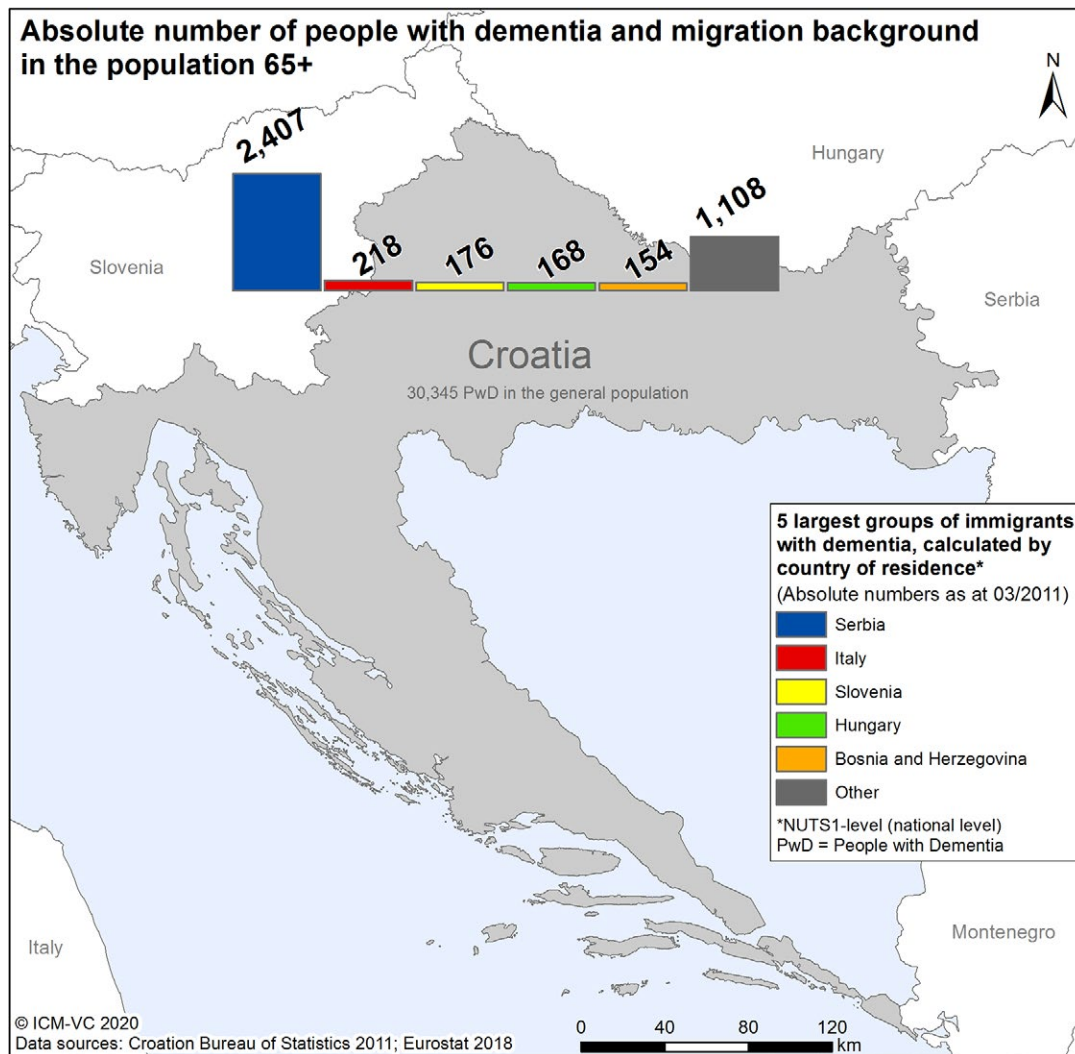


Fig. 3.7.4.1: Absolute number of PwM with dementia aged 65+ (Croatia – Nation)

