

Global burden of disease

In the year 2021, after more than a year of the COVID-19 pandemic, every child knows that disease burden is a global issue. Starting in 1990, the Global Burden of Disease study reviews systematically available data on prevalence of communicable and non-communicable diseases across the world to estimate the global burden of disease. At the same time, it investigates the burden of (occupational, environmental, behavioural and metabolic) risk factors for these diseases. It helps e.g., governments and NGOs to allocate resources and evaluate the effects of prevention strategies. However, its methodology also has been criticised.

At the end of this session, participants will be able to

- explain the Global Burden of Disease study to their colleagues
- define DALYs
- list top ten causes of DALYs by age group and region
- mention major risk factors for the global burden of disease
- critically reflect the strengths and limitations of the Global Burden of Disease study