



Latvia

**Population**

1,908,000

Area

63,290 km²

Capital

Riga

3 largest cities

Riga (627,000)

Daugavpils (82,000)

Liepaja (69,000)

Neighboring countries

Belarus, Estonia,
Lithuania, the Russian
Federation

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1. Migration history

Latvia's migration history is characterised by waves of large-scale immigration and emigration (especially to and from the Russian Federation). The first larger groups of people from the Russian Federation came to Latvia in the 18th century. By the end of the 19th century, the population from the Russian Federation had increased to 200,000 [1]. During the First World War, about 400,000 people fled to the Russian Federation [2]. After the peace treaty with the Russian Federation was signed in 1918, almost 300,000 people returned from the Russian Federation [3]. During the Second World War, 200,000 people fled towards the West and Germany. Parallel to this, a large influx of people from the Russian Federation began in 1940. Between 1945 and 1959 about 400,000 people from the Russian Federation and 100,000 people of other ethnic minorities immigrated to Latvia (at the same time at least 60,500 people born in Latvia were expelled) [2]. Immigration from the Russian Federation remained high until the 1980s. In 1989, the proportion of ethnic minorities in the total population was 48%. As a result of the dec-

laration of independence on 4 May 1990 and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1990/1991, Latvia took over half a million immigrants (including entire families) from the Soviet Union. After that, the number of immigrants and emigrants declined significantly. At the same time, Latvia has developed from a country with positive net migration (until 1990) to negative net migration (from 1991) [3]. Between 1990 and 2019, the migrant population (born abroad) decreased from 646,000 to 237,300, and the proportion of migrants in the total population fell from 24.2 to 12.4% [4]. Latvia has developed from an immigration country to an emigration country. Especially after EU accession in 2004, emigration has accelerated [3]. As of 2020, the net migration rate is -7.6 [5]. However, a large number of people originating in the Russian Federation still live in Latvia and make up about a quarter of the population (as of 2016) [1]. There are also small populations of people from Belarus, Ukraine, Poland, and Lithuania. In total, one-third of the population speaks Russian [6].



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

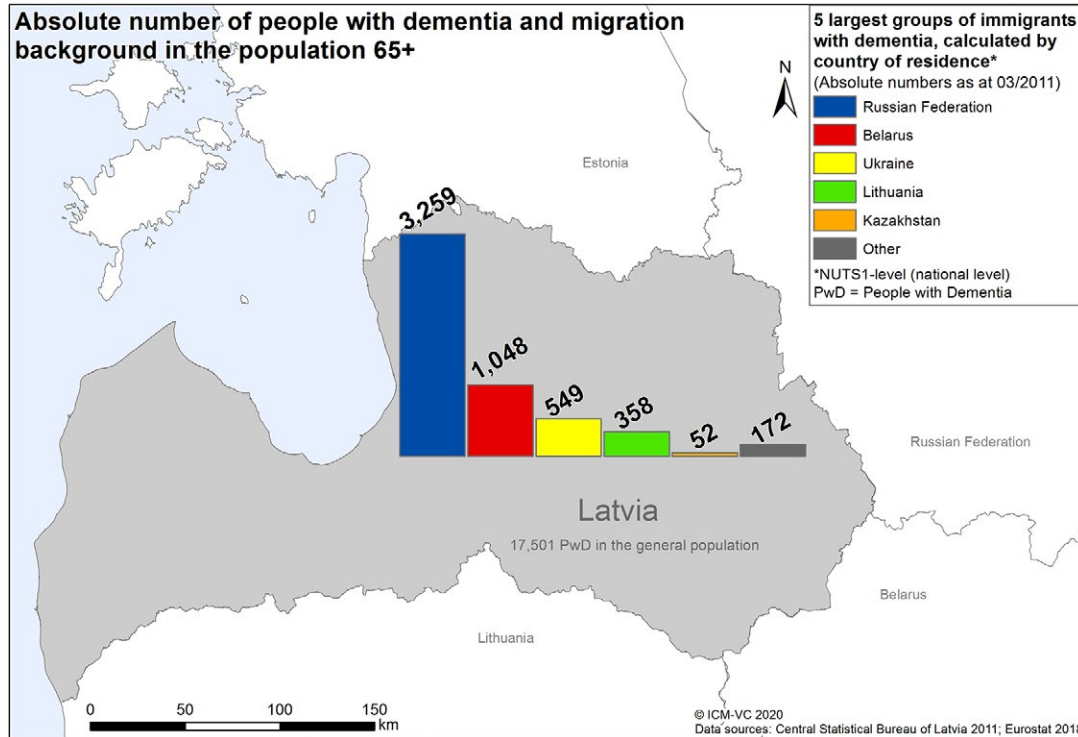


Fig. 3.7.17.1: Absolute number of PwM with dementia aged 65+ (Latvia – Nation)

