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## Glossary of terms

### Age-standardization

A statistical technique used to compare populations with different age structures, in which the characteristics of the populations are statistically transformed to match those of a reference population. Useful because relative over- or under-representation of different age groups can obscure comparisons of age-dependent diseases (e.g., ischemic heart disease or malaria) across populations.

### Attributable burden

The share of the burden of a disease that can be estimated to occur due to exposure to a particular risk factor.

### Disability-adjusted life years (DALYs)

Years of healthy life lost to premature death and disability. DALYs are the sum of years of life lost (YLLs) and years lived with disability (YLDs).

### Disability weights

Numerical representations of the severity of health loss associated with a health state. Derived from a worldwide, cross-cultural study to compare the relative severity of health problems, disability weights are numbers between 0 and 1 that are multiplied by the time spent living with a health loss to determine the years lived with disability associated with the cause of that loss.

### Healthy life expectancy (HALE)

The number of years that a person at a given age can expect to live in full health, taking into account mortality and disability.

### Regions

Groups of countries that are geographically close and epidemiologically similar. The High-income North America GBD region, for example, contains the United States of America and Canada, and the South Asia GBD region contains Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Pakistan. The GBD regions are themselves grouped into GBD super-regions that possess similar cause of death patterns. The Latin America and Caribbean super-region, for example, contains the Caribbean, Central Latin America, Tropical Latin America, and Andean Latin America regions.

### Risk factors

Potentially modifiable causes of disease and injury.

### Socio-demographic Index (SDI)

A summary measure that identifies where countries or other geographic areas sit on the spectrum of development. Expressed on a scale of 0 to 1, SDI is a composite average of the rankings of the incomes per capita, average educational attainment, and fertility rates of all areas in the GBD study.

**Sequelae**

Consequences of diseases or injuries.

**Summary exposure value (SEV)**

A measure of a population's exposure to a risk factor that takes into account the extent of exposure by risk level and the severity of that risk's contribution to disease burden.

**Uncertainty intervals (UIs)**

A range of values that reflects the certainty of an estimate. Larger uncertainty intervals can result from limited data availability, small studies, and conflicting data, while smaller uncertainty intervals can result from extensive data availability, large studies, and data that are consistent across sources.

**Years of life lost (YLLs)**

Years of life lost due to premature mortality.

**Years lived with disability (YLDs)**

Years lived in less than ideal health. This includes health loss that may last for only a few days or a lifetime.