



Collation of measures and indicators

Indicator: Hospitals per 100000 population

RICHE Code 369

Originating project – WHO EURO HFA database

Operational definition

Hospitals per 100000 population

Background

This indicator is used in the World Health Organisation Health for all Database <http://data.euro.who.int/hfad/>. The database is WHO/Europe's prime data source for international comparisons. It contains a set of more than 600 items covering 53 member states, dating from 1970. Indicators for adults as well as for children are contained within the database.

Technical criteria

A hospital is a residential establishment equipped with inpatient facilities for 24-hour medical and nursing care, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of the sick and injured, usually for both medical and surgical conditions, and staffed with professionally trained medical practitioners, including at least one physician. The hospital may, but does not need to, also provide services on an outpatient basis. The number of hospitals includes: general, specialized, acute care and long-stay hospitals. The number of hospitals excludes: balneological institutes, health resorts, sanatoria, nursing homes for the physically and mentally disabled, homes for the elderly (i.e. establishments providing principally custodial care), day centres, day hospitals. Variations in interpreting the meaning of nursing home' are a major source of differences between countries in the content of data on hospitals. Whenever possible, it is recommended to make a distinction between institutions providing principally nursing care ('nursing hospitals') and those providing principally custodial care (nursing homes). In the former case the establishment should be counted as a hospital, while in the latter case it should not.

Joint definition used by WHO, OECD and EUROSTAT given below is in use for following counties: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and United Kingdom.

Hospitals

- Hospitals comprise licensed establishments primarily engaged in providing medical, diagnostic, and treatment services that include physician, nursing, and other health services to in-patients and the specialised accommodation services required by in-patients. Hospitals may also provide out-patient services as a secondary activity. Hospitals provide in-patient health services, many of which can only be provided using the specialised facilities and equipment that form a significant and integral part of the production process. In some countries, health facilities need in addition a minimum size (such as number of beds) in order to be registered as a hospital. (SHA 1.0 manual)

Inclusion

- General hospitals
- Mental health and substance abuse hospitals
- Speciality (other than mental health and substance abuse) hospitals.

Data sources

World Health Organisation <http://data.euro.who.int/hfad/>.

Data availability

Available from WHO Health for All Database <http://data.euro.who.int/hfad/>

References

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