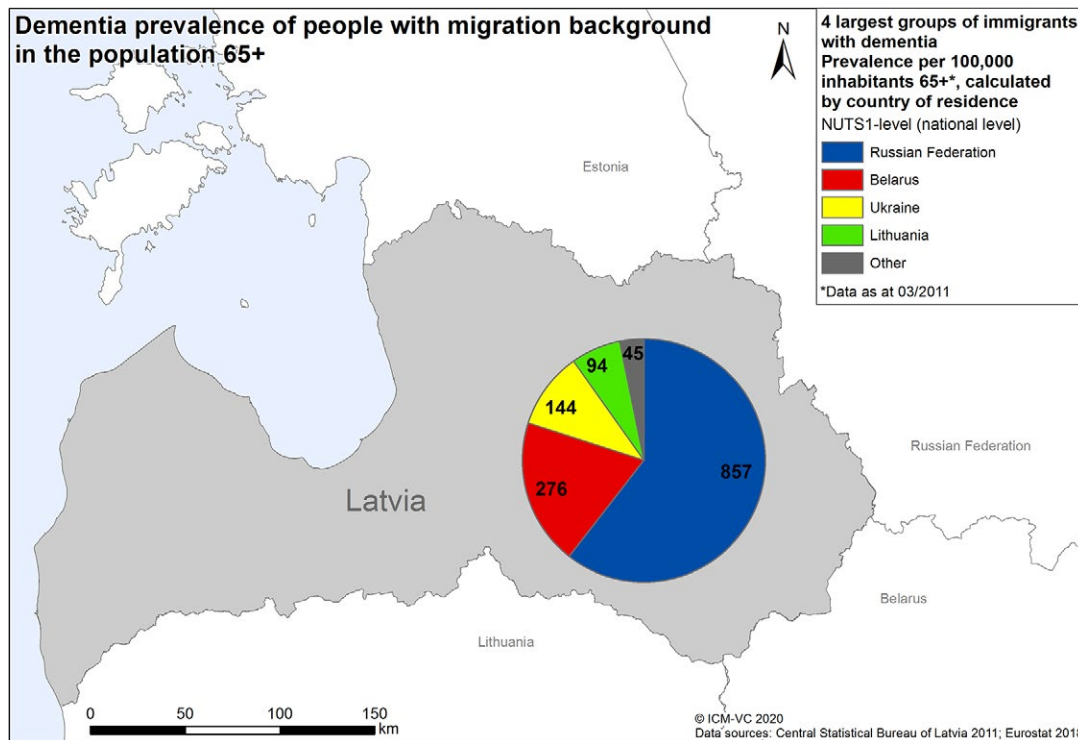


Fig. 3.7.17.2: Prevalence of PwM with dementia among the population aged 65+ (Latvia – Nation)

Tab. 31: PwM with dementia: Absolute numbers, prevalence among PwM aged 65+, and prevalence among overall population aged 65+ (Latvia – Nation)

NUTS	Total	LV	1. largest group	2. largest group	3. largest group	4. largest group	5. largest group	Other
Absolute Numbers								
Latvia	17,501	12,064	RU 3,259	BY 1,048	UA 549	LT 358	KZ 52	172
Prevalence/10,000 inhabitants with migration background 65+								
Latvia	1,481	-	RU 276	BY 89	UA 46	LT 30	KZ 4	15
Prevalence/100,000 inhabitants 65+								
Latvia	4,600	3,171	RU 857	BY 275	UA 144	LT 94	KZ 14	45

Data source: Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia (2011)

There are 118,200 PwM aged 65 or older. Of those, approx. 5,400 are estimated to exhibit some form of dementia. Figure 3.7.17.1 shows the most affected migrant groups presumably originate from the Russian Federation (approx. 3,300), Belarus (approx. 1,100), Ukraine (approx. 600), Lithuania (approx. 400),

and Kazakhstan (approx. 50). The second graph highlights the number of PwM with dementia in Latvia per 100,000 inhabitants aged 65 or older (figure 3.7.17.2). Table 31 displays the values depicted in the maps on the national level [7-9].

3. National dementia plan

For Latvia, no NDP could be identified [10].

4. National dementia care and treatment guidelines

In Latvia, one document with treatment guidelines was published: the ‘Clinical Guideline for Alzheimer’s Disease, Vascular Dementia, Lewy-Body Dementia, and Frontotemporal Dementia’ in 2017. This document has 162 pages. It deals with two main topics: 1. the most common forms of dementia, and 2. characteristics and effects of drugs for the treatment of neurodegenerative dementias. With regard to

the first topic, the etiology, risk factors, prognosis, clinical picture, diagnostic criteria, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of each form of dementia is discussed. With regard to the second topic, the focus is on the treatment of memory disorders, neuropsychiatric diseases, Parkinson’s syndrome, and sleep disorders. In none of these topics is a migration-related issue addressed [11].



5. References

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