



Switzerland

**Population**

8,606,000

Area39,860 km²**Capital**

Bern

3 largest cities

Zurich (420,000)

Geneva (204,000)

Basel (173,000)

Neighboring countries

Austria, France,

Germany, Italy,

Liechtenstein

1. Migration history
2. Estimated number of people with a migration background with dementia
3. National dementia plan
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1. Migration history

Switzerland was an emigration country until 1888. From the 15th to the beginning of the 19th century, hundreds of thousands of military entrepreneurs and mercenaries emigrated to other European states [1, 2]. In the 19th century, about half a million people emigrated to North America. At the end of the 19th century, Switzerland developed into an immigration country. During this period, many people immigrated from neighbouring regions in southern Germany, northern Italy, western France, and Austria [2]. In the last third of the 19th century, many foreigners studied in Switzerland. The development into an immigration country was temporarily halted by the two world wars when immigration was severely restricted. In June 1948, an agreement on the recruitment of guest workers was concluded with Italy. During the Cold War, Switzerland also accepted refugees from communist systems [1]. Since the Second World War, the foreign population has increased continuously, with the exception of the oil crisis in the 1970s and the economic slump in 1983 [3]. Until the end of the 1970s, the majority of labour migrants came

from Italy and Spain. After the conflicts of the 1990s, an increasing number of people immigrated from countries such as Portugal and Yugoslavia [4]. However, between 1970 and 2000 approximately two million 'guest workers' returned to their home countries [3]. In recent years, tens of thousands of workers have immigrated from other EU member states [4]. In 2018, the largest migrant groups originated from Italy (322,100), Germany (307,900), and Portugal (265,500). Overall, approximately 68% of the foreign resident population comes from EU, EFTA, and UK states [5]. The migrant population (born abroad) increased tenfold between 1941 and 2019 (223,500 to 2.6 million) and almost doubled between 1990 and 2019 (1.4 million to 2.6 million) [3, 6]. The proportion of migrants in the total population also increased significantly (20.9 to 29%) between 1990 and 2019 [7]. Switzerland currently is one of the European countries with the highest proportion of foreigners [2]. The net migration rate has always been positive in recent decades, and as of 2020 it is 6.1 [8].



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

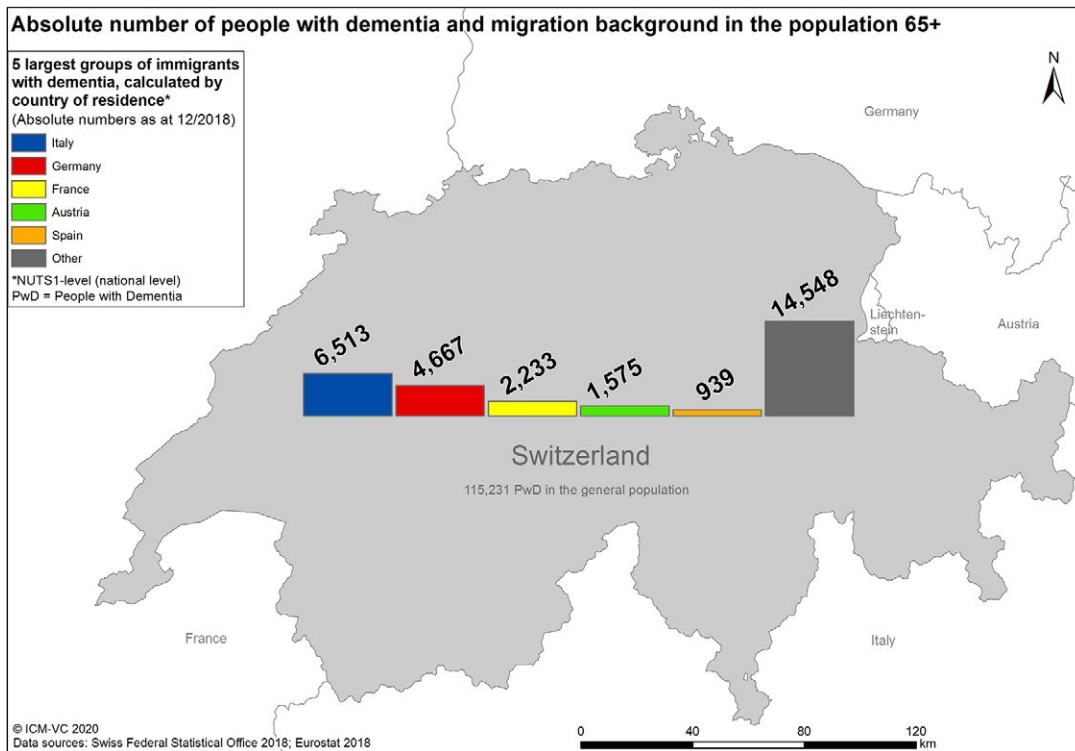


Fig. 3.7.31.1: Absolute number of PwM with dementia aged 65+ (Switzerland – Nation)

