

Structural Heart Diseases (SHD) are cardiac defects often and increasingly linked to functional decline and population ageing that demand repair and/or replacement of heart valves such as aortic stenosis, mitral valve regurgitation and tricuspid repair.

Treating SHD prevents functional decline and death:



50% of people
with
**severe symptomatic
aortic stenosis die within 2 years.**¹

In Belgium,
1 in 4 citizens
state that they
seldom
receive a heart check.²

Treating SHD
leads to ~ **20%**
absolute mortality
reduction.^{3,4}



Estimated number of people with SHD in Belgium*:



* These figures have been extrapolated based on projected demographic figures of Statistics Belgium (StatBel)⁵ and the burden of Structural Heart Diseases provided in the OxVALVE Population Cohort Study⁶. Figures rounded to the nearest thousand.

Key facts related to SHD in Belgium:

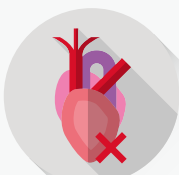
In 2015 Belgium spent
2,421 billion €
on Cardiovascular diseases⁷

In 2016, the old-age
dependency ratio was 25,3%,
it will rise to **38%** by 2040⁸

With **45%** Cardiovascular
disease is the leading cause
of mortality in Belgium⁹

Key Messages:

- By 2040, nearly **one in four people** in Belgium will be **over 65 years**.
- Structural Heart Diseases are a **major cause of functional decline** in the elderly population and as such, **Belgian policies must tackle SHDs** as part of ageing strategies.
- Investments in **health innovations** for this population are an economic necessity for Belgium to adapt to the new demographic challenges.
- **Investing in technologies** that can keep seniors out of hospital and having an active engagement in society will help to solve this issue.



In 2040 Belgium will have an estimated
420.712 people over 65 with SHD.

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