Ageing populations & COVID-19 risk

Europe is the region with the world's largest proportion of older persons. Almost 1 in 4 Europeans – 24% of the continent’s total population of 850 million – is 60 years or older. Older adults are at significantly higher risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19. Some 95% of deaths occur in this age group. As the virus spreads across the continent, this map shows which countries have the highest proportion of people in this at-risk population group.

Italy, one of the countries currently worst affected by COVID-19, has the highest share of older people in Europe.

Turkey has one of Europe’s lowest percentages of people aged 60+.

The Russian Federation has more people aged 60+ than any other country in Europe: 32.7 million.

Nearly 1 in 4 Europeans is 60 years or older. Globally, the ratio is 1 in 7.

The continent's oldest countries are all members of the European Union.