

Reader's guide

Health at a Glance: Asia/Pacific presents a set of key indicators on health and health systems for 27 Asia-Pacific countries and territories. 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 care expenditure and financing and health care quality.

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

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Structure of the publication

Health at a Glance: Asia/Pacific 2020 is divided into seven chapters:

Chapter 1 *Dashboards* shows a set of key indicators to compare performance across countries in each of the following dimensions: health status; risk factors; quality of care and health care resources. For each dimension, a set of five indicators is presented in the form of country dashboards. The indicators are selected based on their policy relevance, but also on data availability and interpretability.

Chapter 2 on *The impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on Asia-Pacific health systems* provides an overview of the human impact of COVID-19 and of government responses to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 crisis. It then considers the fiscal impact of the crisis, and discusses the vulnerability of health systems to the COVID-19 shock.

Chapter 3 on *Health status* highlights the variations across countries and territories in life expectancy and survival rate to age 65, infant and childhood mortality and major causes of mortality and morbidity, including both communicable and non-communicable diseases. It includes new indicators on Healthy life expectancy at birth and on Neonatal mortality.

Chapter 4 on *Determinants of health* focuses on non-medical determinants of health. It features the health of mothers and babies, through family planning issues, low birthweight and breastfeeding. It includes lifestyle and behavioural indicators such as smoking and alcohol drinking, unhealthy diets, and underweight and overweight, as well as water and sanitation. It includes also an indicator on road safety.

Chapter 5 on *Health care resources, utilisation and access* 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 6 on *Health care expenditure and financing* examines trends in health spending across Asia-Pacific countries. It looks at how health services and goods are paid for, and the different mix between public funding, private health insurance, direct out-of-pocket payments by households and external resources. It also includes a new indicator on health expenditure by type of service.

Chapter 7 on *Health care quality* builds on the indicators used in the OECD's Health Care Quality Indicator programme to examine trends in health care quality improvement across Asia-Pacific countries and territories. It also includes a new indicator on incidence, survival and mortality for stomach cancer.

Annex A provides the list of national data sources used for this publication. Annex B provides some additional tables on the demographic context within which different health systems operate.

Asia-Pacific countries and territories

For this sixth edition of *Health at a Glance: Asia/Pacific*, 27 countries and territories 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; Macau, 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 the basis of being relevant to monitoring health systems performance, taking into account the availability and comparability of existing data in the Asia-Pacific region. The publication takes advantage of the routine administrative and programme data collected by the World Health Organization, especially the Regional Office for the Western Pacific and South-East Asia Regional Office, as well as country population 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.

The cut date for all the data reported in this publication is Monday 5 October 2020.

Averages

Countries and territories are classified into four income groups – high, upper-middle, lower-middle, and low – based on their Gross National Income (GNI) per capita (current USD) calculated using the

Atlas method (World Bank). The classification reported in the table below and used in this publication is the one updated on the 1 July 2019.

In text and figures, *Asia Pacific-H* refers to the unweighted average for high-income reporting Asia-Pacific countries and territories, *Asia Pacific-UM* refers to the unweighted average for upper-middle income reporting Asia Pacific countries, and *Asia Pacific-LM/L* refers to the unweighted average for lower-middle and low income reporting countries.

“OECD” refers to the unweighted average for the 37 OECD member countries. It includes Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea. Data for OECD countries are generally extracted from OECD sources, unless stated otherwise.

Even if from a statistical viewpoint the use of a population-weighted average is sound, the unweighted average used in this report allows for a better representation of levels and trends observed in countries and territories with small population numbers.

Country and territory ISO codes, Gross National Income per capita, and classification by income level

Country/territory	ISO code	Gross National Income per capita in international dollars (2018)	World Bank classification by income level	Classification used in this report
Australia	AUS	49440	High	H
Bangladesh	BGD	4760	Lower-middle	LM/L
Brunei Darussalam	BRN	62820	High	H
Cambodia	KHM	3970	Lower-middle	LM/L
China	CHN	15329	Upper-middle	UM
Fiji	FJI	13180	Upper-middle	UM
Hong Kong, China	HKG	65850	High	H
India	IND	6630	Lower-middle	LM/L
Indonesia	IDN	11290	Lower-middle	LM/L
Japan	JPN	43010	High	H
Korea, DPR	PRK		Low	LM/L
Korea, Rep.	KOR	39630	High	H
Lao PDR	LAO	7410	Lower-middle	LM/L
Macao, China	MAC	124120	High	H
Malaysia	MYS	27200	Upper-middle	UM
Mongolia	MNG	11050	Lower-middle	LM/L
Myanmar	MMR	4860	Lower-middle	LM/L
Nepal	NPL	3360	Low	LM/L
New Zealand	NZL	40550	High	H
Pakistan	PAK	5110	Lower-middle	LM/L
Papua New Guinea	PNG	4220	Lower-middle	LM/L
Philippines	PHL	9980	High	LM/L
Singapore	SGP	92150	High	H
Solomon Islands	SLB	2320	Lower-middle	LM/L
Sri Lanka	LKA	12900	Upper-middle	UM
Thailand	THA	17650	Upper-middle	UM
Viet Nam	VNM	7230	Lower-middle	LM/L



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