Progress and challenges in pursuing the health-related Sustainable Development Goals

What’s new in this study

“Measuring progress from 1990 to 2017 and projecting attainment to 2030 of the health-related Sustainable Development Goals for 195 countries and territories: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017” includes an updated and improved analysis of progress toward the SDGs. It produces estimates for 41 of the 52 health-related SDG indicators, including estimation of four additional indicators compared to the GBD 2016 study. It also includes subnational analyses of SDG progress for a subset of countries and analysis of trends by sex for select indicators. The study also uses revised methods to project progress between 2017 and 2030.

Highlights

» Based on past trends, most countries’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) index scores are projected to rise between 2017 and 2030.

» By 2030, the under-5 mortality, neonatal mortality, maternal mortality ratio, and malaria indicators had the most countries likely to attain their targets.

Global average SDG index score, 2017:
59.4 out of 100

SDG index* score, 2017

The SDG index is a composite measure, ranging from 0 to 100, of overall progress toward meeting the SDGs. It takes into account 40 of the 41 performance indicators for the health-related SDGs.

Note: Population census coverage is not included because of its binary status and because it does not have forecasts.
Differences by sex in 2017

The analysis broke down several SDG indicators by sex. Here, we highlight three indicators: rate of new HIV cases, deaths due to road injuries, and prevalence of alcohol use. As shown below, males had worse outcomes for most indicators.

Global rate of new cases of HIV, 2017**

Global deaths due to road injuries, 2017**

Global prevalence of alcohol use, 2017**

Looking ahead to 2030

Despite the progress made so far, achievement of many SDGs by 2030 is in doubt. In order to meet the SDGs, the pace of progress on many health-related indicators will need to accelerate substantially between 2017 and 2030.

Global under-5 mortality rate, 1990–2030

Global maternal mortality ratio, 1990–2030

Global prevalence of overweight in children aged 2 to 4, 1990–2030

*Median estimates
†Heavier drinking was weighted more than light drinking.