

Disease burden: successes and challenges

Highlights

Since 2010, the world succeeded in:

- Halving the burden of many diseases such as HIV/AIDS and diarrhea*

- Slashing by a quarter the health loss from injuries*

The total rate of global disease burden dropped by 14.2% between 2010 and 2019, but the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted these downward trends.

Healthy life expectancy rose significantly in 59 countries and territories between 2010 and 2021.

Diabetes experienced the most rapid growth among causes of health loss after adjusting for age and population size.

What's new in this study?

First study to measure premature death and disability due to the COVID-19 pandemic globally and compare it to other diseases and injuries.

Utilized thousands of new data sources and improved statistical methods.

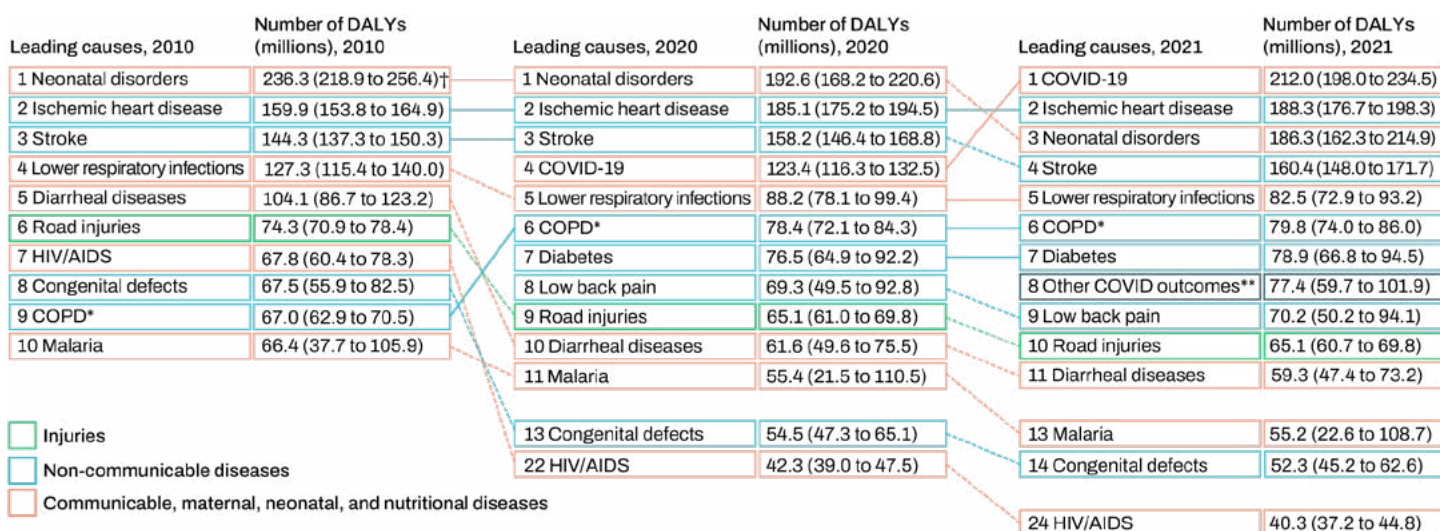
Added 12 new causes of disease burden and more detailed age groups.

Added 12 new causes of death and more detailed age groups.

*After accounting for differences in age and population size across countries.

Among the top causes of disease burden globally, diarrheal diseases, congenital birth defects, and HIV/AIDS dropped the most in the rankings between 2010 and 2021. COVID-19 was the single leading cause of disease burden in 2021.

Leading causes of disease burden worldwide in 2010, 2020, and 2021



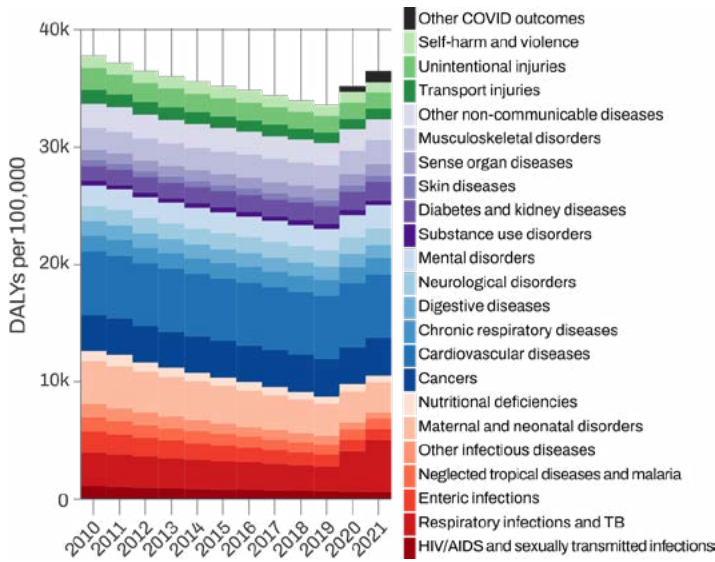
† Uncertainty intervals are a range of values that are likely to include the correct estimate of health loss for a given cause.

* Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

** Other pandemic-related mortality; includes excess mortality associated with the pandemic.

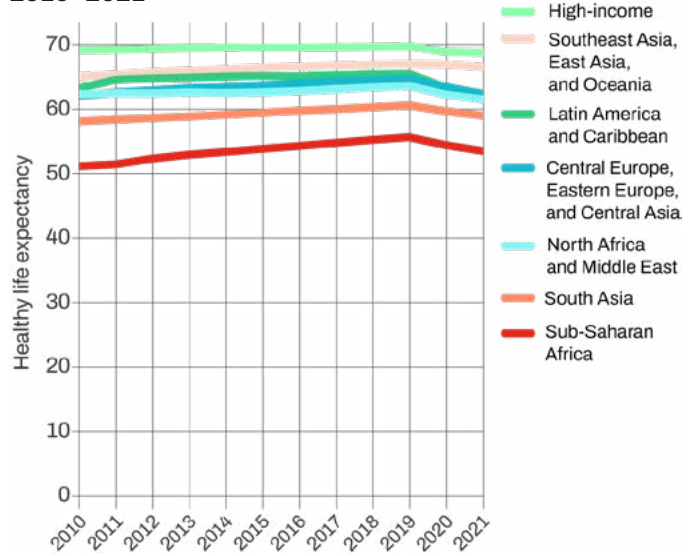
While disease burden fell between 2010 and 2019, it increased overall since 2019 amid the pandemic, rising by 4.1% in 2020 and by 7.2% in 2021.

Total rates of global disease burden, 2010–2021



The largest improvements in healthy life expectancy occurred in countries ranking lowest on the Socio-demographic Index, a measure of income, fertility, and education.

Change in healthy life expectancy by GBD super-region, 2010–2021



Age-adjusted years lived with disability due to diabetes rose by 25.9% between 2010 and 2021, increasing in every country.

Annual change in age-adjusted rates of disease burden due to diabetes, 2010–2021

