

WORLD HEALTH STATISTICS

2017

MONITORING
HEALTH FOR THE

SDGs

S U S T A I N A B L E
D E V E L O P M E N T G O A L S



World Health
Organization

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World health statistics 2017: monitoring health for the SDGs, Sustainable Development Goals

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ABBREVIATIONS

ABV	alcohol by volume
AIDS	acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
AFR	WHO African Region
AMR	WHO Region of the Americas
ART	antiretroviral therapy
COPD	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CRVS	civil registration and vital statistics
CVD	cardiovascular disease
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
EMR	WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region
EUR	WHO European Region
EVD	Ebola virus disease
FCTC	Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
GDP	gross domestic product
GERD	gross domestic expenditure on R&D
GGE	general government expenditure
GGHE	general government health expenditure
GHO	Global Health Observatory
GNI	gross national income
HBV	hepatitis B virus
HBsAg	hepatitis B surface antigen
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
IDSR	Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response
IGME	Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation
IHR	International Health Regulations
ITN	insecticide-treated net
JEE	joint external evaluation
LLIN	long-lasting insecticidal net
LMIC	low- and middle-income countries
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MMR	maternal mortality ratio
NCD	noncommunicable disease
NHPSP	National Health Policies, Strategies and Plans
NTD	neglected tropical disease
ODA	official development assistance
OOP	out-of-pocket
PEPFAR	President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
PM	particulate matter
R&D	research and development
RDT	rapid diagnostic test
RMNCH	reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEAR	WHO South-East Asia Region
SRS	sample registration system
TB	tuberculosis
TRIPS	Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
UHC	universal health coverage
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
WPR	WHO Western Pacific Region

INTRODUCTION

The World Health Statistics series is WHO's annual compilation of health statistics for its 194 Member States. The series is produced by the WHO Department of Information, Evidence and Research, of the Health Systems and Innovation Cluster, in collaboration with all relevant WHO technical departments.

World Health Statistics 2017 focuses on the health and health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and associated targets by bringing together data on a wide range of relevant SDG indicators. In some cases, as indicator definitions are being refined and baseline data are being collected, proxy indicators are presented. In addition, in the current absence of official goal-level indicators, summary measures of health such as (healthy) life expectancy are used to provide a general assessment of the situation.

World Health Statistics 2017 is organized into three parts. In Part 1, six lines of action are described which WHO is now promoting to help build better systems for health and to achieve the health and health-related SDGs. In Part 2, the status of selected health-related SDG indicators is summarized, at both global and regional level, based on data available as of early 2017. Part 3 then presents a selection of stories that highlight recent successful efforts by countries to improve and protect the health of their populations through one or more of the six lines of action. Annexes A and B present country-level estimates for selected health-related SDG indicators.

As in previous years, *World Health Statistics 2017* has been compiled primarily using publications and databases produced and maintained by WHO or United Nations groups of which WHO is a member, such as the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (IGME). Additionally, a number of statistics have been derived from data produced and maintained by other international organizations, such as the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and its Population Division.

For indicators with a reference period expressed as a range, figures refer to the latest available year in the range unless otherwise noted.

Unless otherwise stated, the WHO regional and global aggregates for rates and ratios are weighted averages when relevant, while for absolute numbers they are the sums. Aggregates are shown only if data are available for at least 50% of the population (or other denominator) within an indicated group. For indicators with a reference period expressed as a range, aggregates are for the reference period shown in the heading unless otherwise noted. Some WHO regional and global aggregates may include country estimates that are not available for reporting.

Unless otherwise stated, all estimates have been cleared following consultation with Member States and are published here as official WHO figures. Where necessary, the estimates provided have been derived from multiple sources, depending on each indicator and on the availability and quality of data. In many countries, statistical and health information systems are weak and the underlying empirical data may not be available or may be of poor quality. Every effort has been made to ensure the best use of country-reported data – adjusted where necessary to deal with missing values, to correct for known biases, and to maximize the comparability of the statistics across countries and over time. In addition, statistical modelling and other techniques have been used to fill data gaps. However, these best estimates have been derived using standard categories and methods to enhance their cross-national comparability. As a result, they should not be regarded as the nationally endorsed statistics of Member States which may have been derived using alternative methodologies.

Because of the weakness of the underlying empirical data in many countries, a number of the indicators presented here are associated with significant uncertainty. It is WHO policy to ensure statistical transparency and to make available to users the methods of estimation and the margins of uncertainty for relevant indicators. However, to ensure readability while covering such a comprehensive range of health topics, the printed and online versions of the World Health Statistics series do not include the margins of uncertainty which are instead made available through online WHO databases such as the Global Health Observatory.¹

While every effort has been made to maximize the comparability of statistics across countries and over time, users are advised that country data may differ in terms of the definitions, data-collection methods, population coverage and estimation methods used. More detailed information on indicator metadata is available through the Global Health Observatory.

¹ The Global Health Observatory (GHO) is WHO's portal providing access to data and analyses for monitoring the global health situation. See: <http://www.who.int/gho/en/>, accessed 18 March 2017.