



World Health Statistics 2020

A visual summary

Now, more than ever before, we have tools that help us to harness the power of data. To collect, process and analyze data faster than ever before. To understand the world – and to change it for the better.

The UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – which Member States have fully committed to – are vital measures which enable us to track whether we are on target to an improved future for everyone.

They help us understand how equipped we are to meet the challenges of guaranteeing that all people enjoy greater health, peace and prosperity in 2030.

Indeed, we are living through extraordinary times. The global outbreak of COVID-19 will have an unprecedented – and as yet unknown – effect on our work towards a healthier world.

This year's World Health Statistics report makes clear that the global efforts in recent decades have been paying off. Looking at the most up-to-date data we have on some of these vital SDG indicators, it reveals health trends across Member States, regions and the entire world.

The data shows that we are continuing to make enormously encouraging progress in many ways – but also that we lack progress in other ways. Inequality persists, with some regions still falling behind. We must continue to work together to remain focused on our goals.

Data blindspots – lack of available data, infrequency of data collection – remain an urgent challenge but also a great opportunity. Because wherever we can measure, we can make progress.

This report gives us further galvanising evidence, not only of what has been achieved but what can be.



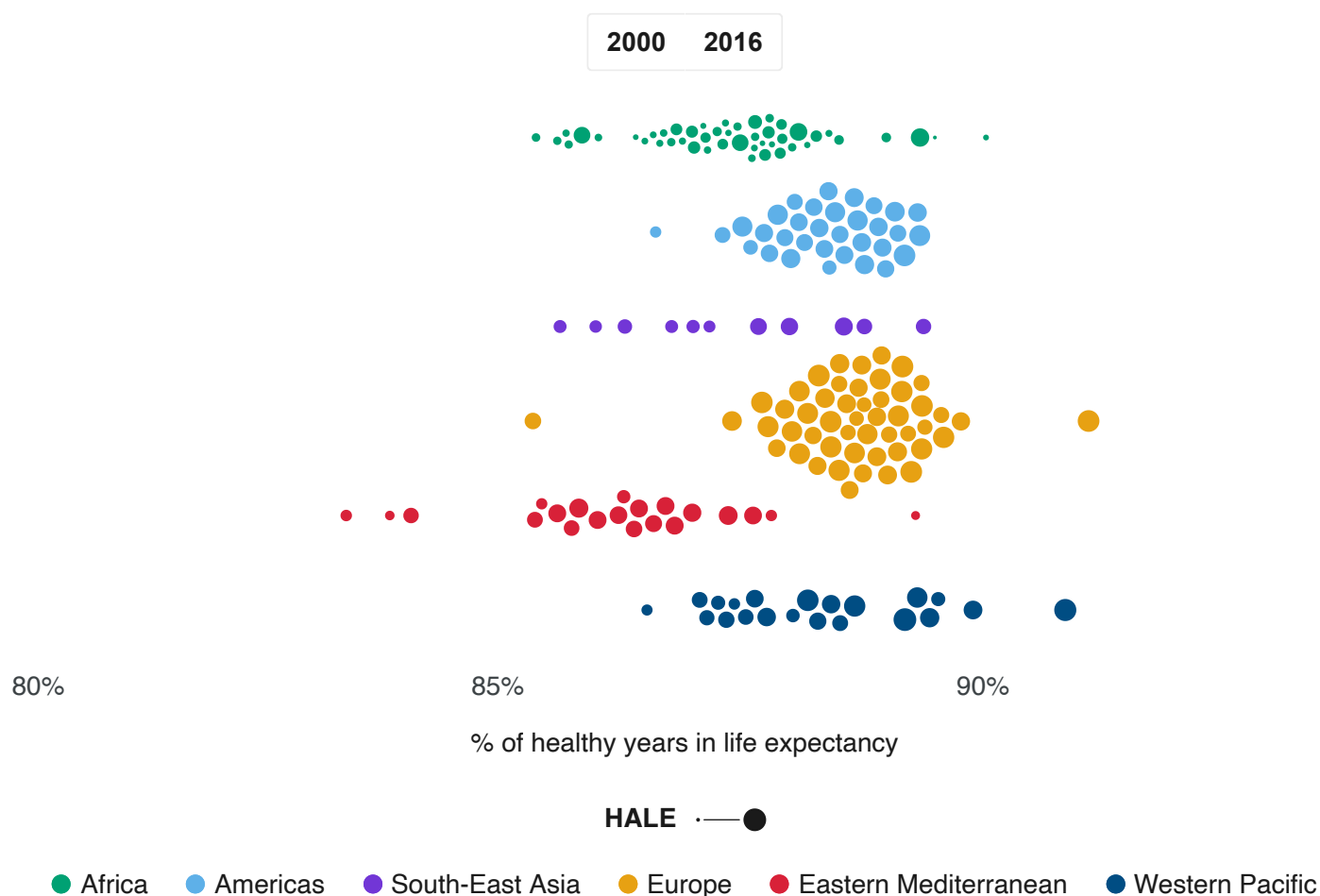
Hoa Binh City, Vietnam. Two elderly women, both visually impaired, visit a local Health Centre to have their eyesight tested.

Healthy Life Expectancy (HALE)

Life expectancy gives an indication of how long a population is expected to live on average. But Healthy Life Expectancy (HALE) reveals the true health of a population.

It's about both length of life and quality of life. Not just the number of years the average person lives, but the number of years they can expect to live in good health. And the encouraging news is that, between 2000 and 2016, HALE increased globally by 8% from 59 years to 63.

Across the world, where are people living healthier lives?



This visualization reveals the interplay between life expectancy and healthy life expectancy, and allows us to see how this has changed between 2000 and 2016.

The further to the right a country appears, the greater the proportion of life is lived in good health by people in that country. A larger bubble represents a longer healthy life expectancy.

The data tells us a story of great global progress: HALE has increased globally during this time period. Yet from this chart, we can see there are many disparities between regions.

A country further to the right with a small bubble might appear to be in a good position. But it means that although a large proportion of life is healthy in this country, the average healthy life might not be long.

By contrast, in a country further to the left with a large bubble, the proportion of healthy years is lower but the length of healthy life could be much longer.

We want to achieve equality across all regions. But currently there is a clear difference in equity between Africa and Europe.



Salvador, Brazil. A health professional performs a finger-prick test to check the blood glucose level of a pregnant diabetic woman.

Death, disease and intervention

There are great challenges to surviving and thriving through life's chapters, from infancy to old age. And some regions face far greater challenges than others.