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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 *Haemophilus influenzae* 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