

## **From migrant mortality advantage to allochtone mortality differentials: the impact of naturalisation and place of birth in Belgium**

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The Belgian population is characterised by a large and heterogeneous allochtone population, issued from different migration periods. Because of the presence of a second generation and the naturalisation of a part of the immigrants, the allochtone population has specific demographic characteristics, especially mortality differentials.

Different studies have supported the immigrant mortality advantage compared to native population, but differences between first and second generation and between foreign and naturalized populations have not been taken into account. It is however important to emphasize in mortality analyse the role of naturalisation, place of birth, and duration of presence in Belgium. The allochtone population in Belgium is a complex result of migration movements and citizenship legislations, which are part of immigrant life history. Therefore, it is particularly useful to include in analyse the second generation born in Belgium and people who obtained the Belgian citizenship.

### *Data*

This analysis is based on data from the 1991 and 2001 Belgian censuses, linked to the registration records of all death between the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1991 and the 31<sup>th</sup> of December 2001. A direct individual link has been established with register data. The National Population Register is a centralised register covering the whole country for essential demographic information such as date and place of birth, nationality, nationality of birth, date of arrival in Belgium, changes in civil state, etc.

According to these demographic variables, a typology of allochtone populations has been proposed by our research centre. It allows to determinate the population who has immigrated in Belgian (by length of stay and by naturalization) and the second generation born in Belgium (by naturalization). Then we have distinguished different groups by nationality: European Union, non-EU, Italy, Morocco, Turkey, Sub-Sahara Africa and East-Europe.

In order to analyze mortality differentials, we standardized mortality rate by age, sex, subpopulation and nationality.

### *Results:*

First results show that, compared to native born Belgians, not only immigrant population has a mortality advantage but also naturalized population. People with a foreign nationality and people born in Belgium with a foreign nationality do also have a low standardized mortality ratio. These findings are particularly interesting because they stress on the role of place of birth and naturalisation.

But these results are different according to the country of nationality. Whereas populations from the European Union do not have a very different mortality ratio, people from Morocco and Turkey have a general lower mortality. On the opposite, people from East Europe have a quite similar mortality level as Belgian people, even higher for those born abroad and those who are not naturalized.

Further analyses will focus on the mortality age structure in order to point out the higher infant mortality of those born abroad. Moreover, at adult ages naturalized populations have lower mortality standardized ratio compared to populations with other nationalities.

The impact of duration of stay will also be emphasized on the analyse of immigrant mortality.