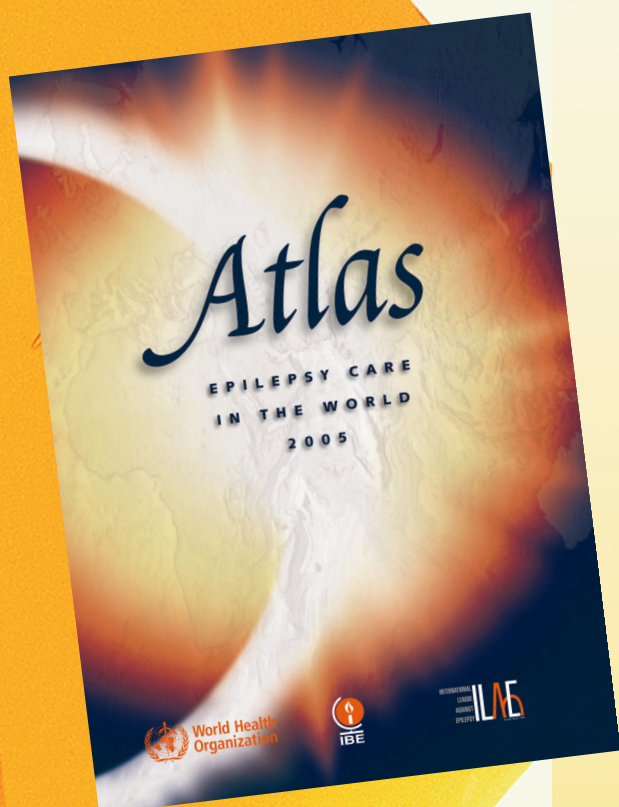


# JUST PUBLISHED!

World Health Organization



*The Atlas of epilepsy care in the world is one of the most comprehensive compilations of available resources for epilepsy ever attempted. It provides an illustrative presentation of information on the current status of epilepsy services and care available from 160 countries covering 97.5% of the world population.*

*The data confirm what professionals in the field of epilepsy have known for a long time, that epilepsy care is grossly inadequate compared with the needs in most countries: "when it comes to epilepsy care, most countries are developing countries".*

## Atlas Epilepsy Care in the World 2005

Epilepsy is one of the most common serious disorders of the brain, affecting about 50 million people worldwide. The *Atlas of epilepsy care in the world* is an important accomplishment of the ILAE/IBE/WHO Global Campaign Against Epilepsy, representing a major collaborative effort involving WHO headquarters, regional and country offices and ILAE and IBE headquarters and their members.

The value of the *Epilepsy Atlas* is that it replaces impressions and opinions by facts and figures. The results obtained confirm that the available resources for epilepsy care in the world are insufficient. In addition, there are large inequities across regions and income groups of countries, with low-income countries having extremely meagre resources.

The *Atlas* has been produced jointly by:



World Health Organization, with International Bureau for Epilepsy and International League Against Epilepsy

2005, 91 pages [English]

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## Facts and figures

- The Epilepsy Atlas provides information for epilepsy services and care from 160 countries, areas or territories covering 97.5% of the world population.
  - The number of people with epilepsy is high in most regions of the world, thus making epilepsy a major public health concern.
  - Access to antiepileptic drugs is still limited in many regions due to lack of supply, cost and prescription barrier.
  - No disability benefits are available for people with epilepsy in over 50% of the countries.
  - Only 6% of the countries have a separate budget for epilepsy services within their health budgets.
  - Training facilities in epileptology are available in only 16% of the countries.
  - A professional association of epilepsy specialists exists in 61% of countries.
- Some 40% of the countries do not have even one patient or lay association working in the field of epilepsy.
  - About 50% of countries do not have inpatient facility for epilepsy care.
  - Epilepsy surgery is not available in 59% of the countries.
  - Only 6% of the countries have a separate budget for epilepsy services within their health budgets.
  - No disability benefits are available for people with epilepsy in over 50% of the countries.
  - Poor community knowledge and awareness, cultural beliefs, stigma, lack of government resources, poor economy and lack of infrastructure are identified as major problems by both health professionals and people with epilepsy.



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