

## Introduction

**H** *Health at a Glance: Asia/Pacific* presents a set of key indicators on health and health systems for 27 Asia/Pacific countries and economies. It builds on the format used in previous editions of *Health at a Glance* to present comparable data on health status and its determinants, health care resources and utilisation, health expenditure and financing and health care quality.

This publication was prepared jointly by the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia, the OECD Health Division and the OECD/Korea Policy Centre, under the co-ordination of Luca Lorenzoni and Michael de Looper from the OECD Health Division.

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## Structure of the publication

*Health at a Glance: Asia/Pacific 2012* is divided into five chapters:

- Chapter 1 on *Health Status* highlights the variations across countries in life expectancy, infant and childhood mortality and major causes of mortality and morbidity, including both communicable and non-communicable diseases.
- Chapter 2 on *Determinants of Health* focuses on non-medical determinants of health. It features the health of mothers and babies, through reproductive health issues, low birthweight and breastfeeding. It also includes lifestyle and behavioural indicators such as smoking and alcohol drinking, nutrition, and underweight and overweight, as well as water and sanitation.
- Chapter 3 on *Health Care Resources and Utilisation* reviews some of the inputs, outputs and outcomes of health care systems. This includes the supply of doctors and nurses and hospital beds, as well as the provision of primary and secondary health care services, such as doctor consultations and hospital discharges, as well as a range of services surrounding pregnancy, childbirth and infancy.
- Chapter 4 on *Health Expenditure and Financing* examines trends in health spending across Asia/Pacific countries. It also looks at how health services and goods are paid for, and the different mix between public funding, private health insurance, and direct out-of-pocket payments by households.
- Chapter 5 on *Health Care Quality* builds on the indicators used in OECD's Health Care Quality Indicator programme to examine trends in health care quality improvement across Asia/Pacific countries and economies. It also provides illustrations of quality of care initiatives in ten countries.

An annex provides some additional tables on the demographic and economic context within which different health systems operate.

## Asia/Pacific countries and economies

For this second edition of *Health at a Glance: Asia/Pacific*, 27 regional countries and economies were compared: 22 in Asia (Bangladesh; Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; China; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Japan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Macao, China; Malaysia; Mongolia; Myanmar; Nepal; Pakistan; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Singapore; Sri Lanka; Thailand and Viet Nam) and five in the Pacific region (Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands).

## Selection and presentation of indicators

The indicators have been selected on a basis of being relevant to the health needs of people in the Asia/Pacific region, taking into account the availability and comparability of existing data. The publication takes advantage of the routine administrative and programme data collected by the World Health Organization, especially Regional Offices for the Western Pacific and South-East Asia, as well as special country surveys collecting demographic and health information.

The indicators are presented in the form of easy-to-read figures and explanatory text. Each of the topics covered in this publication is presented over two pages. The first page defines the indicator and notes any significant variations which might affect data comparability. It also provides brief commentary highlighting the key findings conveyed by the data. On the facing page is a set of figures. These typically show current levels of the indicator and, where possible, trends over time. In some cases, an additional figure relating the indicator to another variable is included.

## Averages

In text and figures, “Asia-xx” refers to the unweighted average for Asian countries and economies, where “xx” is the number of countries for which data are available. It excludes the five Pacific countries (Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands) and the OECD average.

“OECD” refers to the unweighted average for the 34 OECD member countries. It includes Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea, but excludes the Asia average. Data for OECD countries are generally extracted from OECD sources, unless stated otherwise.

## Country ISO codes

Australia	AUS	Mongolia	MNG
Bangladesh	BGD	Myanmar	MMR
Brunei Darussalam	BRN	Nepal	NPL
Cambodia	KHM	New Zealand	NZL
China	CHN	Pakistan	PAK
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PRK	Papua New Guinea	PNG
Fiji	FJI	Philippines	PHL
Hong Kong, China	HKG	Republic of Korea	KOR
India	IND	Singapore	SGP
Indonesia	IDN	Solomon Islands	SLB
Japan	JPN	Sri Lanka	LKA
Lao People's Democratic Republic	LAO	Thailand	THA
Macao, China	MAC	Viet Nam	VNM
Malaysia	MYS		



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