Health Inequality Data Repository

INDICATOR METADATA

Healthcare access (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 healthcare access disaggregated by age, economic status, education, employment status, marital status, number of living children, 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), AIDS Indicator Surveys (AIS) and Malaria Indicator Surveys (MIS).

Data source

DHS Program data are 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	1999–2023
Spatial coverage	Global
Spatial granularity	National
Number of countries, territories or areas	68
Number of indicators	10
Number of dimensions of inequality	8*

*Unique indicators. 12 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.

Employment status refers to whether the respondent was employed or unemployed.

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
No health insurance (%)	Age Economic status Education Marital status Place of residence Subnational region	DHS Program metadata
Problems in accessing health care: Any of the specified problems (%)	Age Economic status Education Employment status Marital status Place of residence Subnational region	DHS Program metadata
Problems in accessing health care: Concern there may not be a female provider (%)	Age Economic status Education Employment status Marital status Place of residence Subnational region	DHS Program metadata
Problems in accessing health care: Distance to health facility (%)	Age Economic status Education Employment status Marital status Place of residence Subnational region	DHS Program metadata
Problems in accessing health care: Getting money for treatment (%)	Age Economic status Education Employment status Marital status Place of residence Subnational region	DHS Program metadata
Problems in accessing health care: Getting permission to go for treatment (%)	Age Economic status Education	DHS Program metadata

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Indicator name	Disaggregation	Definition / Further information
	Employment status Marital status Place of residence Subnational region	
Problems in accessing health care: Having to take transport (%)	Age Economic status Education Employment status Marital status Place of residence Subnational region	DHS Program metadata
Problems in accessing health care: Knowing where to go for treatment (%)	Age Economic status Education Employment status Marital status Place of residence Subnational region	DHS Program metadata
Problems in accessing health care: Not wanting to go alone (%)	Age Economic status Education Employment status Marital status Place of residence Subnational region	DHS Program metadata
Social security health insurance (%)	Age Economic status Education Marital status Place of residence Subnational region	DHS Program metadata