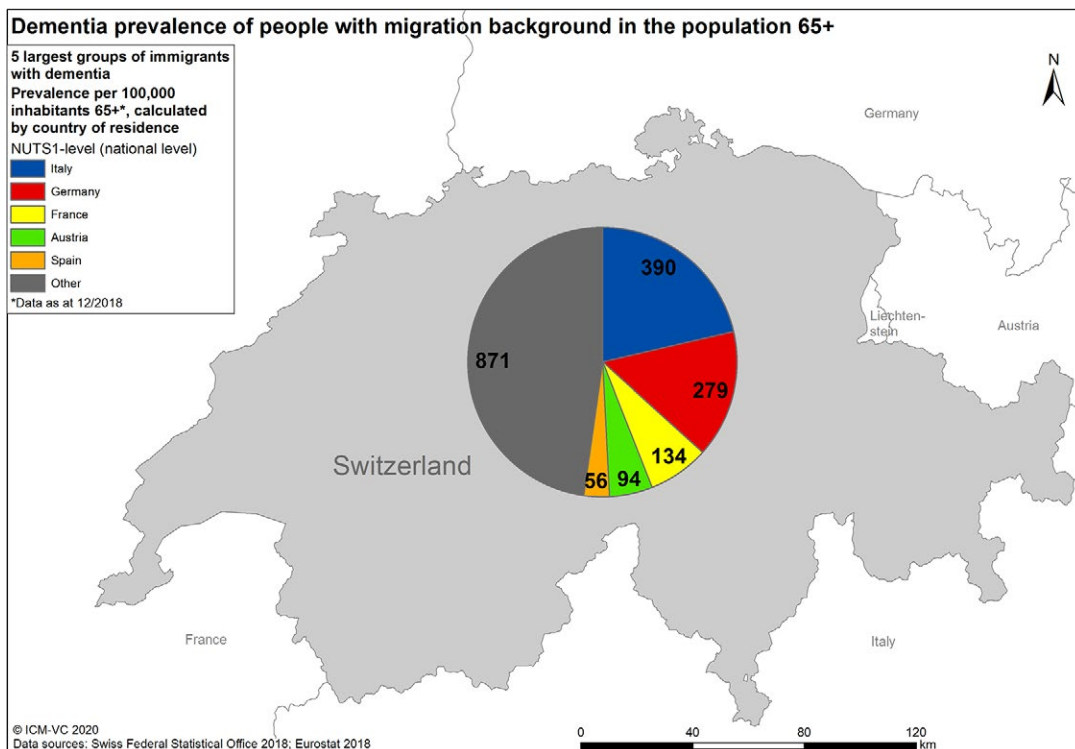


Fig. 3.7.31.2: Prevalence of PwM with dementia among the population aged 65+ (Switzerland – Nation)



Tab. 53: PwM with dementia: Absolute numbers, prevalence among PwM aged 65+, and prevalence among overall population aged 65+ (Switzerland – Nation)

NUTS	Total	CH	1. largest group	2. largest group	3. largest group	4. largest group	5. largest group	Other
Absolute Numbers								
Switzerland	115,231	84,757	IT 6,513	DE 4,667	FR 2,232	AT 1,575	ES 939	14,548
Prevalence/10,000 inhabitants with migration background 65+								
Switzerland	2,609	-	IT 147	DE 106	FR 51	AT 36	ES 21	329
Prevalence/100,000 inhabitants 65+								
Switzerland	6,900	5,075	IT 390	DE 279	FR 134	AT 94	ES 56	593

Data source: Swiss Federal Statistical Office (2018)

There are 368,300 PwM aged 65 or older. Of those, approx. 25,400 are estimated to exhibit some form of dementia. Figure 3.7.31.1 show the most affected migrant groups presumably originate from Italy (approx. 6,500), Germany (approx. 4,700), France (approx. 2,200), Austria (approx. 1,600), and Spain (approx. 900). The second graph highlights the number of PwM with dementia in Switzerland per 100,000

inhabitants aged 65 years or older (figure 3.7.31.2). Table 53 displays the values depicted in the maps on the national level. The following maps show the distribution of non-migrants with dementia and PwM with dementia from Italy, Germany, France, Austria, and Spain throughout the country in the NUTS2 regions (figures 3.7.31.3 – 3.7.31.8).

