

WORLD HEALTH STATISTICS

2010



World Health
Organization

WHO Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

World health statistics 2010.

1.Health status indicators. 2.World health. 3.Health services - statistics. 4.Mortality. 5.Morbidity. 6.Life expectancy. 7.Demography. 8.Statistics. I.World Health Organization.

ISBN 978 92 4 156398 7

(NLM classification: WA 900.1)

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Acknowledgements

This publication was produced by the Department of Health Statistics and Informatics of the Information, Evidence and Research Cluster, under the direction of Ties Boerma and Carla AbouZahr, assisted by Jessica Ho, Ahmadreza Hosseinpoor and Annet WR Mahanani, and in collaboration with WHO technical programmes and regional offices and with other agencies in the United Nations system.

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The publication was edited by Tony Waddell. Support for the online database was provided by Phillipe Boucher, Zoe Brillantes, Steve Moore, John Rawlinson, Florence Rusciano and Knut Staring. Production support was provided by the Department of Knowledge Management and Sharing, including Caroline Allsopp, Ian Coltart and Maryvonne Grisetti. Graphic design and layout was by Sophie Guetaneh Aguetant and Florence Rusciano. We thank Petra Schuster for her administrative support.

Cover design: Michel Beusenbergh, Sophie Guetaneh Aguetant and Denis Meissner.

Printed in France.

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Abbreviations

AIDS	acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
AFR	WHO African Region
AMR	WHO Region of the Americas
ARI	acute respiratory infection
ART	antiretroviral therapy
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
DTP3	3 doses of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine
EMR	WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region
EUR	WHO European Region
GDP	gross domestic product
HALE	healthy life expectancy
HepB3	3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine
Hib3	3 doses of <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type B vaccine
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
MCV	measles-containing vaccine
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
NHA	national health account
ORT	oral rehydration therapy
PMTCT	prevention of mother-to-child transmission
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
SEAR	WHO South-East Asia Region
TB	tuberculosis
WPR	WHO Western Pacific Region
YLL	years of life lost

Introduction

The World Health Statistics series is WHO's annual compilation of health-related data for its 193 Member States, and includes a summary of the progress made towards achieving the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and associated targets.

As with previous versions, *World Health Statistics 2010* has been compiled using publications and databases produced and maintained by the technical programmes and regional offices of WHO. Indicators have been included on the basis of their relevance to global public health; the availability and quality of the data; and the reliability and comparability of the resulting estimates.

Taken together, these indicators provide a comprehensive summary of the current status of national health and health systems in the following nine areas:

- mortality and burden of disease;
- cause-specific mortality and morbidity;
- selected infectious diseases;
- health service coverage;
- risk factors;
- health workforce, infrastructure and essential medicines;
- health expenditure;
- health inequities; and
- demographic and socioeconomic statistics.

The estimates in this book are derived from multiple sources, depending on each indicator and 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 limited 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 techniques and modelling have been used to fill data gaps.

Because of the weakness of the underlying empirical data in many countries, a number of the indicators are associated with significant uncertainty. It is WHO policy on statistical transparency to make available to users the methods of estimation and the margins of uncertainty for relevant indicators. However, because of space restrictions, printed versions of the World Health Statistics series include uncertainty ranges for only a few indicators. Further information on the margins of uncertainty for additional indicators will be made available at the Global Health Observatory web site.¹

¹ The Global Health Observatory is a WHO portal that provides access to data and analyses for monitoring the global health situation and trends. www.who.int/gho

While every effort has been made to maximize the comparability of the statistics across countries and over time, users are advised that country data may differ in terms of the definitions used, data-collection methods, population coverage and estimation methods. More-detailed information on indicator metadata is available in the Indicator and Metadata Registry.²

WHO presents *World Health Statistics 2010* as an integral part of its ongoing efforts to provide enhanced access to high-quality data on core measures of population health and national health systems. Unless otherwise stated, all estimates have been cleared following consultation with Member States and are published here as official WHO figures. 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.

² www.who.int/gho/indicatorregistry