

While there have been concerted efforts in recent years to boost pandemic preparedness, they have fallen far short of what is required. Too many national governments lacked solid preparedness plans, core public health capacities and organized multisectoral coordination with clear commitment from the highest national leadership⁽¹⁷⁾. The self-reported assessment of core capacities for preparedness that countries are required to submit to the WHO under IHR (2005) gave a global average score of 64 out of 100⁽¹⁸⁾. Only two-thirds of countries reported having full enabling legislation and financing to support needed health emergency prevention, detection, and response capabilities⁽¹⁹⁾. Country preparedness was also assessed under the voluntary Joint External Evaluation process, undertaken to date by 98 countries. An independent academic exercise, the Global Health Security Index, also sought to score country pandemic preparedness.

Figure 1: Death rates in this figure shows the cumulative, reported, age-standardized to COVID-19 deaths per hundred thousand people in the 50 days following the date of the first death in that country

Source and adapted from: Sawyer Crosby et al, IHME, Think Global Health