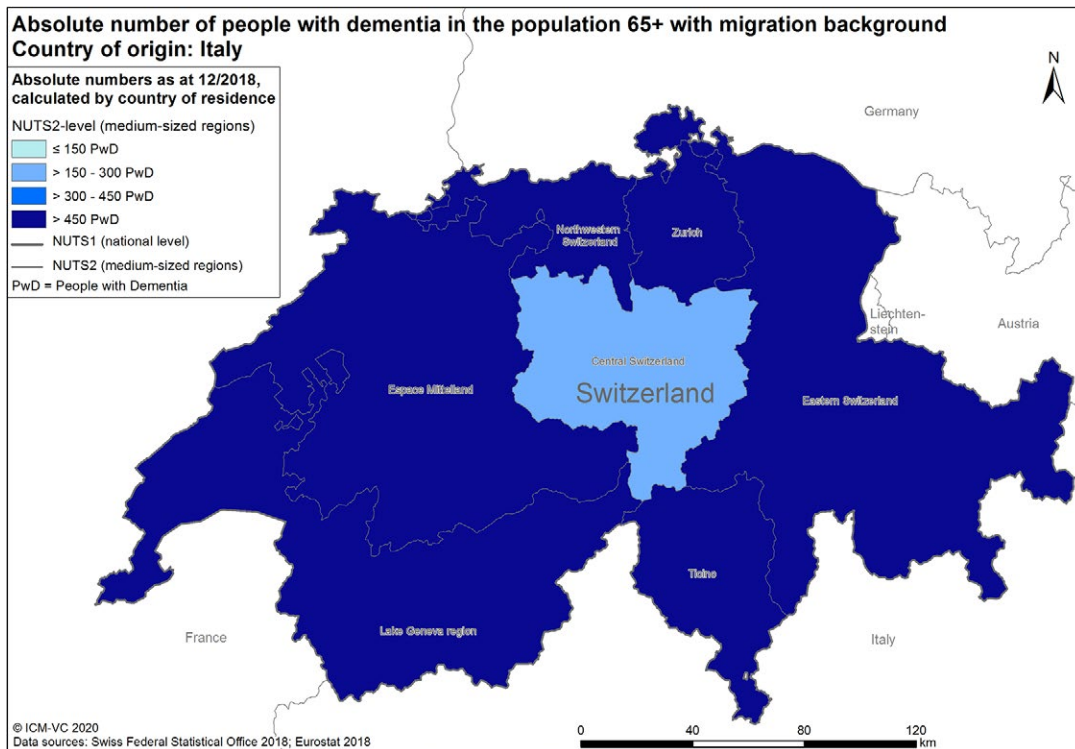


Fig. 3.7.31.3: Absolute number of PwM with dementia aged 65+. Country of origin: Italy (Switzerland – NUTS2)

