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## Original Investigation



# Global, Regional, and National Cancer Incidence, Mortality, Years of Life Lost, Years Lived With Disability, and Disability-Adjusted Life-Years for 29 Cancer Groups, 1990 to 2017

## A Systematic Analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study

Global Burden of Disease Cancer Collaboration

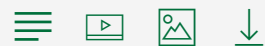


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## Key Points

**Question** What is the cancer burden over time at the global and national levels, measured in incidence, mortality, years lived with disability, years of life lost, and disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs), and how does it compare with other diseases?

**Findings** Results of this systematic analysis show that in 2017 there were 24.5 million incident cases (16.8 million without nonmelanoma skin cancer), 9.6 million deaths, and 233.5 million DALYs due to cancer; between 2007 and 2017, incident cases increased by 33%, with the lowest increase in the most developed countries, and between 1990 and 2017 neoplasms increased among the top causes of DALYs from the sixth to the second place. Fifty-one percent of cancer cases occurred in countries of high Socio-demographic Index, but only 30% of cancer deaths and 24% of cancer DALYs.

**Meaning** To ensure sustainable global development, increased efforts are needed in cancer prevention and in ensuring universal access to cancer care.

## Abstract



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**Importance** Cancer and other noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) are now widely recognized as a threat to global development. The latest United Nations high-level meeting on NCDs reaffirmed this observation and also highlighted the slow progress in meeting the 2011 Political Declaration on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases and the third Sustainable Development Goal. Lack of situational analyses, priority setting, and budgeting have been identified as major obstacles in achieving these goals. All of these have in common that they require information on the local cancer epidemiology. The Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study is uniquely poised to provide these crucial data.

**Objective** To describe cancer burden for 29 cancer groups in 195 countries from 1990 through 2017 to provide data needed for cancer control planning.

**Evidence Review** We used the GBD study estimation methods to describe cancer incidence, mortality, years lived with disability, years of life lost, and disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs). Results are presented at the national level as well as by Socio-demographic Index (SDI), a composite indicator of income, educational attainment, and total fertility rate. We also analyzed the influence of the epidemiological vs the demographic transition on cancer incidence.

**Findings** In 2017, there were 24.5 million incident cancer cases worldwide (16.8 million without nonmelanoma skin cancer [NMSC]) and 9.6 million cancer deaths. The majority of cancer DALYs came from years of life lost (97%), and only 3% came from years lived with disability. The odds of developing cancer were the lowest in the low SDI quintile (1 in 7) and the highest in the high SDI quintile (1 in 2) for both sexes. In 2017, the most common incident cancers in men were NMSC (4.3 million incident cases); tracheal, bronchus, and lung (TBL) cancer (1.5 million incident cases); and prostate cancer (1.3 million incident cases). The most common causes of cancer deaths and DALYs for men were TBL cancer (1.3 million deaths and 28.4 million DALYs), liver cancer (572 000 deaths and 15.2 million DALYs), and stomach cancer (542 000 deaths and 12.2 million DALYs). For women in 2017, the most common incident cancers were NMSC (3.3 million incident cases), breast cancer (1.9 million incident cases), and colorectal cancer (819 000 incident cases). The leading causes of cancer deaths and DALYs for women were breast cancer (601 000 deaths and 17.4 million DALYs), TBL cancer (596 000 deaths and 12.6 million DALYs), and colorectal cancer (414 000 deaths and 8.3 million DALYs).

**Conclusions and Relevance** The national epidemiological profiles of cancer burden in the GBD study show large heterogeneities, which are a reflection of different exposures to risk factors, economic settings, lifestyles, and access to care and screening. The GBD study can be used by policy makers and other stakeholders to develop and improve national and local cancer control in order to achieve the global targets and improve equity in cancer care.

## Introduction

Cancer is now widely recognized as a global problem that unfortunately lacks a global solution. The latest United Nations high-level meeting on noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) exemplified this conundrum.<sup>1</sup> Despite global commitment to reducing the risk of and disability from NCDs, including cancer, implementation of known solutions is inadequate to reach the 2011 Political Declaration on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases<sup>2,3</sup> (25% reduction in premature mortality from NCDs by 2025) and the third Sustainable Development Goal (by 2030 reduce by one-third premature mortality from NCDs through prevention and treatment, and



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recent review showed that only 29% of low-income countries had a NCCP, and even if NCCPs existed, cost, financing, monitoring, and expansion of information systems was often inadequate. Many highly effective prevention and treatment strategies exist for cancer. However, they are often very specific (eg, vaccination for human papillomavirus and hepatitis B virus for prevention of cervical and liver cancer, or tyrosine kinase inhibitors for cancers with targetable mutations). Effective NCCPs therefore require detailed knowledge about the local burden of cancer and associated risk factors. We herein present results from the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) 2017 study describing cancer incidence, mortality, years of life lost (YLLs), years lived with disability (YLDs), and disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs) for 195 countries from 1990 through 2017, which can inform cancer control through policy, resource allocation, and health system planning.

