### Cardiovascular diseases in Eastern Europe

Martin Bobak University College London



Mortality from CVD in Russia and the "old" EU in 2006 (both genders, age standardised, per 100,000).



Trends in **male** mortality from CHD in Central and Eastern Europe between the mid 1950s and 2000, age group 45-54 years (data from the WHO Health for All database).



Trends in **female** mortality from CHD in Central and Eastern Europe between the mid 1950s and 2000, age group 45-54 years (data from the WHO Health for All database).



Trends in **male** mortality from CHD in the former Soviet Union between the mid 1950s and 2000, age group 45-54 years (data from the WHO Health for All database).



Trends in **female** mortality from CHD in the former Soviet Union between the mid 1950s and 2000, age group 45-54 years (data from the WHO Health for All database).



### Death rates in Russia 1980-2007 both genders, per 100,000



### **Proposed explanations**

Medical care

Risk factors

Societal factors

Mortality rates in MONICA centres in CEE/FSU and western countries, East/West mortality rate ratios after controlling for medical care score, age band 35-64

	CEE/FSU	western countries	East/West rate ratio
Men			
(No. of centres)	(10)	(26)	
Age-adjusted rates	274	162	1.81
Adj. for care	257	167	1.54
Women			
(No. of centres)	(10)	(24)	
Age-adjusted	75	44	1.70
Adj. for care	67	46	1.46

Data from the MONICA Project (www.ktl.fi/monica).

PARF associated with 9 risk factors for MI in Western and Eastern Europe (INTERHEART Study, Yusuf et al 2004)



### Proportion of variance in mortality explained by risk factors\* in the MONICA study

	Men	Women
All causes	40%	34%
All CVD	21%	35%
IHD	23%	14%
Stroke	39%	35%

\* smoking, BP, cholesterol

### The HAPIEE study

(Health, Alcohol and Psychosocial factors In Eastern Europe)

- Multi-centre study of determinants of CVD in Eastern Europe.
- Baseline survey in 2002-05
- Random population samples in
  - Novosibirsk (Russia)
  - Krakow (Poland)
  - 7 towns of the Czech Republic (Havirov, Hradec Kralove, Jihlava, Karvina, Kromeriz, Liberec, Usti n.L.)
  - Kaunas (Lithuania), joined in 2006
- Random samples of men and women aged 45-69 years old at baseline, stratified by gender and 5 year age groups
- Almost 36,000 subjects (response rate 59%).

## The HAPIEE study



#### Availability of enzymes and T&T for <u>non-fatal</u> CHD events (follow up)

	CZ	RU
ΜΙ		
Ν	52	139
At least one troponin	98%	0.4%
2+ troponin	98%	20%
Tests and treatment		
Ν	131	44
Positive	95	33
CABG	19 (20%)	11 (33%)
PCI	60 (63%)	17 (52%)

# Male participants and deaths in HAPIEE (follow up until end of 2008)

	Ν	AII	CVD
		deaths	deaths
Czech R	3833	289	99
Poland	4797	431	118
Russia	3741	528	201
Total	12371	1248	418

## Survival of men in HAPIEE



#### Hazard ratio of CVD death by country (CZ=1)



### Hazard ratio of CVD death by country (CZ=1)



RF: adj. for age, smoking, HT, diabetes, physical act, vit C intake, WHR, control

### If not risk factors, then what?

Alcohol?

# Risk of CHD by alcohol consumption in 28 high quality cohort studies (Corrao et al 2000)



# RR of CVD death by drinking frequency and mean dose per occasion in Novosibirsk men



Malyutina et al, Lancet 2003

# Alcohol drinking pattern and all-cause mortality in Izhevsk study

	Cases (n=1633)	Controls (n=1587)	0]	R (95% CI)
Abstains	132	186	1.3	(1.0-1.7)
Beverage alcohols only, no problem drinking	585	1118	1.0	[ref]
Beverages alcohol only, problem drinking	152	85	3.0	(2.2-4.0)
Surrogates, no problem drinking	99	25	6.3	(4.0-10.0)
Surrogates, problem drinking	500	82	9.7	(7.5-12.6)
Difficult to answer	165	91	3.0	(2.3-4.0)

(Leon et al, Lancet 2007)

Relative risks of death from selected diseases for drinking 3+ bottles of vodka per week

	Men	Women
Accidents / violence	5.9	9.3
Alcohol poisoning	21.7	75.2
CHD	3.0	2.6
Respir. Cancers	3.5	2.2
ТВ	4.1	5.3

Zaridze et al Lancet 2009

# Odds ratio of death for hazardous drinking in the Izhevsk case-control study



Leon et al. Int J Epidemiol 2010

# Hazard ratio of CVD death for problem drinking (CAGE 2+) in HAPIEE



# Hazard ratio of CVD death for binge drinking in HAPIEE (>150 g of ethanol at one occasion at least once a month)



# Hazard ratio of CVD death by drinking frequency in HAPIEE



### Hazard ratio of CVD death by country (CZ=1)



RF: adj. for age, smoking, HT, diabetes, physical act, vit C intake, WHR, control

### Hazard ratio of CVD death by country (CZ=1)



RF: adj. for age, smoking, HT, diabetes, physical act, WHR, vit C intake, control Alcohol: binge drinking, problem drinking (CAGE) and drinking frequency

### If not risk factors and alcohol, then what?

Societal disruption?

### Central and Eastern Europe in 1990



**From Unicef** 

#### Poland and Czech Rep. 1989-2000 (Data from UNICEF)



### Russia 1989-2000 (Data from UNICEF)



Increase in educational differentials in mortality between 1980s and 1990s in St Petersburg men (based on data from Plavinski et al 2003)



#### Mortality (per 1000) by weekly alcohol intake in St Petersburg men in 1980s and 1990s



From Plavinski et al 2003

### Survival in Russian men by education:



45p20 = probability of living to 65 yrs when aged 20 yrs

Murphy et al, AJPH 2006

Survival in Russian men by education: Trends remained unchanged after controlling for smoking and alcohol



45p20 = probability of living to 65 yrs when aged 20 yrs

Murphy et al, AJPH 2006

Recent trends: 5-year mortality rate ratios by education in Czech men and women aged 45-64, 1980s and 2000s



Unpublished data

## Conclusions

- Huge differences in CVD mortality between Eastern and Western Europe
- Dramatic fluctuations in FSU after 1990
- Conventional risk factors and acute care explain some <u>but not all</u> of the differences between populations
- High rates in FSU may be related to alcohol but results remain inconsistent
- Social changes after 1990 seems to have played a major role in mortality rates but biological mechanisms not clear