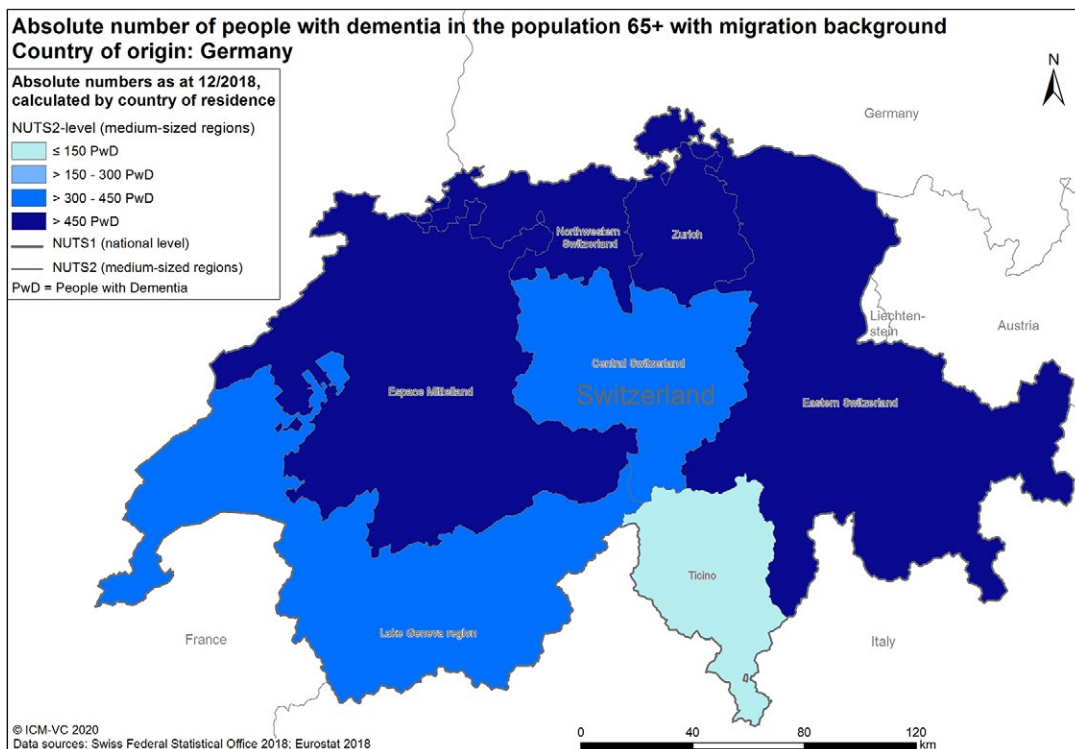


Fig. 3.7.31.4: Absolute number of PwM with dementia aged 65+. Country of origin: Germany (Switzerland – NUTS2)

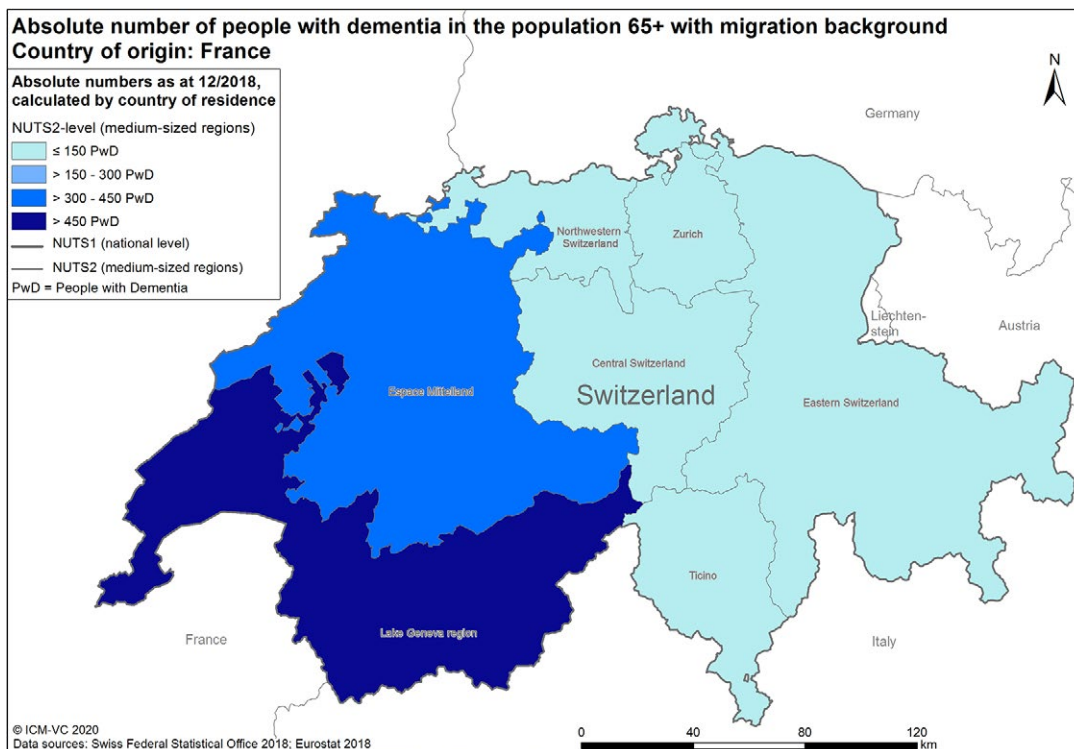


Fig. 3.7.31.5: Absolute number of PwM with dementia aged 65+. Country of origin: France (Switzerland – NUTS2)

