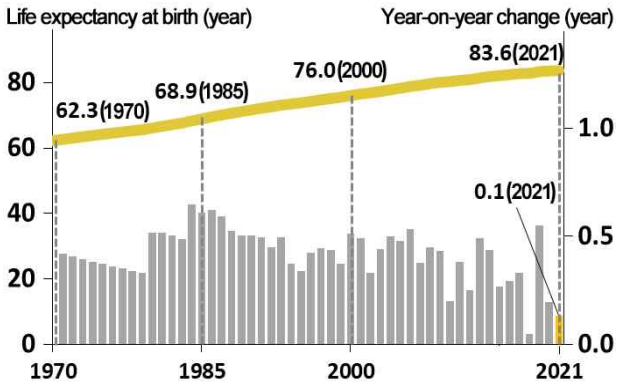
Life Tables for Korea, 2021

In 2021, the life expectancy at birth stood at 83.6 years, rising by 0.1 year from 2020.

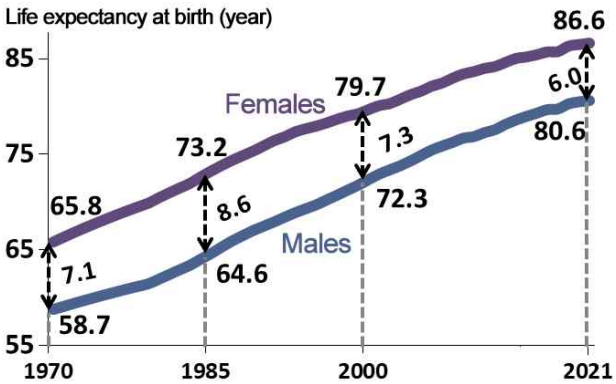
○ If people would experience the current age-specific death rates in 2021, the life expectancy at birth marked 80.6 years for males and 86.6 years for females. These two figures rose by 0.1 year from 2020.

○ In 2021, the gender gap in life expectancy at birth recorded 6.0 years, which showed a decreasing trend after marking a peak of 8.6 years in 1985.

