



Health Inequality Data Repository

INDICATOR METADATA

Adult health and nutrition (DHS Program)

October 2024

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About

This dataset is from the [WHO Health Inequality Data Repository](#).

This dataset contains data on indicators related to adult health and nutrition disaggregated by age, economic status, education, marital status, place of residence and subnational region from the [Demographic and Health Survey \(DHS\) Program](#).

The DHS Program collects, analyzes, and disseminates accurate and representative data on population, health, HIV/AIDS and nutrition through more than 400 surveys in over 90 countries. Data come from Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and Malaria Indicator Surveys (MIS).

Data source

DHS Program data were sourced via the DHS Program Indicator Data Application Programming Interface (API). (DHS Program; ICF International; Funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID); api.dhsprogram.com).

Methodology

Indicators are calculated by the DHS Program as per the methodologies outlined in the [Guide to DHS Statistics](#).

Dataset metadata

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Date of first publication | April 2023 |
| Date of updated publication | October 2024 |
| Expected frequency of update | Annual |
| Date of data extraction | 01 October 2024 |
| Temporal coverage | 1991–2023 |
| Spatial coverage | Global |
| Spatial granularity | National |
| Number of countries, territories or areas | 76 |
| Number of indicators | 8* |
| Number of dimensions of inequality | 6 |

*Unique indicators. 15 total indicators when duplicates caused by double disaggregation are counted.

Inequality dimensions

The **age** dimension refers to the person's current age at the time of the survey.

Economic status was determined using a wealth index. Country-specific indices were based on owning selected assets and having access to certain services and constructed using principal component analysis.

For wealth quintiles, within each country the index was divided into five equal subgroups that each account for 20% of the population. Note that certain indicators have denominator criteria that do not include all households and/or are more likely to include households from a specific quintile; thus the quintile share of the population for a given indicator may not equal 20%.

Education refers to the highest level of schooling attained.

Marital status refers to the self-reported current status of marriage or cohabitation of the respondent (men or women). The definition of a consensual union may vary between countries. Female respondents are asked "Are you currently married or living together with a man as if married?" and if the answer is no, they are asked "Have you ever been married or lived together with a man as if married?" Women that respond yes to the latter question are asked "What is your marital status now: widowed, divorced, or separated?" Marital status is typically reported in three subgroups: Never married, currently married or in union, or divorced, separated or widowed. Marital status for men is collected and presented in the same way as for women.

For **place of residence** and **subnational region**, country-specific criteria were applied.

Disclaimer

The estimates presented may differ from, and should not be regarded as, the official national statistics of individual WHO Member States or official WHO estimates.

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Indicator metadata

| Indicator name | Disaggregation | Definition / Further information |
|---|---|--|
| Anemia prevalence (%) | Age Economic status Education Place of residence Subnational region | DHS Program metadata |
| Height below 145cm (%) | Age Economic status Education Place of residence Subnational region | DHS Program metadata - male DHS Program metadata - female |
| Obesity prevalence (BMA ≥ 30.0) (%) | Age Economic status Education Place of residence Subnational region | DHS Program metadata - male DHS Program metadata - female |
| Overweight or obesity prevalence (BMI ≥ 25.0) (%) | Age Economic status Education Place of residence Subnational region | DHS Program metadata - male DHS Program metadata - female |
| Overweight prevalence (BMI 25.0-29.9) (%) | Age Economic status Education Place of residence Subnational region | DHS Program metadata - male DHS Program metadata - female |
| Severe anemia prevalence (%) | Age Economic status Education Place of residence Subnational region | DHS Program metadata |
| Smoking of any type of tobacco (%) | Age Economic status Education Marital status Place of residence Subnational region | DHS Program metadata |

Adult health and nutrition (DHS Program)

| Indicator name | Disaggregation | Definition / Further information |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| Thinness prevalence (BMI <18.5) (%) | Age Economic status Education Place of residence Subnational region | DHS Program metadata - male DHS Program metadata - female |