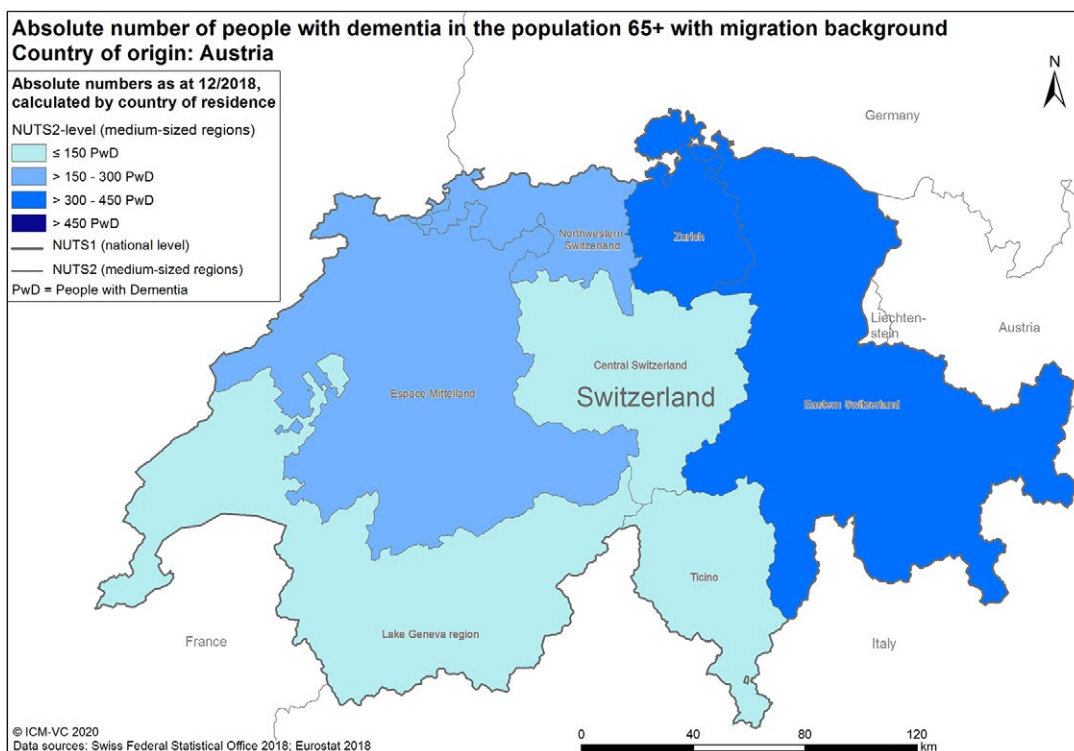


Fig. 3.7.31.6: Absolute number of PwM with dementia aged 65+. Country of origin: Austria (Switzerland – NUTS2)

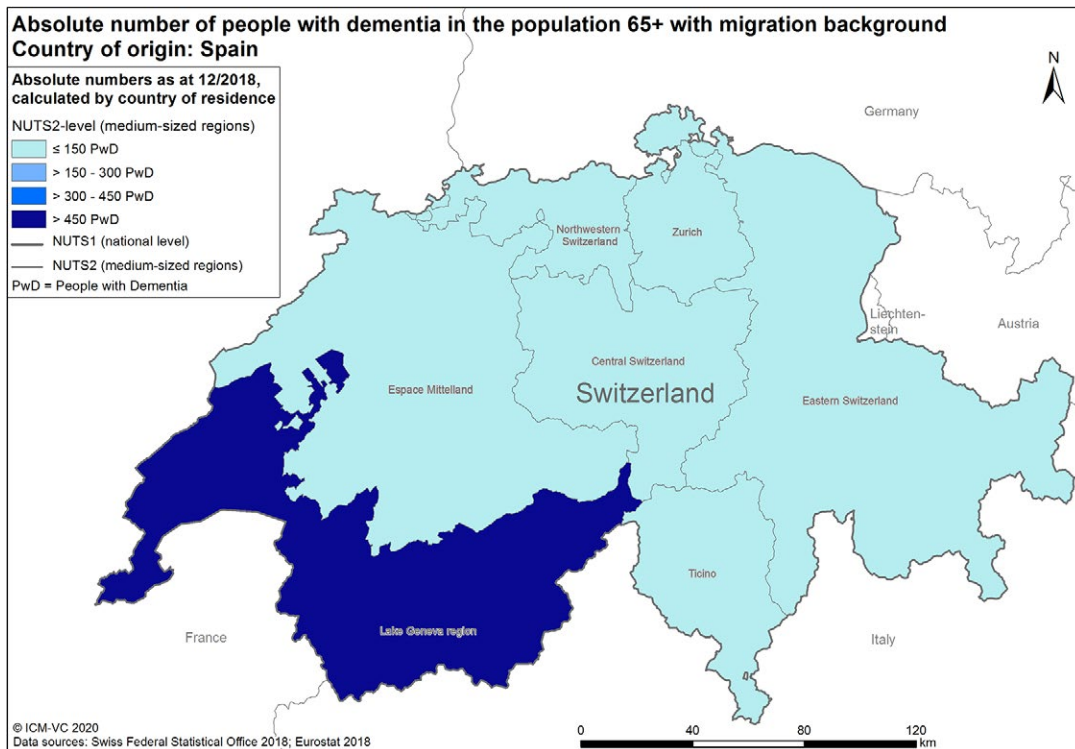


Fig. 3.7.31.7: Absolute number of PwM with dementia aged 65+.
 Country of origin: Spain (Switzerland – NUTS2)

