

WHO launches the World Health Statistics 2012

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The World Health Organization (WHO) today 16 May 2012 launched its publication 'World Health Statistics 2012' [1], the WHO compilation of health-related data for its 194 Member States, published on a yearly basis. This year's edition consists of three parts: (i) health-related Millennium Development Goals, (ii) highlighted topics (non-communicable diseases, health expenditures, universal coverage) and (iii) global health indicators.

Part I summarises status and trends in areas such as average annual rate of decline (AARD) in under-five mortality rates, measles immunisation therapy, AARD in HIV prevalence and as well as in tuberculosis incidence and antenatal care coverage. Part II contains e.g. detailed information on total health expenditure per capita for 180 countries as well as the coverage and quality of cause-of-death data. Part III, on global health indicators, contains detailed data arranged in tables on topics such as life expectancy and mortality, cause-specific mortality and morbidity, selected infectious diseases, health service coverage and expenditure.

The WHO states that all indicators shown have been included on the basis of global public health relevance, data availability and quality, and the reliability and comparability of the resulting estimates. These indicators provide a comprehensive summary of the current status of national health and health systems in key areas.

The World Health Statistics 2012 is compiled using publications and databases produced and maintained by WHO technical programmes and regional offices. A number of demographic and socioeconomic statistics have also been derived from external databases.

References

1. World Health Organization (WHO). World Health Statistics 2012. Geneva: WHO. Available from: http://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/EN_WHS2012_Full.pdf