

## Lancet Countdown in Europe 2026: Indicator main text + appendix writing guidance

This document provides guidelines to support the write-up of your indicator main text and appendix section. Guidance on indicator analysis and data processing can be found [here](#). These templates have pre-formatted headings, which make it a lot easier to pull the whole manuscript together.

For each working group templates exist that can be used when preparing the manuscript's main text and appendix text (click [here](#)).

If you have any questions, please contact **Hedi Kriit** ([hedi.kriit@uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:hedi.kriit@uni-heidelberg.de)).

All relevant documentation can also be found in the 2026 Report Guidance Dropbox folder of the [Lancet Countdown in Europe – for all authors Dropbox](#). If you do not have access to this, please contact **Hedi Kriit**.

### The 2024 Lancet Countdown in Europe report

This will be the second report produced by the collaboration. As well as updating existing indicators and developing new indicators, this report will focus on highlighting inequalities, inequities, and injustices between and within countries. Therefore, where possible we ask authors to explore inequalities or differences in indicators among population groups. The Appendix also includes a new section “Inequality context”. In this section a short paragraph should describe between and within country (disparities) inequalities relevant to your indicator, based on the scientific literature. For example, this could include a discussion of vulnerable groups. This can be based on the discussions provided previously in White Paper section 5.

### Grammar notes

- The report is written in the passive form, not first person (i.e., “the data were analysed”, rather than “we analysed the data”).
- The word “data” is plural.
- Generally speaking, numbers one to ten are spelled out. Numbers greater than ten, with decimal points, or used as a specific unit of measurement should be presented as numbers (e.g., 11, 6.2 person-days).
- In the great Oxford comma debate, we use a comma before the final “and” or “or” in a list of three or more items.

### References

- References are in **Vancouver** numbering style, with superscript numbers after any punctuation mark.
- Given not all colleagues have access to Endnote, we will use **Mendeley** as reference manager. You can download Mendeley [here](#) and find guidance on how to transfer references from Endnote to Mendeley [here](#).
- However, if you are unable to use **Mendeley**, you can provide your references in Zotero, Endnote, another reference manager or as a BibTeX file.

### Report sections

W: [lancetcountdown.org/Europe](https://lancetcountdown.org/Europe)  
Heidelberg Institute of Global Health  
Barcelona Institute of Global Health



### Introduction and conclusion

The section **introduction** and **conclusion** are important parts of the report. The introduction includes a brief overview of the concepts included in the section, describes the framework for how the section indicators fit within this section, and the conclusion briefly describes the key takeaways of the section, focusing on main overarching findings and, wherever appropriate, mentioning key issues that still need exploring.

It is important that this includes an update of key scientific developments or events of relevance to the section, which might have occurred in the year since the previous report was produced.

Each working group has around **500 words** for the introduction and conclusion of their working group sections (combined) and is primarily written by the working group leads and research fellow.

### Indicator sections

Given the number of indicators within each section, generally, sub-indicator text should be **150-200** words (with minor exceptions for new indicators or indicators that have been developed specifically for this report, where up to 300 words might be acceptable).

To describe your indicator, please include the following:

- **Background:** A brief explanation as to why this indicator is important for health. Please include relevant references illustrating the evidence on the climate change-health topic this indicator covers. Please ensure this section cites the latest high-quality literature and is up to date.
- A very brief description of **methods**, to allow for a correct interpretation of the data. OBS! If it is a new indicator, this can be more detailed.
- If it is an indicator that has been published before, this description can be very brief and refer to the report where it was first described.
- Reference the data being used.
- **If the methodology has been improved or modified with respect to the previous year, it is very important that improvements are (briefly) described in the main text. This is critical to justify possible changes in retrospective data.**
- A brief (usually 1-2 sentences) discussion of the **findings** for the latest year of data available.
- **One figure exposing a trendline, map, or otherwise reflecting the main finding.** *The Lancet* Public Health will only allow a limited number of images to be included in the main text, hence some of the figures you provide will be included in the appendix. However, we will aim to include as many indicator visualisations as possible. Additional figures and analysis can also be included in the appendix, as appropriate.

For examples of indicator main text sections, please refer to [the 2024 report of the Lancet Countdown in Europe](#).

## Appendix

A description of the geographic coverage of Europe, data sources, methods, inequality context, caveats (limitations), future form of the indicator, and additional analysis are presented in full in the appendix. The appendix also goes through peer review and thus must be written/prepared to the standard of a paper that were to be published separately in *The Lancet* Public Health.

Given the number of indicators, the appendix is very long. However, for transparency and support of research in the field of health and climate change, it is important to provide sufficient detail when describing each indicator.

The caveats and further improvements sections are crucial. These allow us to be transparent about the limitations of our indicators, allows for correct interpretation of the results, and highlights room for improvement. Further analysis, findings and figures can be provided in the “additional analysis” section.



The layout for the appendix is as presented below. Please refer to the formatting guidelines when preparing your text: 3



**X.X Indicator**

**Sub-indicator X.X.X:** (as applicable)

**Headline finding**

**Geographic coverage of Europe**

**Data (sources)**

**Methods**

**Inequality context**

**Caveats**

**Future form of the indicator**

**Additional analysis**

For examples of indicator appendix sections, please refer to the Appendix of the [2024 report of the Lancet Countdown in Europe](#).