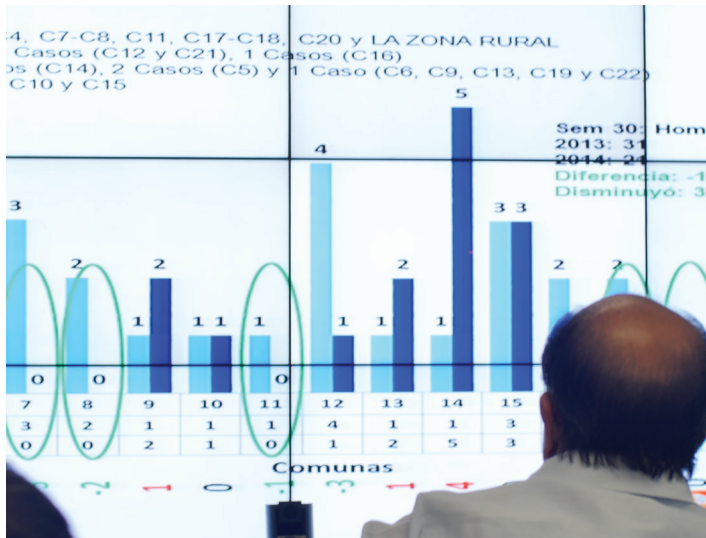


Global Burden of Disease

Transforming health policy locally and globally



Dr. Rodrigo Guerrero, 2014 Roux Prize winner and mayor of Cali, Colombia, monitors the city's weekly homicide data to assess the impact of his violence-prevention initiatives.

MILLIONS OF LIVES are cut short or diminished by disease and injury every year. At the same time, governments are under constant pressure to cut spending. To make sure they are getting the most out of every health dollar spent, policymakers need reliable and up-to-date information about the most pressing health problems their citizens face.

The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) is working with over 1,000 experts in more than 100 countries worldwide to provide this information through the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study. The GBD study, founded on the premise that everyone deserves to live a long and healthy life, pinpoints the health problems that prevent people from realizing this goal. GBD allows policymakers to directly compare the impact of diseases that kill, such as cancer, and conditions that disable, such as depression.

GBD brings together a strong community of health specialists who are passionate about improving health through science. Through their knowledge about local and regional health issues, GBD Experts, who hail from government agencies, universities, and research institutions globally, are helping IHME answer some of the world's most important questions about health. We invite you to join this groundbreaking effort by becoming a GBD Expert.

Examples of how Global Burden of Disease research guides health policy

Rwanda: Installing clean cook stoves to save lives

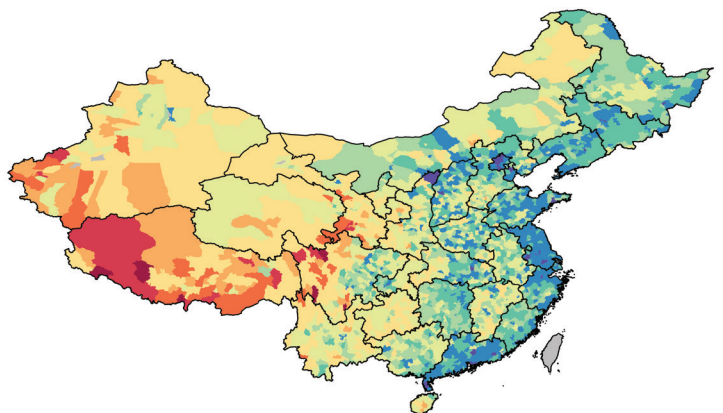
On a regular basis, Rwandan Ministry of Health staff use GBD tools to inform planning and policymaking. For example, when the GBD study revealed that household air pollution from solid fuel combustion was a leading cause of early death and disability, the government started a program to distribute 1 million cook stoves to the most vulnerable households.

