

# A Guide to the Global Health Observatory (GHO) Database

**Global Health Observatory Database**

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Health-related Millennium Development Goals

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- MDG 8: Global partnership for development

Mortality and burden of disease

World Health Statistics

Immunization

Nutrition

Epidemic prone diseases

Noncommunicable diseases

Tobacco Control

Violence and Injuries

Global Information System on Alcohol and Health

HIV/AIDS

Tuberculosis

Filter Export

### MDG 1: Poverty and hunger, Hunger indicators

Location	Time Period	Children aged <5 years underweight (%)	Children aged <5 years stunted (%)
Afghanistan	2004	32.9	59.3
Albania	2005	6.8	27
Algeria	2005	3.7	15.9
Angola	2001	27.5	50.8
Argentina	2005	2.3	8.2
Armenia	2005	4.2	18.2
Australia	1996	0	0
Azerbaijan	2006	8.4	26.8
Bangladesh	2007	41.3	43.2
Barbados	1981	5.3	10.2
Belarus	2005	1.3	4.5
Belize	2006	4.9	22.2
Benin	2006	20.2	44.7
Bhutan	2008	12	37.5
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	2008	4.3	27.1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2006	1.6	11.8
Botswana	2000	10.7	29.1
Brazil	2007	2.2	7.1
Bulgaria	2004	1.6	8.8

WHO Regional Views

- Eastern Mediterranean
- Western Pacific
- Europe
- Americas
- South-East Asia
- Africa
- Global

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Figure 1: Sample GHO database page

## This is a site map to the wealth of information that is in the GHO Database

The GHO Database displays health statistics in tables and provides links to the associated metadata. It is not to be confused with the GHO Portal which offers prepared maps and graphs that offer a clearer understanding of the data.

This guide serves as a site map of the Global Health Observatory (GHO) Database. For questions, comments, suggestions to this guide, please email [brillantesz@who.int](mailto:brillantesz@who.int).

## Basic anatomy of the GHO database

Below are the four sections of the main GHO page and the information they offer:

**The header** has six links: Database, Countries, Metadata, Themes, Help. It also contains the 'Find Indicator' text box.

**The left navigation** generally has links to the data sets included in the GHO. Under the section called Metadata, the left navigation is a list of dimensions or disaggregations for the data in the GHO.

**The page content** contains data tables or metadata codes.

**The footer** has links named after World Health Organization Regional Offices. Each link still leads to the GHO but filters the data for the countries under the particular regional office.

## The Header

The header helps to navigate the main sections of the GHO.

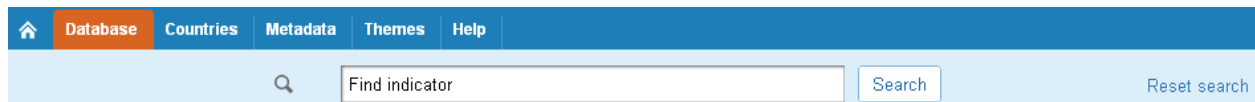


Figure 2: The Header section with the Database section highlighted

### Database

This displays the data by categories of indicators. The left navigation is a list of data sets. The page content displays data tables.

### Countries

This displays data by the WHO Member States. The left navigation is a list of countries. The page content displays all the indicators available for the particular country selected.

### Metadata

This displays the metadata codes associated with the data sets currently in the GHO. This is useful for the units that provide data to the GHO; they can view which codes are appropriate for their data, e.g., Age Groups or Country Codes.

### Themes

This links to the GHO portal which presents maps, graphs and descriptions for each data set that is in the GHO database. These representations help the GHO user interpret the data.

### Help

This downloads a PDF of the file: A Guide to the Global Health Observatory (GHO) database.

### 'Find Indicator' text box

This triggers a text-based query on the indicators in the GHO database.

## The Left Navigation

The appearance of the left navigation depends on which section of the GHO is highlighted, i.e., in white text with an orange background.



Figure 3: Sample left navigation for the Database section

### Database left navigation

This is a list of data sets currently in the GHO. Here are some of the main categories:

Health-related Millennium Development Goals - health indicators associated with poverty and hunger, child mortality, maternal health, environment sustainability, and global partnership for development.

