

Directory of statistical services of international organisations

World Health Organization

Brief description of the organisation¹	The World Health Organization (WHO), established in 1946, is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. WHO experts produce health guidelines and standards, and help countries to address public health issues. WHO also supports and promotes health research. Through WHO, governments can jointly tackle global health problems and improve people's well-being. WHO's membership comprises 193 countries and two associate members. Members meet every year at the World Health Assembly in Geneva to set policy for the Organization and approve the Organization's budget. Their work is supported by the 34-member Executive Board, which is elected by the Health Assembly. Six regional committees focus on health matters of a regional nature.
Mission²	<p>WHO fulfils its objectives through its core functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ providing leadership on matters critical to health and engaging in partnerships where joint action is needed; ▪ shaping the research agenda and stimulating the generation, translation and dissemination of valuable knowledge; ▪ setting norms and standards and promoting and monitoring their implementation; ▪ articulating ethical and evidence-based policy options; ▪ providing technical support, catalysing change, and building sustainable institutional capacity; and ▪ monitoring the health situation and assessing health trends. <p>These core functions are set out in the 11th General Programme of Work, which provides the framework for organization-wide programme of work, budget, resources and results. Entitled "Engaging for health", it covers the 10-year period from 2006 to 2015.</p>
Fields of Activity/ structure <i>Statistics</i>	<p>Within WHO, the production and dissemination is highly decentralized in programme-specific units and departments. However, the Department of Health Statistics and Informatics (HSI) has an overall coordination function. HSI monitors the global health situation and trends and coordinates the work on the Global Health Observatory by bringing together the health information from all WHO departments, programmes and regions in analytic reports. HSI produces the annual World Health Statistics report; manages the WHO statistical information system (WHOSIS) database; carries out and coordinates burden of disease studies; provides clearance of WHO health statistics; coordinates revisions of the International Classification of Diseases and other standards for health information; gathers cause of death information from countries and supports household and facility surveys; and coordinates work on public health informatics focusing on the application of information technology to health data generation, compilation, analysis and communication & use. HSI is structured around five units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mortality and Burden of Disease

¹ Description of the statistics section/department in the organization

² Mission of the statistics section/department of the organization

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Statistics Monitoring and Analysis ▪ Classifications, Terminology and Standards ▪ Health Care Informatics ▪ Public Health Information and Geographic Information Systems
Mandate	The 1946 WHO Constitution stipulates a core function of the Organization "to establish and maintain such administrative and technical services as may be required, including epidemiological and statistical services"
Statistical work programme	<p>WHO's General Programme of Work 2006-2015 and the biennial medium term strategic plans including the following deliverables for HSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Global Health Observatory: operational early 2009 with expansion in 2009-2010; ▪ <i>World Health Statistics</i> - annual report on priority health topics from Member States. From 2009, an improved web site to access the WHO statistics database; ▪ Analytical reports: on progress towards the health MDGs (annual, from 2009); on Women and Health, and on health in Africa (2010); ▪ <i>Mortality and Global Burden of Disease</i>: annual updates of the causes of death in children (from 2009), a GBD report on the regional and global health situation (2008, and a major revision by 2010); ▪ <i>Multi-country studies and evaluation</i>: six-country study on health and aging (2009, second round in 2010–2011), health transition in Eastern Mediterranean (2009), Global Fund evaluation of health impact in 20 countries (end 2008); ▪ Electronic health information systems introduced at the district level in African countries. These will be used for epidemiological data, monitoring and evaluation indicators, financial reporting for clinical management and drug, equipment and general supply management (2012). <p>In addition, programmes within WHO maintain monitoring and evaluation units whose responsibilities include the collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of health data on specific programmes such as HIV/AIDS, TB, non-communicable diseases, health financing etc.</p>
Number of staff <i>Total / Statistical division</i>	Approximately 100 full time equivalent, including staff with the HSI department and in programme-specific departments. WHO regional offices also maintain monitoring and evaluation units with responsibilities in relation to health statistics.
Flagship Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Health Statistics (annual) ▪ World Health Report (biennial) ▪ Global Health Observatory reports; Women and Health (2009); Health in Africa (2010)
Website	http://www.who.int

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