France expects 13 times as many centenarians by 2070

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France, which already has the most centenarians of any European country, could be home to 13 times more people over the age of 100 by 2070, the national statistics agency Insee said Thursday.

In January 2016, there were around 21,000 centenarians living in France, almost 20 times more than in 1970, it said.

If current life-expectancy trends continue, this could rise to 270,000 by 2070.

Insee said France currently had the most centenarians of any country in Europe, ahead of Spain and Italy, partly because it has one of the largest populations but also because life expectancy among women is particularly high.

By 2070, almost one centenarian in three was expected to be a man, up from a ratio of one in six currently, the study said.

France was also home to the oldest verified person ever—Jeanne Louise Calment, who died in 1997 aged 122 years and 164 days.

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