

# The Burden of Stroke in Croatia



Based on the findings of *The Burden of Stroke in Europe* report conducted by King's College London for the Stroke Alliance for Europe

Population: 4,490,751

Healthcare cost of stroke in Croatia = €36.9 million (€9 per capita)

## Treatment landscape:

In 2001, The Croatian Society for Neurovascular Disorders was founded for the prevention of stroke and has since, in partnership with the Croatian Stroke Society, published national guidelines for acute care

Ongoing public campaigns on stroke prevention are being undertaken, addressing topics such as the importance of a healthy lifestyle and salt reduction

5 stroke units in Croatia, one at the standard of a comprehensive stroke unit, providing endovascular stroke treatment

Established guidelines published by the Croatian Association for Stroke Prevention highlight stroke as a medical emergency

Telemedicine is available nationwide with a special emphasis on the islands, but it is not yet capable of telestroke interventions

## Stroke in Croatia:

**Incidence:**  
11,357 strokes per year  
152.4 strokes per 100,000 inhabitants annually

**Prevalence:**  
54,481 strokes  
793.2 strokes per 100,000 inhabitants

**Mortality:**  
8,033 deaths due to stroke per year  
94.6 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants annually

## Estimated increase 2015–2035:

▲ Incidence: **23%**

▲ Prevalence: **13%**

▲ Deaths: **36%**

▲ DALYs Lost: **24%**

## Risk factor prevalence:



High blood pressure  
**35.8%**



High cholesterol  
**49.8%**



Smoking  
**36%**



Raised glucose  
**9.9%**

Stroke risk factor knowledge was found to be moderate. Public recognition of stroke symptoms and knowledge of the adequate response are poor.

## Anticoagulant treatment rates:

According to data published in 2016, **84.3%** of atrial fibrillation patients in Croatia take oral anticoagulants