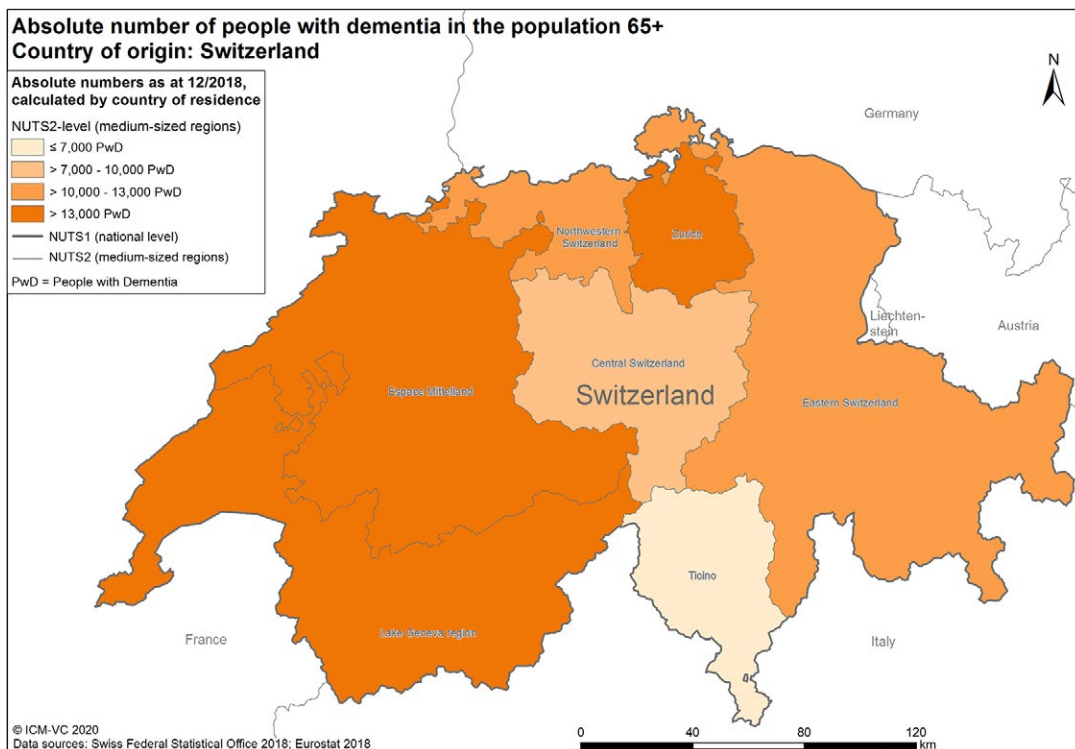


Fig. 3.7.31.8: Absolute number of people with dementia aged 65+.
 Country of origin: Switzerland (Switzerland – NUTS2)



The graphics below highlight which immigrant groups are estimated to be most affected at the NUTS2 level. The first map illustrate the absolute numbers of PwM with dementia in the NUTS2 regions (figure 3.7.31.9). The second

map shows the number of PwM with dementia per 100,000 inhabitants aged 65 years or older in the NUTS2 regions (figure 3.7.31.10). The values from the NUTS2 level can be found in table 54 [9, 10].

