

Epidemiological Transition in Georgia

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Stagnation of life expectancy is one of the most obvious events of demographic development in Georgia that has proceeded more than 50 years. According to the data represented by Geostat in 1960-2016 the life expectancy of male increased only for 0.1 years, of female-for 1.4 years and by 2016 it made up correspondingly 69.2 and 77.2 years. At the same time in the countries of Eurounion the life expectancy of male grown up for 11.3 years and of female-for 11.4 years and by 2016 it made up 78.0 and 83.4 years. In above mentioned year, as compared with the countries of Eurounion in Georgia the life expectancy of male was less for 8.8 years and of female-less for 6.2 years

The main reason of this event should be in the epidemiological transition that developed under the other script in Georgia. In the 1960's Georgia and the developed countries of Europe came to the second stage of the transition that was characterized by the radically different structure of mortality reasons and demanded the deferent approach to the prophylaxis and treatment of the diseases. The developed countries of Europe could update the strategy and the results of modernization were: the significant decline in children mortality, the displacement of deaths in older ages and the growth of life expectancy. This problems could not be solved in Georgia and the first epidemiological transition has been continued endlessly.

In 1990 the expenditure on public health made up 3,0% of whole GDP, in 1998-only 0,5%, whereas in Western European countries (Norway, France, Belgium) the sum has exceeded 7%. According to the sociological study more than 75% of Georgian households have spent less than 5 dollars per month or less than 1,5 dollars per person. According to the research, more than 87,7% of citizens say they never had a thorough medical check-up and more than 98% had never been screened for cancer.

In recent years due to the activities conducted by state in the health care system, there is a tendency to insignificant increase of life expectancy.

Proceeding from the current demographic and socio-economic situation in Georgia the radically positive changes in life expectancy within the next 5-10 years will be less expected.