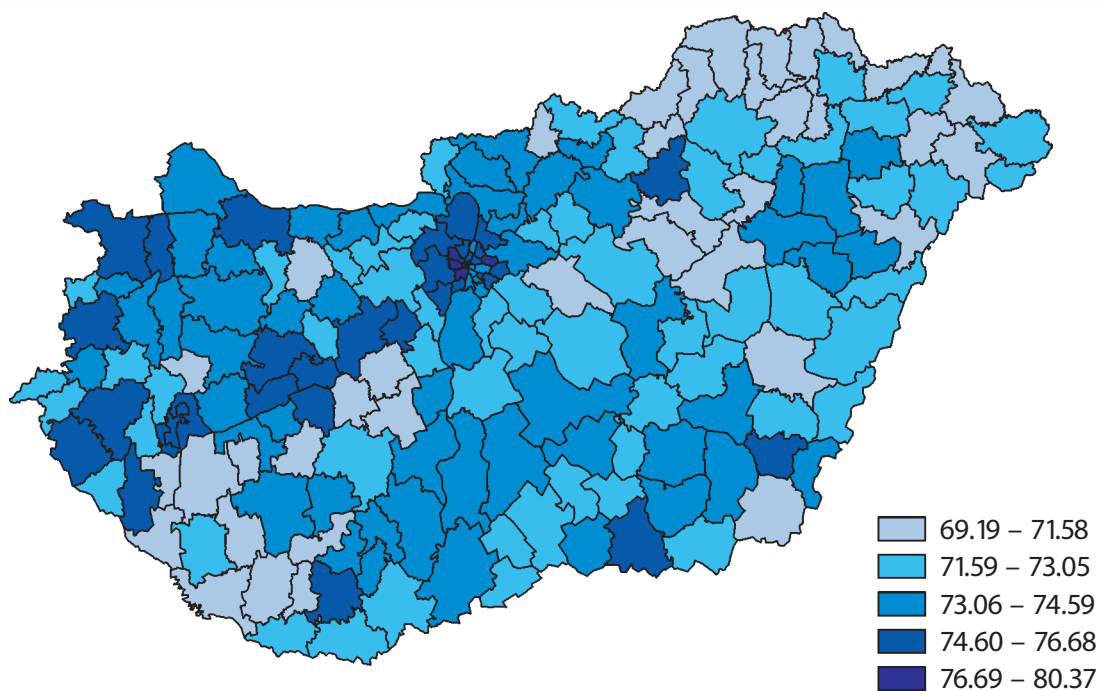


Subregional differences in mortality

Life expectancy at birth is one of the most important indexes of the quality of life among macro-level social indicators. The spatial differences in life expectancy in Hungary are shown on a subregional spatial scale, based on data from the time period between 2005 and 2009. Generally each subregion contains 15-20 settlements with an average population of approximately 50,000 people. The smallest location has 7,000 inhabitants, while the largest has 270,000, therefore they show a heterogeneous picture regarding population size as well.

Life expectancy at birth in Hungarian subregions between 2005–2009



Despite the relatively small size of the country, the spatial pattern of life expectancy shows considerable subregional disparities. The difference between the subregions with the highest and lowest values exceeds 11 years. Subregions with the lowest life expectancy are to be found in the north-eastern and south-western areas, mainly near the country's borders. Among these areas a few former industrial regions are represented, while most of them are of rural character. The regions with the highest values are concentrated mainly in Budapest and its agglomeration zone, as well as in the north-western part of the country. Many Hungarian studies unambiguously support that there is a strong relationship between the different indicators of well-being (income, unemployment, education, deprivation indexes) and life expectancy at birth.