Donate

World Health Organization

Donate

THE GLOBAL HEALTH OBSERVATORY

Explore a world of health data

Indicators   Countries

GLOBAL HEALTH OBSERVATORY ⌄

Global Health Estimates: Life expectancy and leading causes of death and disability

DDI/DNA/MFI

Top 10 global causes of death in 2021	Top 10 global causes of disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) in 2021
1. Ischaemic heart disease	1. COVID-19
2. COVID-19	2. Ischaemic heart disease
3. Stroke	3. Stroke
4. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	4. Lower respiratory infections
5. Lower respiratory infections	5. Preterm birth complications
6. Trachea, bronchus, lung cancers	6. Back and neck pain
7. Alzheimer disease and other dementias	7. Diabetes mellitus
8. Diabetes mellitus	8. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
9. Kidney diseases	9. Diarrhoeal diseases
10. Tuberculosis	10. Road injury

Causes of death by sex

For death and disability disaggregated by sex, annual global deaths and DALYs among women were around 13% lower than for men. However, women collectively spent about 26% more years living with disability (YLDs). In the past two decades, the greatest increase in female deaths has been from Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, nearly tripled between 2000 and 2021.

The top ten causes of death fact sheet

Life expectancy

71.3 years

was the average life expectancy at birth globally in 2021

GHE: Life expectancy and healthy life expectancy (HALE)

Mortality

9.0 million

deaths are attributed to ischaemic heart disease (IHD), the world's leading cause of death, in 2021

GHE: Leading causes of death

DALYs

420 million years

loss in DALYS in 2020 and 2021 directly or indirectly due to the COVID-19 pandemic

GHE: Leading causes of DALYs

Key figures, data, and technical documents

Life expectancy and HALE

Leading causes of death

Leading causes of DALYs

Related indicators

Adult mortality 📊

Adult mortality rate (probability of dying between 15 and 60 years per 1000 population)

Causes of child death 📊

Number of deaths in children aged <5 years, by cause

Deaths per 1 000 live births

Distribution of causes of death among children aged < 5 years (%)

SDG Target 16.1 | Violence 📊

Estimates of rate of homicides (per 100 000 population)

GHE: Estimates of number of homicides

Life expectancy and Healthy life expectancy 📊

Life expectancy at birth (years)

Life expectancy at age 60 (years)

Healthy life expectancy (HALE) at birth (years)

Healthy life expectancy (HALE) at age 60 (years)

Maternal mortality 📊

Maternal mortality ratio (per 100 000 live births)

Number of maternal deaths

Noncommunicable diseases: mortality 📊

Probability of dying between the exact ages 30 and 70 years from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory diseases (SDG 3.4.1)

Crude suicide rates (per 100 000 population) (SDG 3.4.2)

Total NCD Deaths

Total NCD mortality rate (per 100 000 population) , age-standardized

Premature deaths due to noncommunicable diseases (NCD) as a proportion of all NCD deaths

Unintentional poisoning: burden of disease 📊

Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning (per 100 000 population)

Road traffic deaths 📊

Estimated number of road traffic deaths

Estimated road traffic death rate (per 100 000 population)

Distribution of road traffic deaths by type of road user (%)

Suicide rate estimates 📊

Crude suicide rates (per 100 000 population) (SDG 3.4.2)

Age-standardized suicide rates (per 100 000 population)

Contact us

Please send us your comment or question by e-mail.

If you have any feedback, you are welcome to write it here.
If you need to access the old Global Health Observatory data, you can do it here. But before you leave, please provide us your feedback about our new data portal.