



Health Inequality Data Repository

INDICATOR METADATA

Child malnutrition (UNICEF/WHO/World Bank)

June 2024

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About

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

This dataset contains data on child malnutrition indicators from household surveys disaggregated by age, economic status, education, place of residence, sex and subnational region, based on UNICEF-WHO-World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates.

Data source

Disaggregated data were sourced from the UNICEF-WHO-World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates (JME) published in the WHO Global Database on Child Growth and Malnutrition (available [here](#)).

Methodology

UNICEF-WHO-WB Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates inter-agency group updates regularly the global and regional estimates in prevalence and numbers for each indicator. For detailed explanation of the methodology used see: https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/child-growth/jme-brochure2012.pdf?sfvrsn=ca20d895_2.

Dataset metadata

Date of first publication	April 2023
Date of updated publication	June 2024
Expected frequency of update	Annual
Date of data extraction	17 June 2024
Temporal coverage	1990-2023
Spatial coverage	Global
Spatial granularity	National
Number of countries, territories or areas	156
Number of indicators	5
Number of dimensions of inequality	6

Inequality dimensions

The **age** dimension refers to the child's age in months.

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. Within each country/territory the index was divided into five equal subgroups that each account for 20% of the population.

Education refers to the highest level of schooling attained by the mother.

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

Sex refers to the reported sex (male or female) of the child.

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	Notes
Overweight prevalence in children aged < 5 years (%)	Child's age Economic status Education Place of residence Sex Sex & Age Subnational region	The percentage of overweight (defined as more than two standard deviations above the median weight-for-height of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under five years of age. <u>Numerator</u> : Number of children aged under five years that meet the criteria for overweight. <u>Denominator</u> : Total number of children aged under five years surveyed.	Further information available here .
Severe wasting prevalence in children aged < 5 years (%)	Child's age Economic status Education Place of residence Sex Sex & Age Subnational region	The percentage of severe wasting (defined as more than three standard deviations below the median weight-for-height of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under five years of age. <u>Numerator</u> : Number of children aged under five years of age that meet the criteria for severe wasting. <u>Denominator</u> : Total number of children aged under five years surveyed.	Further information available here .
Stunting prevalence in children aged < 5 years (%)	Child's age Economic status Education Place of residence Sex Sex & Age Subnational region	The percentage of stunting (defined as more than two standard deviations below the median height-for-age of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under five years of age. <u>Numerator</u> : Number of children aged under five years that meet the criteria for stunting. <u>Denominator</u> : Total number of children aged under five years surveyed.	Further information available here .
Underweight prevalence in children aged < 5 years (%)	Child's age Economic status Education Place of residence Sex Sex & Age Subnational region	The percentage of overweight (defined as more than two standard deviations above the median weight-for-height of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under five years of age. <u>Numerator</u> : Number of children aged under five years that meet the criteria for overweight. <u>Denominator</u> : Total number of children aged under five years surveyed.	Further information available here .
Wasting prevalence in children aged < 5 years (%)	Child's age Economic status Education Place of residence Sex Sex & Age Subnational region	The percentage of wasting (defined as more than two standard deviations below the median weight-for-height of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under five years of age. <u>Numerator</u> : Number of children aged under five years that meet the criteria for wasting. <u>Denominator</u> : Total number of children aged under five years surveyed.	Further information available here .