**Table S1: Populations of the two provinces analyzed by age and sex.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Age-years** | **RPU province** | **RER province** |  |
|  | **M** | **%** | **F** | **%** | **M** | **%** | **F** | **%** | ***p value*** |
| 15-19 | 11974 | 7.32 | 11168 | 6.56 | 6634 | 4.48 | 6064 | 3.70 | 0.361957 |
| 20-24 | 12770 | 7.80 | 11871 | 6.98 | 6826 | 4.61 | 6353 | 3.87 | 0.956115 |
| 25-29 | 12338 | 7.54 | 11783 | 6.92 | 7424 | 5.01 | 7311 | 4.46 | 0.142277 |
| 30-34 | 12268 | 7.50 | 12329 | 7.24 | 8659 | 5.85 | 8631 | 5.26 | 0.679558 |
| 35-39 | 14359 | 8.78 | 14339 | 8.43 | 11060 | 7.47 | 11112 | 6.77 | 0.733675 |
| 40-44 | 15581 | 9.52 | 15742 | 9.25 | 14149 | 9.55 | 13952 | 8.50 | 0.1392 |
| 45-49 | 15725 | 9.61 | 16038 | 9.42 | 14541 | 9.82 | 14499 | 8.84 | 0.163961 |
| 50-69 | 47178 | 28.83 | 49321 | 28.98 | 49969 | 33.74 | 54508 | 33.22 | < 0.00001 |
| > 70 | 21434 | 13.10 | 27597 | 16.22 | 28847 | 19.48 | 41611 | 25.37 | < 0.00001 |
| Total | 163627 | 100.00 | 170188 | 100.00 | 148109 | 100.00 | 164041 | 100.00 |  |

**RPU province = Apulia Province; RER province = Emilia-Romagna province**

**M = Males; F= Females**