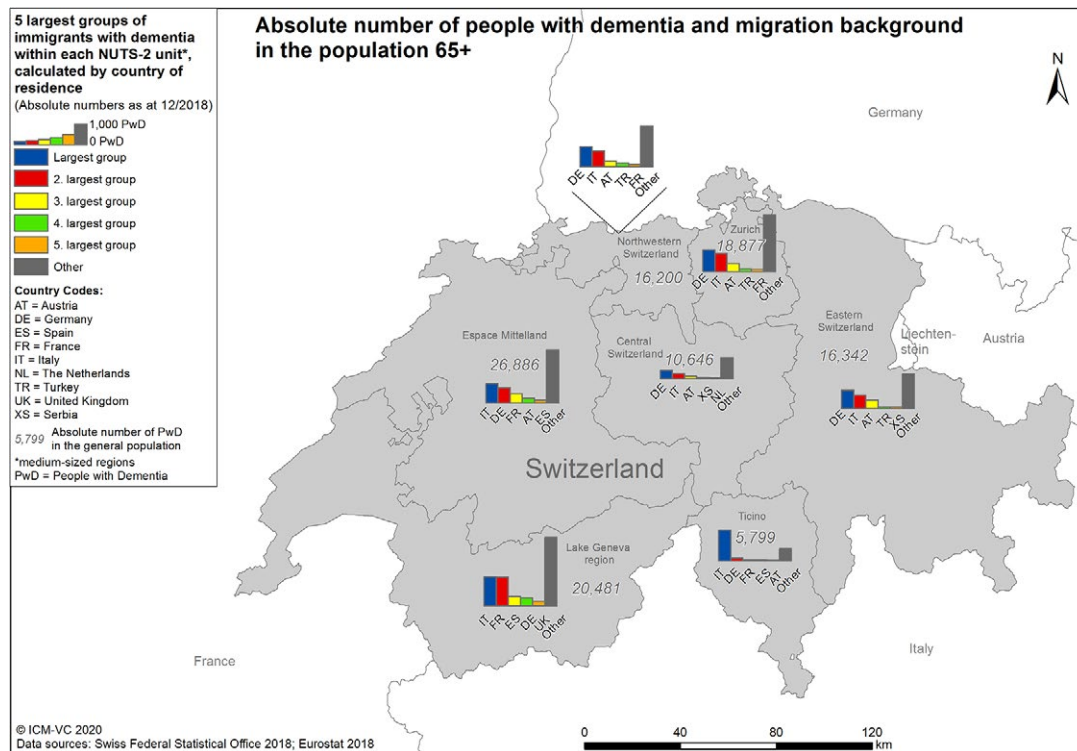


Fig. 3.7.31.9: Absolute number of PwM with dementia aged 65+ (Switzerland – NUTS2)

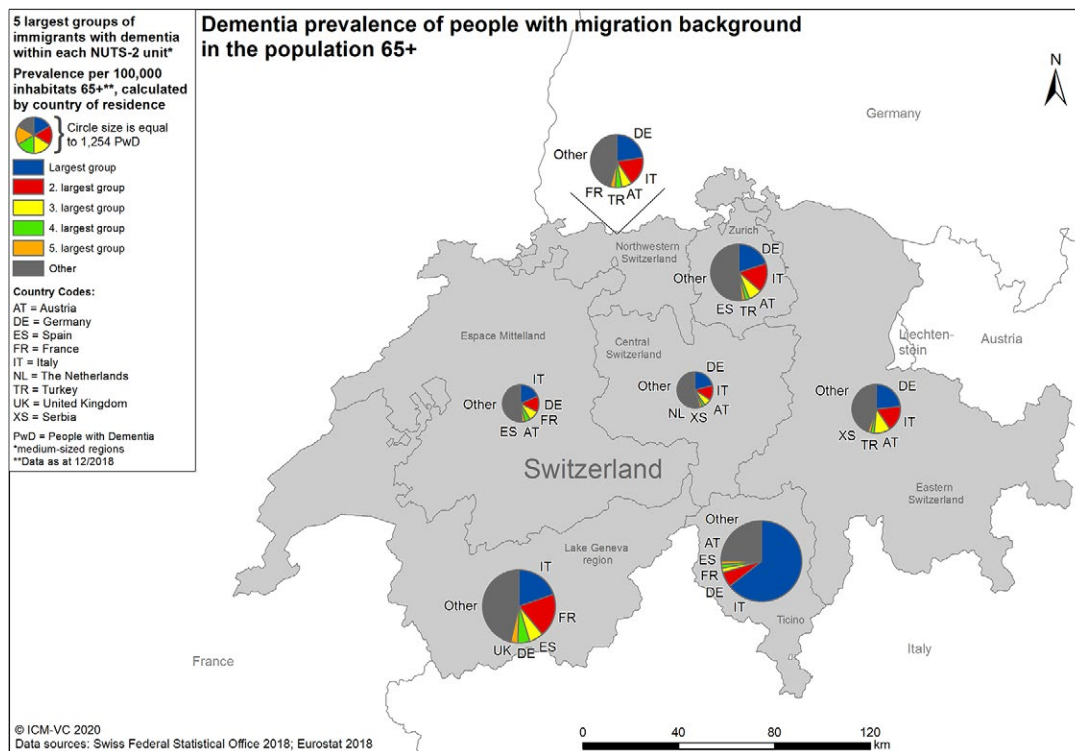


Fig. 3.7.31.10: Prevalence of PwM with dementia among the population aged 65+ (Switzerland – NUTS2)

Tab. 54: PwM with dementia: Absolute numbers, prevalence among PwM aged 65+, and prevalence among overall population aged 65+ (Switzerland – NUTS 2)