<Life expectancy at birth and year-on-year change (1970-2021)>

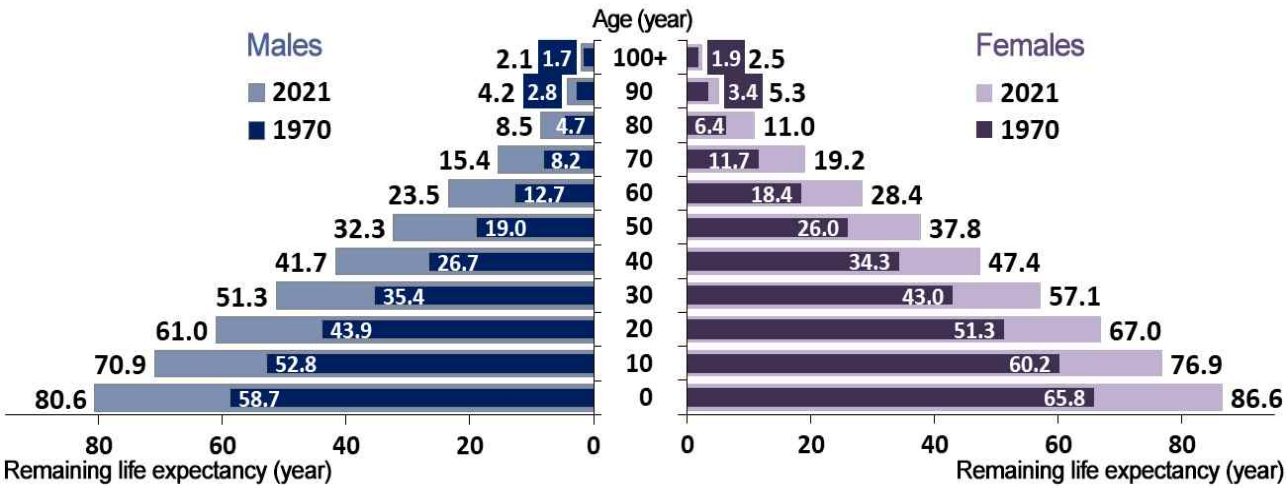


<Life expectancy at birth by sex and gender gap (1970-2021)>



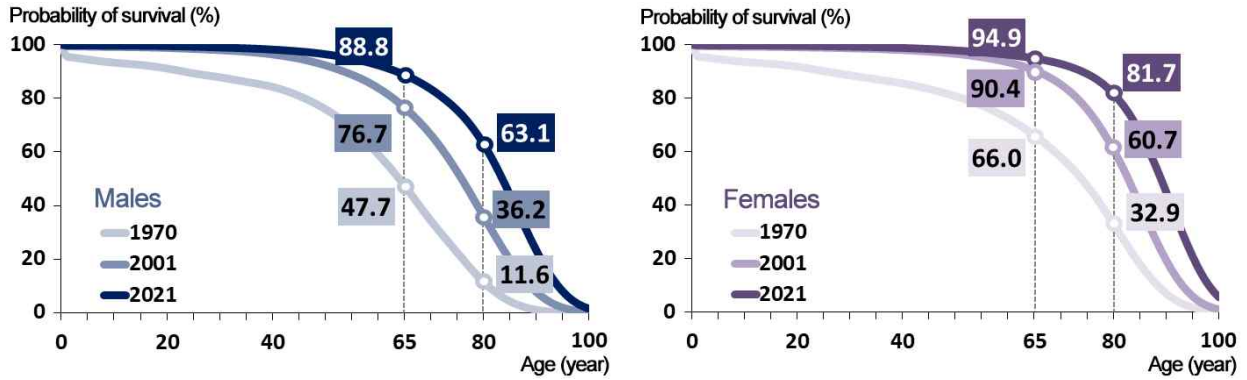
○ In 2021, the remaining life expectancy of males aged 60 recorded 23.5 years, which rose by 0.1 year from 2020. The remaining life expectancy of females aged 60 recorded 28.4 years, which rose by 0.1 year from 2020.

<Remaining life expectancy by sex and age (1970, 2021)>



○ As for people born in 2021, the probability of survival to 80 years of males recorded 63.1%, up 0.5%p from 2020. The probability of survival to 80 years of females recorded 81.7%, up 0.2%p from 2020.

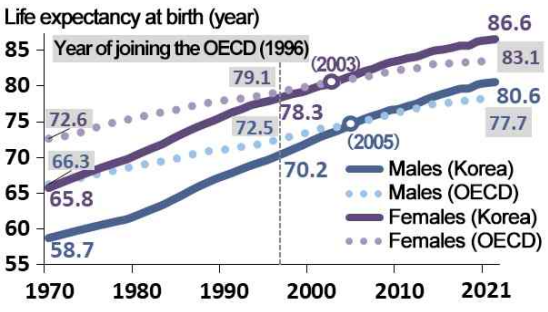
<Probability of survival to 65 years and 80 years by sex (1970, 2001, 2021)>



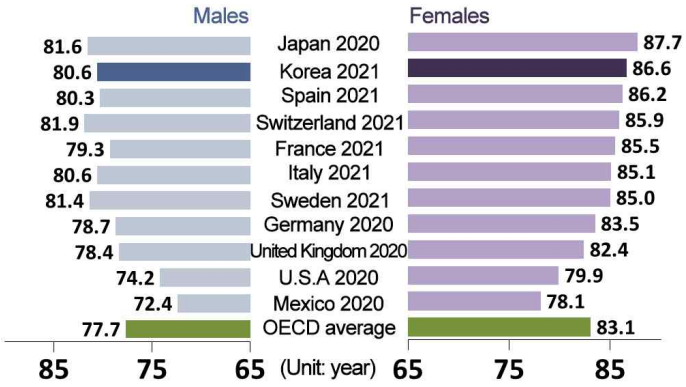
The life expectancy at birth of Korean males was 2.9 years longer than the OECD average of males. The life expectancy at birth of Korean females was 3.5 years longer than the OECD average of females.

○ The life expectancy at birth of Korean males stood at 80.6 years, which was 2.9 years longer than the OECD average of males (77.7 years). The life expectancy at birth of Korean females stood at 86.6 years, which was 3.5 years longer than the OECD average of females (83.1 years).

<Life expectancy at birth: Korea and OECD average (1970-2021)>



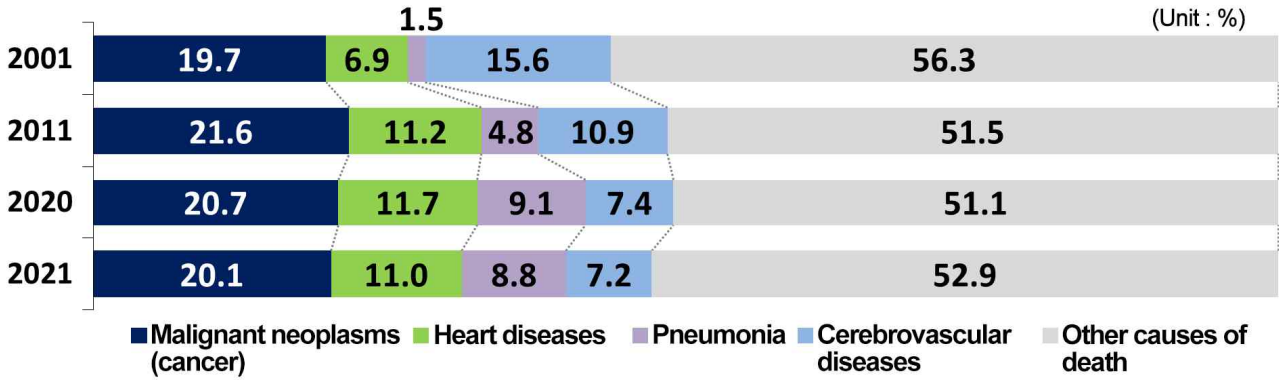
<Life expectancy at birth of major OECD member countries>



As for people born in 2021, the probability of dying from cancer recorded the highest figure of 20.1%, which was followed by heart diseases (11.0%), pneumonia (8.8%) and cerebrovascular diseases (7.2%).

