



Health Inequality Data Repository

INDICATOR METADATA

International migrants and refugees (UNSD and
UNHCR)

June 2024

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About

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

This dataset contains indicators related to the number of international migrants and refugees per 1000 population, disaggregated by age, urban/rural place of residence and sex, published by the United Nations Statistical Department (UNSD) and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

Data source

The number of international migrants disaggregated by age and sex were sourced from the [UNSD International Migrant Stock 2020](#) dataset, which is based on official statistics on the foreign-born or the foreign population, in most cases obtained from population censuses.

The number of international migrants disaggregated by place of residence was sourced from the "[Native and foreign-born population by age, sex and urban/rural residence](#)" table of the UNSD Demographic Statistics Database, via the UNdata platform.

The number of refugees, by either country of origin or country of asylum, was sourced from the [UNHCR Refugee Population Statistics Database](#).

Methodology

Numbers of international migrants and refugees disaggregated by age and sex were divided by the total population within each age and sex subgroup, obtained from the UNDESA [World Population Prospects 2022](#) estimates, to get a rate per 1000 population.

Numbers of international migrants and refugees disaggregated by place of residence were divided by the total urban and rural population, obtained from the "[Population by sex and urban/rural residence](#)" table of the UNSD Demographic Statistics Database, via the UNdata platform, to get a rate per 1000 population.

UNHCR Refugee Population Statistics methodology is available here: <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/methodology/>

UNSD International Migrant Stock 2020 methodology is available here: https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/sites/www.un.org.development.desa.pd/files/undesd_pd_2020_international_migrant_stock_documentation.pdf

Dataset metadata

Date of first publication	July 2023
Date of updated publication	June 2024
Expected frequency of update	Annual
Date of data extraction	22 April 2024
Temporal coverage	1990–2022

Spatial coverage	Global
Spatial granularity	National
Number of countries, territories or areas	197
Number of indicators	3
Number of dimensions of inequality	3

Inequality dimensions

Age refers to the age of the international migrant or refugee, grouped in six subgroups.

Place of residence was based on context-specific criteria for the definition of urban and rural areas. In UNCHR data, an urban location is defined as a settlement with more than 5000 inhabitants.

Sex refers to the male or female sex of the international migrant or refugee.

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
International migrants (per 1000 population)	Age Place of residence Sex	Numerator: Number of international migrants Denominator: Total population (in thousands) Based on country or area of destination. International migrants are defined as foreign-born or foreign (non-citizen) population.	UNSD International Migrant Stock 2020 methodology is available here: https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/sites/www.un.org.development.desa.pd/files/undesa_pd_2020_international_migrant_stock_documentation.pdf
Refugees by country of asylum (per 1000 population)	Age Place of residence Sex	Numerator: Number of refugees Denominator: Total population (in thousands) Based on the country of asylum. Refugees individuals recognized under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, its 1967 Protocol, the 1969 Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, the refugee definition contained in the 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees as incorporated into national laws, those recognized in accordance with the UNHCR Statute, individuals granted complementary forms of protection, and those enjoying temporary protection. The refugee population also includes people in refugee-like situations.	UNHCR Refugee Population Statistics methodology is available here: https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/methodology/
Refugees by country of origin (per 1000 population)	Age Place of residence Sex	Numerator: Number of refugees Denominator: Total population (in thousands) Based on the country of origin. Refugees individuals recognized under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, its 1967 Protocol, the 1969 Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, the refugee definition contained in the 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees as incorporated into national laws, those recognized in accordance with the UNHCR Statute, individuals granted complementary forms of protection, and those enjoying temporary protection. The refugee population also includes people in refugee-like situations.	UNHCR Refugee Population Statistics methodology is available here: https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/methodology/