

The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) is an independent global health research center at the University of Washington that provides rigorous and comparable measurement of the world's most important health problems and evaluates the strategies used to address them. IHME makes this information freely available so that policymakers have the evidence they need to make informed decisions about how to allocate resources to best improve population health.

1. What are the world's major health problems?
2. How well is society addressing these problems?
3. How do we best dedicate resources to maximize health improvement?

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: We provide rigorous, comparable, and current scientific measurement of trends in diseases, injuries, risk factors, and death, analyzing data across countries and over time. Decision-makers need to know what is making people sick in order to design prevention programs and target the delivery of drugs, vaccines, and other interventions.

Tracking Performance: IHME tracks and assesses the impact of policies and interventions as well as overall health system performance to 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 health service costs.

Maximizing Impact: We provide decision-makers with timely, comparable, and forward-looking information to inform choices about policies and funding. We measure health disparities and identify challenges to delivering health care. We also estimate the cost-effectiveness of health programs and analyze constraints on scaling up interventions.

Innovative Measurement Systems: We develop analytical methods and computer software to improve detailed analysis of health trends. The new approaches allow us to better correct for errors, fill in gaps in the data, and produce local estimates of health indicators. We also create new surveys, survey techniques, and information systems adaptable to many settings. IHME 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.healthmetricsandevaluation.org/>