○ Compared to 2020, the probability of dying from major causes of death marked a decrease. Whereas, the probability of dying from other causes of death (Certain infectious and parasitic diseases, etc.) showed an increase.

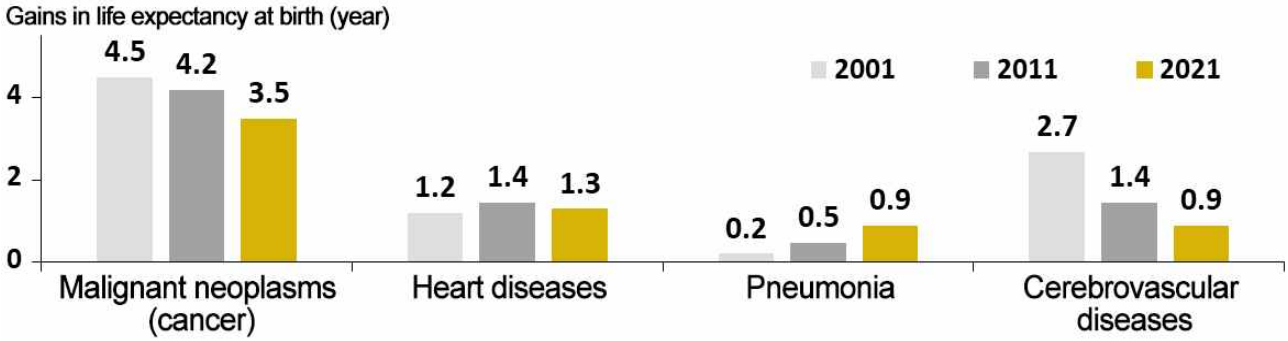
<Probability of dying from leading causes of death (2001-2021)>



When eliminating cancer from causes of death, the life expectancy at birth would increase by 3.5 years.

○ As for people born in 2021, the life expectancy at birth would increase by 3.5 years when eliminating cancer from causes of death, by 1.3 years when eliminating heart diseases and by 0.9 year when eliminating pneumonia.

<Gains in life expectancy at birth when eliminating major causes of death (2001, 2011, 2021)>



Note

□ Outline of 2021 Life Tables

○ **(Definition)** Life tables refer to statistical tables that estimate how many years people at a certain age would live when they would experience the current age-specific death rates.

○ **(Methodology)** Life tables are compiled on the basis of death report data that are submitted to Eup, Myeon & Dong offices, or Si, Gun & Gu offices according to the Statistics Act and the Act on Registration of Family Relations after considering delayed death reports, unidentified death age, etc.

○ Basic data
- **(Number of deaths)** Number of the deaths of the nation and provinces by sex and age group in 2021
- **(Base population)** Mid-year population of the nation and provinces by sex and age group in 2021
- **(OECD data)** *"Life expectancy." OECD. Stat.* OECD, 2022. 11. (stats.oecd.org)

○ Data dissemination
- **(Press releases)** KOSTAT website (kostat.go.kr)
- **(Statistical data)** KOSIS website (kosis.kr)

□ Note

○ The total may not be inconsistent with the sum of details due to rounding.

○ Deaths from COVID-19 (U07.1, U07.2, U10) are included in 'Certain infectious and parasitic diseases'.

○ Data update years of OECD member countries for international comparison are not the same.

Note

Purpose of life tables

○ Life tables are designed to be used as basic data when establishing health care and medical policies and calculating insurance premiums and compensation for human injuries; and establishing Population Projections and comparing economic, social and health care levels among nations.

Legal basis

○ General statistics approved in accordance with Article 18, Paragraph 1 of the Statistics Act (Approval number 101035)

Statistical terms

○ Average remaining life expectancy[e_x^0]

- Remaining life expectancy indicates to what age a person of a specific age (x) would live on average.
- Life expectancy at birth is an average time a person is expected to live, based on the year of birth

○ Probability of dying[${}_nq_x$]

- A probability that a person of a specific age (x) would die without living to the next age ($x+n$).

○ Probability of surviving

- A probability that a person of a specific age would live to an another particular age

○ Probability of dying from a specific cause of death[$R_x(i)$]

- A probability that a person of a specific age (x) would eventually die from a specific cause of death (i)

○ Gain in remaining life expectancy when eliminating a specific cause of death [$e_x^0(-i) - e_x^0$]

- A gain in remaining life expectancy when a person would die from another cause of death without dying from a specific cause of death (i)