World Health Statistics - health indicators that are updated annually in the World Health Statistics publication <http://www.who.int/whosis/whostat/en/index.html>

Epidemic-prone diseases

Noncommunicable diseases

### Countries left navigation

This is a list of the WHO member states. Each is a link to all the indicators available for that specific country.

### Metadata left navigation

This is a list of metadata codes for data sets in the GHO database. These codes are meant to facilitate a uniform means of data dissemination within the organization. The most commonly used codes are:

Age Group - A list of age groups and codes used by various data sets in the GHO

Country - Official ISO country names and respective 3-letter ISO code.

Gender - or Sex. Codes for Male, Female and Both

Residence area - Codes for Rural, Urban and Total

The SDMX-HD codes relevant to the GHO database will soon be available from this portal.

## The Page Content Section

This central area where the data is found does not only offer a table of numbers. It contains metadata like respective definitions and sources as well. Here is how to extract as much information as available from the page content section.

--- Indicators --- | --- Alternative View --- | --- Filter --- | Export

### Health service coverage, Reproductive healthcare

Location	Time Period	Antenatal care coverage - at least one visit (%) <i>i</i>	Antenatal care coverage - at least four visits (%) <i>i</i>	Births attended by skilled health personnel (%) <i>i</i>	Births by caesarean section (%) <i>i</i>	Contraceptive prevalence (%) <i>i</i>	Unmet need for family planning (%) <i>i</i>
Afghanistan	2003	16.1		14			
	2009	<i>i</i> 97.3	<i>i</i>	<i>i</i>	<i>i</i>	<i>i</i>	
Albania	2006				24.3		
	2005			100			
	2002		41.1				
Algeria	2006	89.4		95			
	2002		41.1				
	1993				4.9		
Andorra	1999				23.7		
Angola	2007	79.8		<i>i</i> 47			
Antigua and Barbuda	2007	100		100			
Argentina	2006	99.2	89	99			
	1996				25.4		
Armenia	2005	93	70.9	98	9		
Australia	2006			<i>i</i> 99	30.8		
	1991	100					
	2006				25.8		

Figure 4: A sample page content section with drop-down menus and notes

Note: Not all the functions mentioned below are available in every view.

### Indicators drop-down menu

This is a list of the indicators on the current page. Selecting an indicator displays the time-series associated with it, i.e., this is how to list all the years of the indicator and not just its latest.

### Alternative view drop-down menu

Displays the values for WHO Regions and/or World Bank Regions for each indicator.

### Filter function

Enables the user to choose the countries and years that they want to display.

### Export function

Downloads the table as an Excel file with exactly the same format as the page view.

## The red **i** link (or More information link)

The red **i** can be found in many locations: in a cell with data, in a row of data, in a cell with the indicator name. Here are the types of information that the **i** might show:

In a data cell - multiple years that a value is valid, a different data source from other values of the same indicator, more info

In a row of data - links to a page that describes the source for a particular set of data

In the cell with the indicator name - describes and defines the indicator, the indicator metadata. It links to the WHO Indicator and Measurement Registry (IMR) which is "a central source of indicator definitions, in text and computer-readable formats." For more information about the IMR and to browse its database:

[http://apps.who.int/gho/indicatorregistry/App\\_Main/browse\\_indicators.aspx](http://apps.who.int/gho/indicatorregistry/App_Main/browse_indicators.aspx)

## The Footer

The footer enables filtering the GHO database for only the countries under the selected WHO Region.



Figure 5: The Footer filters the Database by WHO Region

*Note: This page provides the list of regions designated by the WHO and their respective member states: <http://www.who.int/about/regions/en/index.html>*

## Some links relevant to the GHO Database

The Global Health Observatory Portal

<http://www.who.int/gho/en/>

The Indicator Metadata Registry (IMR)

[http://apps.who.int/gho/indicatorregistry/App\\_Main/browse\\_indicators.aspx](http://apps.who.int/gho/indicatorregistry/App_Main/browse_indicators.aspx)

Other regional health observatories:

Pan American Health Organization (PAHO or AMRO)

[http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=blogcategory&id=2395&Itemid=2523&lang=en](http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=2395&Itemid=2523&lang=en)

The African Health Observatory

<http://www.afro.who.int/en/clusters-a-programmes/ard/african-health-observatory-a-knowledge-management/programme-components/african-health-observatory.html>