United Kingdom: Aspiring to be among the best in Europe

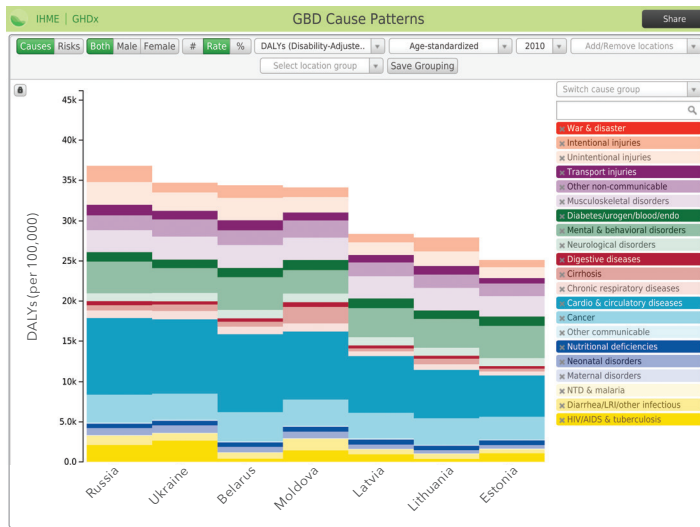
A study by GBD and government researchers in the UK revealed the country lags behind its peers in Europe in life expectancy and early death from ischemic heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and breast cancer. Public Health England is working to reverse these trends and is collaborating with IHME to further investigate health disparities at the local level using the GBD approach.

China: Delving deep into health at the local level

Researchers from Peking University and the Chinese Center for Disease Control collaborated with GBD researchers to produce a Chinese Burden of Disease study in 2013. Revealing that more than 1 million people died annually from exposure to air pollution in China, this study helped inspire government leaders to curb emissions. GBD and Chinese researchers are sharing data and knowledge to analyze health patterns and trends at the local level across the country.



Detailed maps illustrate health trends across China.



Global Burden of Disease data visualization tools provide powerful insights into health challenges worldwide. Access these tools at www.healthdata.org/gbd.

Benefits of collaboration

While IHME coordinates the GBD study and provides software that incorporates the latest breakthroughs in health metrics technology, our collaborators play an essential role in the research by sharing their local health knowledge and carefully vetting the GBD findings. Benefits of collaborating on the GBD study include:

- **Use powerful visual tools to improve health:** To better inform policy, health priorities, and funding discussions, GBD's interactive data visualization tools summarize the leading health challenges in a country and can comprehensively assess its health performance compared to peer countries.
- **Strengthen health metrics:** User-friendly GBD tools enable examination of the quality of different health data sources in countries and can help illuminate key gaps and problems. We offer training opportunities in interpreting data, improving data collection, and GBD research methods.
- **Ensure GBD estimates leverage all available data:** Cutting-edge scientific methods are no substitute for good data. To boost the quality and impact of the GBD findings, we invite governments, researchers, and other knowledgeable individuals to work with us to ensure the GBD study incorporates all relevant sources of health data.

To collaborate on the GBD study, please contact an IHME representative listed at the right.

About the Global Burden of Disease

GBD empowers decision-makers to compare the impacts of different health threats that kill people prematurely and cause ill health in their countries and see how much progress they have made in tackling these threats. It tracks years lost from over 300 diseases, injuries, and risk factors that cause poor health and cut lives short.

The GBD results will be updated annually to reflect the latest scientific breakthroughs and available data. Just like gross domestic product data are used to track a country's economic activity, GBD can be used at the global, national, and local levels to understand health trends over time and to measure if people are getting healthier. Decision-makers can also use GBD to benchmark their country's health progress relative to its peers and identify health disparities within its borders.

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Additional information



Visit the [GBD website](http://www.healthdata.org/gbd) to learn more about the study and explore the data visualization tools that IHME has pioneered. For information about GBD technical training workshops, email gbdtraining@healthdata.org.

www.healthdata.org/gbd