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# Table of Contents

<b>Contents</b>	<b>3</b>
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<b>Introduction</b>	<b>7</b>
---------------------	----------

## **Part 1. Ten Statistical Highlights in Global Public Health 9**

1. Child mortality: the gap within countries is not closing.....	10
2. Risk factor transition: high prevalence of tobacco use among youth worldwide.....	11
3. Infant immunization coverage: where are we now? .....	12
4. Health workforce, health expenditure and disease burden: higher burden, fewer resources.....	13
5. Cause of death and burden of disease: global epidemic of chronic noncommunicable diseases ..	14
6. Tuberculosis and DOTS: national progress towards the global targets .....	15
7. Government spending on health care: monitoring the Abuja declaration target.....	16
8. Nutrition transition: high levels of child undernutrition and adult obesity coexist.....	17
9. HIV/AIDS and “3 by 5”: people receiving antiretroviral treatment tripled in two years.....	18
10. Health forecast: projecting causes of death to 2030 .....	19

## **Part 2. World Health Statistics 21**

### **Health Status: Mortality 22**

Life expectancy at birth (years)	
Healthy life expectancy (HALE) at birth (years)	
Probability of dying (per 1 000 population) between age 15 and 60 years (adult mortality rate)	
Probability of dying (per 1 000 population) under five years of age (under-5 mortality rate)	
Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births)	
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1 000 live births)	
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100 000 live births)	
Deaths due to HIV/AIDS (per 100 000 population per year)	
Deaths due to tuberculosis (per 100 000 population per year)	
Age-standardized mortality rate by cause (per 100 000 population)	
Years of life lost by broader cause of death, all ages (%)	
Causes of death among children under five years of age (%)	

### **Health Status: Morbidity 30**

HIV prevalence among adults aged 15-49 years (%)	
Incidence of tuberculosis (per 100 000 population per year)	
Prevalence of tuberculosis (per 100 000 population)	
Number of confirmed poliomyelitis cases	



# Table of Contents

## Health Service Coverage

34

- One-year-olds immunized with one dose of measles (%)
- One-year-olds immunized with three doses of diphtheria, tetanus toxoid and pertussis (DTP3) (%)
- One-year-olds immunized with three doses of Hepatitis B (HepB3) (%)
- Antenatal care coverage (%)
- Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)
- Contraceptive prevalence rate (%)
- Children under five years of age sleeping under insecticide-treated nets (%)
- People with advanced HIV infection receiving antiretroviral (ARV) combination therapy (%)
- Tuberculosis: DOTS case detection rate (%)
- Tuberculosis: DOTS treatment success (%)
- Children under five years of age with acute respiratory infection and fever (ARI) taken to facility (%)
- Children under five years of age with diarrhoea who received oral rehydration therapy (ORT) (%)
- Children under five years of age with fever who received treatment with any antimalarial (%)
- Children 6-59 months of age who received vitamin A supplementation (%)
- Births by Caesarean section (%)

## Risk Factors

42

- Children under five years of age stunted for age (%)
- Children under five years of age underweight for age (%)
- Children under five years of age overweight for age (%)
- Newborns with low birth weight (%)
- Prevalence of adults (15 years and older) who are obese (%)
- Population with sustainable access to an improved water source (%)
- Population with sustainable access to improved sanitation (%)
- Population using solid fuels (%)
- Prevalence of current tobacco use in adolescents (13-15 years of age) (%)
- Prevalence of current (daily or occasional) tobacco smoking among adults (15 years and older) (%)
- Condom use at higher risk sex in young people aged 15-24 years (%)



