

# DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE IN GERMANY

The demographic change in the Western developed countries of today is marked by low birth rates below population replacement and by rising life expectancy. The result is that populations are aging and shrinking. And migration may overlap with these developments. Migration, for example, leads to further population reductions in the regions of origin and to attenuation in the regions of destination. And if it is the young rather than the old who migrate from a region, aging is exacerbated in the region of origin.

## CAUSES OF DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE IN GERMANY



Changing relationship between the declining proportion of people of working age and the increasing number of elderly people who are increasingly dependent on help and support with age



Low birth rate and increasingly longer life expectancy → Immigration from abroad can have relieving effects



A shift in the spectrum of the diseases

## CONSEQUENCES IN HEALTH-CARE SECTOR

- The changing relationship between the declining proportion of people of working age and the increasing number of elderly people who are increasingly dependent on help and support with age.
- Continuing low birth rate and increasingly longer life expectancy → immigration from abroad can have relieving effects.
- Immigration to Germany has increased significantly since 2011 partly due to a growing number of asylum-seekers and refugees → the exact effects of these developments on demographic ageing in Germany are not yet clear, it is expected that positive trends may result.
- A shift in the spectrum of the diseases is associated with demographic ageing:
  - age-related, non-communicable diseases, which frequently take a chronic course, are becoming increasingly significant.
  - Cardiovascular diseases in particular but also some cancers nowadays respond better to medical treatment resulting in lower mortality rates.
  - The rising number of dementia cases poses new challenges for society. As long as no breakthrough is achieved in the prevention and treatment of dementia, the care of dementia patients in particular has to be developed further and improved.

## IMPORTANT VOCABULARY

healthcare expenditure	Gesundheitsausgaben
population size	Bevölkerungsseite
birth rate	Geburtenrate
death rate	Todesrate
Western developed countries	Westliche Industrieländer
Rising life expectancy	Steigende Lebenserwartung
Population reduction	Bevölkerungsreduzierung
Regions of origin	Herkunftsregionen
Regions of destinations	Zielregionen
attenuation	abgeschwächt sein
exacerbated	verschlimmert
shift	Verschiebung
declining proportion	Abnehmender Anteil
dependent	Abhängig sein
relieving effects	Entlastungseffekte
asylum-seekers	Asylbewerber
refugees	Flüchtlinge
mortality rate	Sterblichkeitsrate
cardiovascular disease	Herz-Kreislauf-Erkrankung
dementia cases	Demenzfälle
long-term care service	Langzeitpflegedienst
family caregivers	Familienbetreuer
influx of nursing staff	Zustrom von Pflegepersonal
age-appropriate forms of housing	Altersgemäße Wohnformen
shortage of qualified personal	Mangel an qualifiziertem Pflegepersonal

## QUESTION TO DISCUSS

What positive effects will demographic change have on the healthcare system in Germany?

What do you think about the demographic change in future?

Are there other problems associated with demographic change that need to be named?