

# ABOUT IHME

**The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME)** is an independent global research center at the University of Washington in Seattle, with a mission to measure the world's most pressing health problems and to evaluate the strategies used to address them. At IHME, we believe that better information about health trends and program performance will eventually lead to better decisions on how to improve people's health. The Institute's work is therefore built around answering three critical questions key to understanding the current state of a population's health and what steps are necessary improve it.

1. What are the major health problems?
2. How well is society addressing these problems?
3. How do we best dedicate resources to get the maximum impact in improving population health in the future?

These critical questions provide the framework for IHME's four Research Areas – Measuring Health, Tracking Performance, Maximizing Impact, and Innovative Measurement Systems. Only by looking at all four areas concurrently are we able to piece together a thorough understanding of the world's health and the path to improved health.

**Measuring Health:** To better understand the current state of population health, we measure the extent of disease, injury and death worldwide as well as the risk factors that can cut lives short. Decision-makers must know what is making people sick in order to design appropriate prevention programs or know how to best target the delivery of drugs, vaccines, and other interventions.

**Tracking Performance:** We assess the impact of policies and interventions and overall health system performance to best understand the progress being made in health. We also analyze health financing by studying development assistance for health, government health spending, private health expenditures, and the costs of services, such as hospitals and community health clinics.

**Maximizing Impact:** IHME aims to provide policymakers current and forward-looking information for making choices about policies and funding – especially in countries with scarce resources. We identify challenges to delivering health care and the disparities between different groups in how they receive health care. We also estimate the cost-effectiveness of health programs and analyze the intricacies of policy decision-making, all with a mind toward providing the tools to build a healthier world.

**Innovative Measurement Systems:** To help IHME answer our key questions, we must remove the barriers that prevent a detailed analysis of health trends. We develop new analytical methods and computer software to harness the value from existing health data by correcting for errors, filling in gaps, and building local estimates from national-level numbers. To generate new data, we create new survey techniques and health monitoring systems that can be implemented in an array of settings.

IHME also is dedicated to establishing free and easy access to high quality health data and to providing education and training opportunities for students, researchers, and policymakers.

**History:** IHME was created in 2007 with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the state of Washington. Led by Dr. Christopher J.L. Murray, IHME has attracted a core of talented researchers. Their work has been cited by researchers more than 32,000 times and has helped guide significant national health reforms.

For more information, please visit us at <http://www.healthdata.org>.

