

Life-Expectancy Report Ahead of Putin's Birthday Is 'Coincidence,' Radio Host Says

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Vasily Utkin and Anton Orekh **Ekho Moskvi** / Youtube

Russian radio hosts insist that their report on male life expectancy on the eve of President Vladimir Putin's 65th birthday was pure coincidence.

Anton Orekh and Vasily Utkin, radio hosts for the independent station Ekho Moskvyy, [said](#) in their Friday morning broadcast that Russian men under the age of 65 have the highest mortality rate in Europe.

Putin celebrates his 65th birthday on Saturday.

"I just want to clarify that all of the coincidences on this show are accidental, and this study and our conversation are not related to tomorrow's date," Orekh said, adding that there "shouldn't be any insinuations about this topic."

"We just opened the newspaper today and read it," Utkin added.

Findings from the [World Bank](#) study — [published](#) by the state-run news agency RIA Novosti on Friday — indicate that 43 percent of Russian men die before reaching the age of 65. The biennial report uses UN population data.

The Russian president's birthday will likely be met with nationwide protests [organized](#) by opposition activist Alexei Navalny.

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