# Table of Contents

<b>Health Systems</b>	<b>50</b>
Human resources for health .....	50
Physicians; Nurses; Midwives; Dentists; Pharmacists; Public and environmental health workers; Community health workers; Lab technicians; Other health workers; Health management and support workers	
Health expenditure ratios .....	58
Total expenditure on health as percentage of gross domestic product	
General government expenditure on health as percentage of total expenditure on health	
Private expenditure on health as percentage of total expenditure on health	
General government expenditure on health as percentage of total government expenditure	
External resources for health as percentage of total expenditure on health	
Social security expenditure on health as percentage of general government expenditure on health	
Out-of-pocket expenditure as percentage of private expenditure on health	
Private prepaid plans as percentage of private expenditure on health	
Health expenditure aggregates .....	59
Per capita total expenditure on health at average exchange rate (US\$)	
Per capita total expenditure on health at international dollar rate	
Per capita government expenditure on health at average exchange rate (US\$)	
Per capita government expenditure on health at international dollar rate	
Coverage of vital registration of deaths (%) .....	59
Number of hospital beds (per 10 000 population) .....	59
<b>Inequities in Health</b>	<b>66</b>
Probability of dying per 1 000 live births under five years of age (under-5 mortality rate) by place of residence; by wealth quintile; by educational level of mother	
Children under five years stunted for age (%) by place of residence; by wealth quintile; by educational level of mother	
Births attended by skilled health personnel (%) by place of residence; by wealth quintile; by educational level of mother	
Measles immunization coverage among one-year-olds (%) by place of residence; by wealth quintile; by educational level of mother	
<b>Demographic and Socioeconomic Statistics</b>	<b>70</b>
Population (in thousands)	
Annual population growth rate (%)	
Population in urban areas (%)	
Total fertility rate (per women)	
Adolescent fertility proportion (%)	
Adult literacy rate (%)	
Net primary school enrolment ratio (%)	
Gross national income per capita (international \$)	
Population below the poverty line (% of the population living on less than \$1 a day)	



# Introduction

*World Health Statistics 2006* presents the most recent statistics since 1997 of 50 health indicators for WHO's 192 Member States. This second edition of *World Health Statistics* includes an expanded set of statistics, with a particular focus on equity between and within countries. It also introduces a section with 10 highlights in global health statistics for the past year.

*World Health Statistics 2006* has been collated from publications and databases of WHO's technical programmes and regional offices. The core set of indicators was selected on the basis of relevance for global health, availability and quality of data, and accuracy and comparability of estimates. The statistics for the indicators are based on an interactive process of data collection, compilation, quality assessment, and estimation between WHO technical programmes and its Member States. In this process, WHO strives to maximize accessibility, accuracy, comparability, and transparency of country health statistics.<sup>1</sup>

In addition to national statistics, this publication presents statistics on the distribution of selected health outcomes and interventions within countries, disaggregated by gender, age, urban/rural setting, wealth/assets, and educational level. Such statistics are primarily derived from the analysis of household surveys and are only available for a limited number of countries. We envisage that the number of countries reporting disaggregated data will increase during the next few years.

The core indicators do not aim to capture all relevant aspects of health, but to provide a comprehensive summary of the current status of population health and health systems at country level: 1) mortality outcomes; 2) morbidity outcomes; 3) risk factors; 4) coverage of selected health interventions; 5) health systems; 6) inequalities in health; and 7) demographic and socioeconomic statistics.

All statistics have been cleared as WHO official figures in consultation with Member States unless otherwise stated. The estimates published here should, however, still be regarded as the best estimates by WHO rather than the official view of Member States.

As demand for timely, reliable, and consistent information on key health statistics continues to increase, users need to be well informed on definitions, quality, and limitations of health statistics. More detailed information is available from the WHO Statistical Information System (WHOSIS), accessible at <http://www.who.int/whosis>. The online version of *World Health Statistics* will be updated on a regular basis and includes the most recent estimates and time series of relevant health statistics. The online version also provides, whenever possible, metadata describing data sources, estimation methods, and quality of estimates. It is hoped that careful scrutiny and use of health statistics presented in *World Health Statistics 2006* will lead to progressively better measurement of relevant indicators of population health and health systems.

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1. To meet these objectives, WHO has initiated the organization-wide Programme on Health Statistics (<http://www.who.int/healthinfo/statistics/programme/en/index.html>).