

MEDIA BRIEF

2024 WORLD POPULATION DATA SHEET

PRB's [2024 World Population Data Sheet](#) includes a [focus on Primary Health Care](#) and the latest demographic data for more than 200 countries and territories.

About half of the world's population—or roughly 4 billion people—lacks access to good primary health care.

Primary health care can prevent deaths, extend life expectancies, and improve quality of life. But it requires financial investment and collaboration across government, civil society, public institutions, and communities.

Primary health care (PHC) includes:



Comprehensive, integrated health services.



Individuals', families', and communities' participation in the design and oversight of health services.



Policies and **multisectoral** actions that address social, economic, and physical environments influencing people's health.

PHC can help reduce deaths among mothers, newborns, and children. It can also help address the needs of an aging population, including managing age-related illnesses. Yet **many countries don't have sufficient resources to meet their population's basic health needs.**



How can this data inform my reporting?

Consider the **number of health care workers** such as medical doctors, nurses and midwives, and community health workers for every 10,000 people in each of the world's countries and territories where data are available.



- ➔ What are the numbers for your country? How do they compare with other places in your region, and global standards?
- ➔ Are most people able to afford and access care where you live or do inequities exist because of disparities between health services provided by the private sector versus the public sector or in rural areas versus urban areas? Are there differences among types of care providers available across communities (for example, are medical doctors working in all parts of the country)?

Universal health coverage means all people have access to the full range of quality health services they need, when and where they need them, without financial hardship. PHC is considered the most effective and efficient way to achieve this coverage. Look at your country's **Universal Health Care Service Coverage**



Index, which summarizes the average coverage of a set of essential primary health care services and incorporates service capacity and access into a score from 0 (worst) to 100 (best).

- ➔ What is your country's score, and what factors might contribute to it?
- ➔ Is PHC meeting the needs of your country's population? If not, where are the gaps most noticeable?

Examine the data for **health spending per capita** (in USD), including total health spending and PHC-specific spending.



- How does the health budgeting process work in your country? Are health care workers and institutions, medical advisory boards, and civil society included?
- How are health care funds distributed, and are decisionmakers held accountable for implementation of care? Is the amount allocated sufficient to meet existing needs, and how should the amount change based on your country's projected growth and demographic changes?

Review the percentage of people ages 30-79 diagnosed with **hypertension** (high blood pressure) **whose condition is controlled**. Hypertension is one of the leading risk factors for death and disability—including heart attack, stroke, and kidney failure—worldwide.



- What is in place in your area to detect and manage hypertension and other noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), such as cancer and diabetes?
- How is hypertension perceived in your area? What changes might be needed in knowledge, attitudes, and practices in communities and health systems to improve the management of hypertension?

Why is hypertension, or high blood pressure, an important health indicator?

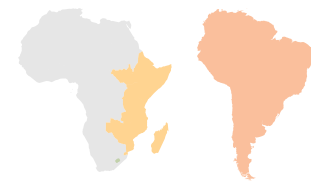
[Hypertension](#) is a deadly and increasingly common health problem. More than 10 million people die avoidably each year due to complications from hypertension, including heart failure and stroke, and many more live with disability from those complications. Hypertension has many costs, including the direct expense of health care, lost wages, the economic impact on caretakers, and the burden on health systems and economies. However, it can be detected and controlled through PHC, which lowers both risk and cost.

What other stories can the Data Sheet reveal?



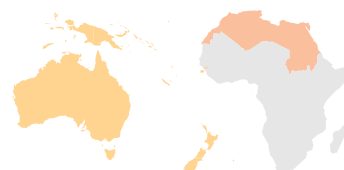
Health spending from all sources per capita (US\$) is \$1,260 for the world and \$74 in India, the most populous nation in the world.

How might low investment in health care across populous nations affect global priorities and change the ability of governments and multilateral organizations to respond to events such as pandemics, migration, and climate change?



The proportion of populations living in urban areas ranges from 31% in Eastern Africa to 85% in South America.

What is your country's rural-urban divide, and how does it affect the availability of housing and jobs, access to health services, and food security?



More people are leaving some countries than entering them: In Oceania, the net migration rate is 14, while in Northern Africa it's -4.

Net migration rate is the number of people entering a country (immigrants) and leaving a country (emigrants) per 1,000 people. A negative net migration rate means more people are leaving.

How are conflict, climate change, and availability of employment affecting migration in your area? What happens to a country's economic potential and ability to care for its residents when its population gains—or loses—people?



Sub-Saharan Africa has the most youthful population: 41% of all people are ages 15 and under.

Data such as total fertility rate (the average number of children per woman), use of and unmet need for family planning, and access to quality care for pregnant women and newborns can paint a picture of a society's social norms and values. What do they show for your country?

WE'RE HERE TO HELP! Contact us with questions about World Population Data Sheet data and sources.

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