NUTS	Total	CH	1. largest group	2. largest group	3. largest group	4. largest group	5. largest group	Other
Absolute Numbers								
Lake Geneva region	20,481	13,091	IT 1,452	FR 1,430	ES 464	DE 396	UK 227	3,421
Espace Mitelland	26,886	21,926	IT 913	DE 712	FR 440	AT 235	ES 133	2,527
Northwestern Switzerland	16,200	11,796	DE 998	IT 796	AT 274	TR 174	FR 138	2,024
Zurich	18,877	13,300	DE 1,112	IT 921	AT 413	TR 136	ES 116	2,879
Eastern Switzerland	16,342	12,491	DE 897	IT 662	AT 423	TR 81	XS 81	1,707
Central Switzerland	10,646	8,710	DE 409	IT 254	AT 125	XS 53	NL 47	1,047
Ticino	5,799	3,443	IT 1,515	DE 143	FR 45	ES 33	AT 28	592



Switzerland

NUTS	Total	CH	1. largest group	2. largest group	3. largest group	4. largest group	5. largest group	Other
Prevalence/10,000 inhabitants with migration background 65+								
Lake Geneva region	1,912	-	IT 136	FR 134	ES 43	DE 37	UK 21	319
Espace Mittelland	3,741	-	IT 127	DE 99	FR 61	AT 33	ES 19	351
Northwestern Switzerland	2,538	-	DE 156	IT 125	AT 43	TR 27	FR 22	317
Zurich	2,336	-	DE 138	IT 114	AT 51	TR 17	ES 14	356
Eastern Switzerland	2,928	-	DE 161	IT 119	AT 76	TR 15	XS 14	305
Central Switzerland	3,795	-	DE 146	IT 91	AT 45	XS 19	NL 17	372
Ticino	1,698	-	IT 444	DE 42	FR 13	ES 10	AT 8	173
Prevalence/100,000 inhabitants 65+								
Lake Geneva region	6,900	4,410	IT 489	FR 482	ES 156	DE 133	UK 76	865
Espace Mittelland	6,900	5,627	IT 234	DE 183	FR 113	AT 60	ES 34	372
Northwestern Switzerland	6,900	5,024	DE 425	IT 339	AT 117	TR 74	FR 59	589
Zurich	6,900	4,862	DE 407	IT 337	AT 151	TR 50	ES 43	758
Eastern Switzerland	6,900	5,274	DE 379	IT 280	AT 178	TR 34	XS 34	453
Central Switzerland	6,900	5,646	DE 265	IT 165	AT 81	XS 34	NL 30	426
Ticino	6,900	4,097	IT 1,803	DE 170	FR 53	ES 40	AT 33	418

Data source: Swiss Federal Statistical (Office 2018)



3. National dementia plan

The 'National Dementia Strategy 2014 – 2019' from 2016 does not have a separate chapter on migration but refers briefly to it in three sub-chapters. It points out that the proportion of migrants in the total population is increasing, especially of the older age groups, which has an impact on the demand for and quality requirements of healthcare services. In addition, it is described that in case of PwM, the language barriers pose a particular challenge for dementia diagnosis, as common test procedures are unsuitable or require translation assistance. The document explicitly states

that the care and treatment of people with dementia should consider individual circumstances such as employment or migration background. Furthermore, in the future the existing federal program on migration and health will also include measures related to the topic of dementia. In Switzerland's national dementia strategy, the topic of migration plays a subordinate role and there is no reference to existing healthcare services for PwM with dementia. However, specific needs related to the diagnosis of dementia and a planned measure are highlighted [11].

4. National dementia care and treatment guidelines

At the national level, the following three documents with guidelines, policies, or recommendations were identified for Switzerland. 1. The 99-page 'Recommendations for the Diagnosis and Treatment of the Behavioral and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia (BPSD)' from 2014 discusses prevalence, incidence, and phenomenology of BPSD; the role of comorbidities in BPSD; the role of the environment; qualitative and quantitative assessment of BPSD; diagnostic recommendations for BPSD in care; therapies in BPSD; nursing interventions; person-centred care of people with dementia; pharmacological and non-pharmacological therapies in dementia; and drug treatment of BPSD in specific forms of dementia. 2. The 'Medical-Ethical Guidelines: Care and Treatment of People With Dementia' from 2013

has 37 pages and addresses the topics of respect for dignity and autonomy, quality of life and well-being, quality of care and treatment, communication with people with dementia, treatment planning and advance directives, information and consent, decision-making in the care and treatment team, dementia diagnosis, appropriate care and treatment, emotions and behaviour, end-of-life decisions, dealing with the wish for suicide, relatives, and research with people with dementia. 3. The expert recommendation 'Dementia: Diagnosis, Treatment and Care' from 2014 is 40 pages long and addresses dementia, assessment and diagnosis, drug and non-drug treatments, daily living arrangements, support and care, and medication. None of these three documents takes migration into account [12-14].



5. References

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