

Global Burden of Disease (2017) Forum 18 December 2018

World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland
Executive Board Meeting Room

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Background Note

The Global Burden of Disease (GBD) provides a tool to quantify health loss from hundreds of diseases, injuries, and risk factors, so that health systems can be improved and disparities can be eliminated. GBD research incorporates both the prevalence of a given disease or risk factor and the relative harm it causes. The tool allow decision-makers to compare the effects of different diseases, such as malaria versus cancer, and then use that information at home. Collected and analyzed by a consortium of more than 3,600 researchers in more than 145 countries, the data capture premature death and disability from more than 350 diseases and injuries in 195 countries, by age and sex, from 1990 to the present, allowing comparisons over time, across age groups, and among populations.

GBD 2017 shows that global adult mortality rates decreases have plateaued, and, in some cases, mortality rates increased. Conflict and terrorism have become two of the fastest growing causes of death globally (increasing by 118% between 2007 and 2017). Non-communicable diseases accounted for 73% of all global deaths in 2017, with over half of all deaths (28.8 million) attributable to just four risk factors: high blood pressure, smoking, high blood glucose, and high body-mass index. GBD 2017 estimates that no country is on track to meet all of WHO's health-related SDGs by 2030. Under-five mortality, neonatal mortality, maternal mortality, and malaria indicators had the most countries with at least 95% probability of success. forecast mortality rates and years of life lost for 250 causes of death to the year 2040 combining three approaches to forecasting: building in forecasts of 65 risk factors or independent drivers of future health; forecasting future fertility, income, and education, collapsed as the Socio-demographic Index; and autoregressive integrated moving average modelling of historical trends still unexplained by the first two methods.

WHO is highly appreciative and supportive of this global effort to improving health evidence worldwide. This forum will be an opportunity to bring together the GBD network of researchers together with WHO staff and Member State representatives to discuss the results and its implications. The organization, in partnership with GBD network and Member States, seeks to improve the accuracy, timeliness, and policy-relevance of health data at the global, regional, national, and subnational levels.

Objective

The main objective of this forum is to disseminate results and raise awareness of the GBD 2017 results with a wider audience including Member States and WHO staff.