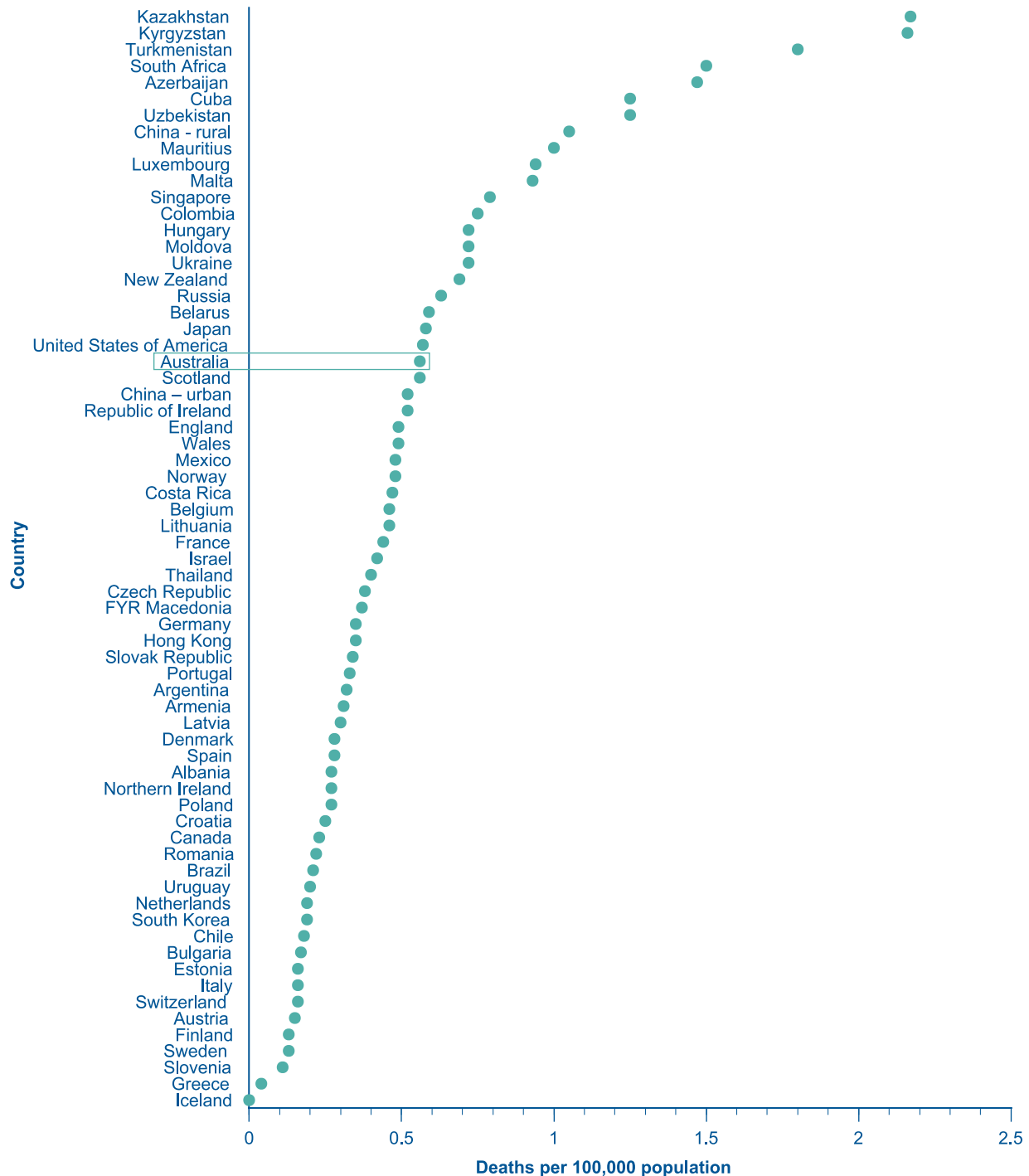


## International comparisons

Figure 4.4 shows mortality rates for obstructive lung disease in people aged 5 to 34 years (GINA 2004). In this age group, most deaths classified in this way were due to asthma. The figure shows that the mortality rate due to asthma in Australia was moderately high, by international standards.

**Figure 4.4**

**World ranking of asthma mortality per 100,000 population, people aged 5 to 34 years**



Note: WHO country-specific mortality data for ICD codes 490 to 493 have been used. These codes incorporate asthma, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, and bronchitis not specified as acute or chronic. However in the 5 to 34 year age group, these mortality figures have been shown to be similar to the asthma mortality rates. For each country, the mean mortality rate from the two most recent years available was presented (mean 1996 to 1997); mortality data not reported if prior to 1992.

Source: GINA 2004. Copyright Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA). Reproduced with permission.