

# 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 Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WHO/WPRO), the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia (WHO/SEARO), the OECD Health Division 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 2022* 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 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 health impact of COVID-19* provides an overview of the direct and indirect health impact of COVID-19. It discussed the direct impact of the pandemic in terms of number of COVID-19 cases, reported deaths and excess mortality. It then discusses the disruptions of health services during the pandemic and reviews how countries responded to the pandemic based on the epidemiological scenario and national capabilities and contexts.

Chapter 3 on *Health status* highlights the variations across countries and territories in life expectancy, neonatal, infant and childhood mortality and major causes of mortality and morbidity, including both communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Chapter 4 on *Determinants of health* focuses on determinants of health. It features the health of mothers and babies, through family planning issues, low birthweight and breastfeeding. It also includes lifestyle and behavioural indicators such as smoking and underweight and overweight, as well as water and sanitation.

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.

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.

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 seventh edition of *Health at a Glance: Asia/Pacific*, 27 regional 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, Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Macau (China), Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam) and five in the Pacific region (Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands).

We follow OECD guidelines concerning the names of countries and territories, and those guidelines may differ from those of the WHO.

## 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 Offices for the Western Pacific and South-East Asia, as well as special country population surveys collecting demographic and health information.

The indicators are presented in the form of easy-to-read figures and explanatory narratives. Each of the topics covered in this publication is presented over two or three pages. The first page (s) defines the indicator and notes any methodological or contextual concerns which might affect data comparability. It also provides brief commentary highlighting the key findings from the data analyses. On the facing page is a set of figures. These typically show the latest levels of the indicator across countries and, where possible, trends over time. When appropriate, an additional figure describing the relationship between two comparable indicators variable is included.

The cut-off date for all the data reported in this publication was Friday 21 October 2022.

## 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 2021.

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 territories, and *Asia Pacific-LM/L* refers to the unweighted average for lower-middle and low-income reporting countries and territories.

“OECD” refers to the unweighted average for the 38 OECD member countries. It includes Australia, Japan, New Zealand and Korea. Data for OECD countries are generally extracted from OECD sources, unless stated otherwise. For some indicators where data is not available for all 38 OECD countries, averages were calculated based on information available and are denoted in figures using OECDXX, where XX represents the number of OECD countries included in the average.

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, GNI per capita and classification by income level

Country/territory name	Country/territory short name (used hereafter)	ISO code	GNI per capita in international \$ (2020)	World Bank classification by income level	Classification used in this report
Australia	Australia	AUS	52 230	High	H
Bangladesh	Bangladesh	BGD	6 240	Lower-middle	LM/L
Brunei Darussalam	Brunei Darussalam	BRN	67 580	High	H
Cambodia	Cambodia	KHM	4 250	Lower-middle	LM/L
People's Republic of China	China	CHN	17 070	Upper-middle	UM
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	DPRK	PRK		Low	LM/L
Fiji	Fiji	FJI	11 420	Upper-middle	UM
Hong Kong (China)	Hong Kong (China)	HKG	62 420	High	H
India	India	IND	6 440	Lower-middle	LM/L
Indonesia	Indonesia	IDN	11 750	Lower-middle	LM/L
Japan	Japan	JPN	43 630	High	H
Korea	Korea	KOR	45 570	High	H
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Lao PDR	LAO	7 750	Lower-middle	LM/L
Macau (China)	Macau (China)	MAC	72 260	High	H
Malaysia	Malaysia	MYS	27 360	Upper-middle	UM
Mongolia	Mongolia	MNG	11 200	Lower-middle	LM/L
Myanmar	Myanmar	MMR	4 960	Lower-middle	LM/L
Nepal	Nepal	NPL	4 040	Lower-middle	LM/L
New Zealand	New Zealand	NZL	43 890	High	H
Pakistan	Pakistan	PAK	5 330	Lower-middle	LM/L
Papua New Guinea	Papua New Guinea	PNG	4 240	Lower-middle	LM/L
Philippines	Philippines	PHL	9 030	Lower-middle	LM/L
Singapore	Singapore	SGP	86 340	High	H
Solomon Islands	Solomon Islands	SLB	2 680	Lower-middle	LM/L
Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	LKA	12 850	Lower-middle	LM/L
Thailand	Thailand	THA	17 780	Upper-middle	UM
Viet Nam	Viet Nam	VNM	10 410	Lower-middle	LM/L



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