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Sommario/riassunto	The Latin American and Caribbean region has been undergoing a rapid demographic and epidemiological transition, which has had important health and economic consequences. Not only is the population aging rapidly, it is also experiencing major lifestyle changes. These changes, in turn, have altered the disease and mortality profile of the region, resulting in a greater weight of noncommunicable diseases-such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, and diabetes-within the overall disease burden. As they affect more and more people, noncommunicable diseases pose a growing economic and development threat