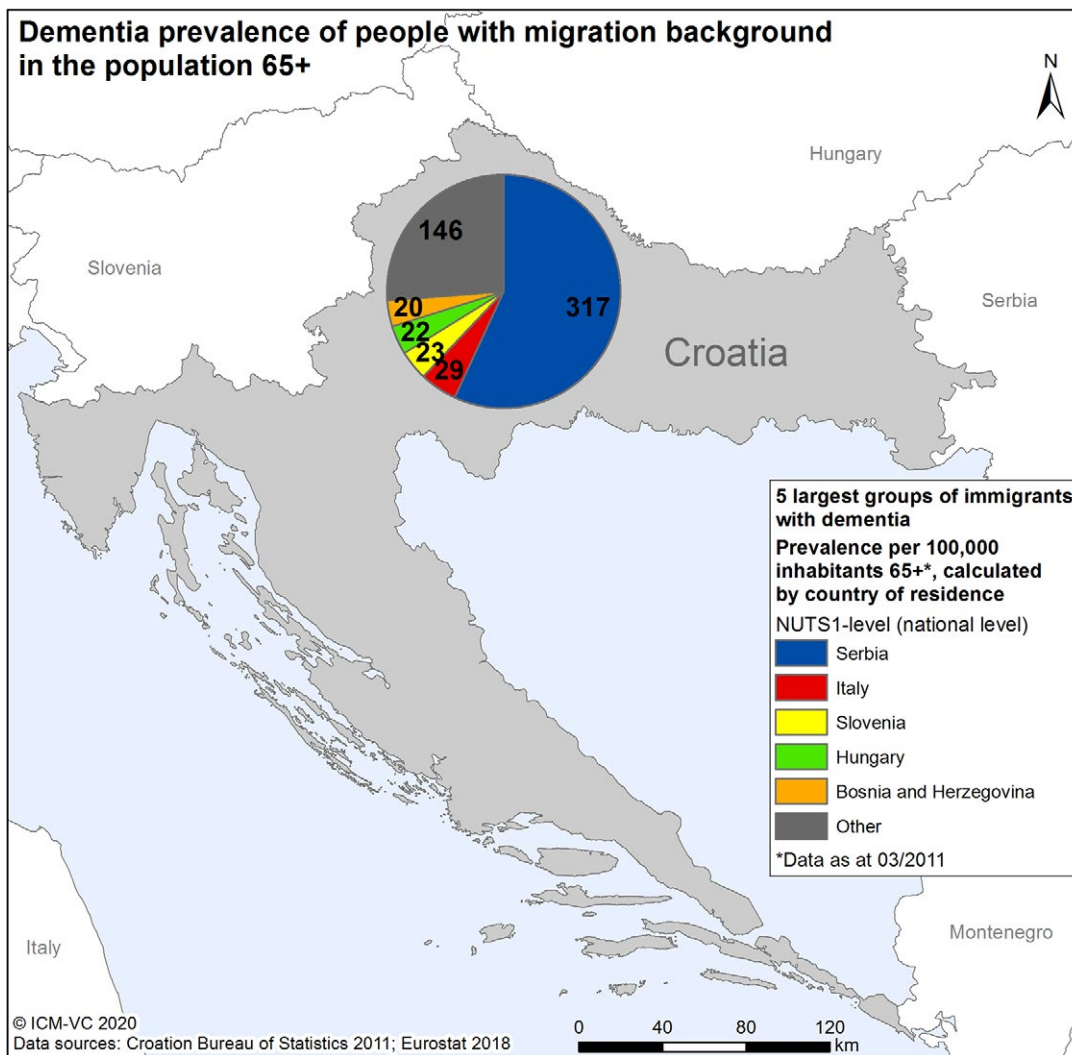


Fig. 3.7.4.2: Prevalence of PwM with dementia among the population aged 65+ (Croatia – Nation)

Tab. 11: PwM with dementia: Absolute numbers, prevalence among PwM aged 65+, and prevalence among overall population aged 65+ (Croatia – Nation)

NUTS	Total	HR	1. largest group	2. largest group	3. largest group	4. largest group	5. largest group	Other
Absolute Numbers								
Croatia	30,345	26,113	XS 2,407	IT 218	SI 176	HU 168	BA 154	1,110
Prevalence/10,000 inhabitants with migration background 65+								
Croatia	2,868	-	XS 228	IT 21	SI 17	HU 16	BA 15	103
Prevalence/100,000 inhabitants 65+								
Croatia	4,000	3,442	XS 317	IT 29	SI 23	HU 22	BA 20	145

Data source: Croatian Bureau of Statistics (2011)

There are 105,800 PwM aged 65 or older. Of those, approx. 4,200 are estimated to exhibit some form of dementia. Figure 3.7.4.1 shows the most affected migrant groups presumably originate from Serbia (approx. 2,400), Italy (approx. 200), Slovenia (approx. 200), Hunga-

ry (approx. 200), and Bosnia and Herzegovina (approx. 200). The second graph highlights the number of PwM with dementia in Croatia per 100,000 inhabitants aged 65 or older (figure 3.7.4.2). Table 11 displays the values depicted in the maps on the national level [6-8].

3. National dementia plan

For Croatia no NDP could be identified [9].



4. National dementia care and treatment guidelines

According to the Ministry of Health, no specific national guidelines exist for the care of people with dementia in Croatia [10]. However, there are clinical guidelines for the pharmacological treatment of dementia from 2015 developed by the Croatian Alzheimer's Alliance and various scientists. This document has a volume of seven pages and deals with the starting point for the development of the strategy (epidemiology of Alzheimer's disease, obligations of the Republic of Croatia [arising from EU and WHO documents], mission of the Croatian Association for Alzheimer's Disease), the strategic framework (purpose, main goals, principles of the strategy), and the strategic areas in

the fight against Alzheimer's disease. The strategic areas include early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, availability of treatment such as anti-dementia drugs and other psychopharmaceuticals, support for research work in the area of Alzheimer's disease, access to social benefits and services, development of systematic support for patients with Alzheimer's disease and their families/informal carers, balanced regional development of diagnostic centres and treatment of Alzheimer's disease, development of palliative care for people with dementia, and destigmatization. The guidelines do not refer to migration [11].

5. References

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