## Methods

Methods have remained similar to the GBD 2016 study.<sup>5</sup> Detailed descriptions of the methods can be found in the GBD 2017 publications<sup>6-9</sup> as well as in the eAppendix, eFigures, and eTables in the **Supplement**. For each GBD study, the entire time series is re-estimated. This study therefore supersedes prior GBD iterations. The GBD study is compliant with the Guidelines for Accurate and Transparent Health Estimates Reporting statement (eTable 1 in the **Supplement**). Compared with the prior GBD study (GBD 2016), the neoplasms category for GBD 2017 also includes benign and in situ neoplasms (*International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision [ICD-10]* codes D00-D49). Because disability associated with benign neoplasms is most often very small, we only estimated disability for the new cause: myelodysplastic, myeloproliferative, and other hematopoietic neoplasms. The terms *malignant neoplasms* or *cancer* in this article only include *ICD-10* codes C00 through C96. Other changes since GBD 2016 are the addition of new data sources (eTable 3 in the **Supplement**) for GBD 2017 and improvements in the way we estimated cancer survival by using the mortality-to-incidence ratio (MIR). In this study, estimates are presented for 29 cancer categories and 195 countries and territories. Estimates for benign neoplasms as well as selected subnational estimates are available online (<https://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare/> and <http://ghdx.healthdata.org/gbd-results-tool>). All rates are reported per 100 000 person-years. The GBD world population standard was used for the calculation of age-standardized rates.<sup>9</sup> We report 95% uncertainty intervals for all estimates.

## Estimation Framework

The GBD cancer estimation process starts with mortality. Mortality estimates are made based on vital registration system (83% of data), cancer registry (16% of data) (eTable 3 in the **Supplement**), and verbal autopsy data (1% of data) using an ensemble model approach.<sup>9,10</sup> Predictive covariates used in the model can be found in the eAppendix (eTable 8 in the **Supplement**). Single-cause mortality estimates are scaled into the separately estimated all-cause estimate.<sup>9</sup> To estimate cancer incidence, mortality estimates are divided by a separately estimated MIR for each cancer type, sex, 5-year age group, location, and year; additional information regarding incidence and MIR estimation can be found in the eAppendix and eFigure 2 in the **Supplement**. Data sources used for estimating MIRs are described in eTable 2 in the **Supplement**. MIRs allow for a uniform method to estimate incidence. Other cancer estimation frameworks<sup>11,12</sup> have set a precedent for using MIRs for decades and have detailed its benefits, including greater representativeness, especially in settings that lack quality or complete population-based cancer registry systems. By determining incidence using mortality, we are able to account for uncaptured incident cases and, if mortality and incidence are determined correctly, estimating incidence based on MIRs should result in the similar results if using incidence directly. The correlation between survival data and the



is multiplied by a disability weight to estimate YLDs. Lifetime prevalence of procedure-related disability is estimated for larynx, breast, colorectal, bladder, and prostate cancers. A standard life expectancy is used to estimate years of life lost (YLLs).<sup>9</sup> DALYs are the sum of YLDs and YLLs. To determine the contribution of population aging, population growth, and change in age-specific rates on the change in incident cases between 2007 and 2017, we use hypothetical demographic scenarios holding 2 of these 3 components constant. Results are stratified by quintiles of Socio-demographic Index (SDI), which is a composite indicator including fertility, education, and income.<sup>7</sup>

## Results

### Global Incidence, Mortality, and DALYs

In 2017, there were 24.5 million (95% UI, 22.0-27.4 million) incident cancer cases worldwide and 9.6 million (95% UI, 9.4-9.7 million) cancer deaths (**Table**). Cancer caused 233.5 million (95% UI, 228.8-238.0 million) DALYs in 2017, of which 97% came from YLLs and 3% came from YLDs (eTable 15 and eFigure 4 in the **Supplement**). Globally, the odds of developing cancer during a lifetime (ages 0-79 years) were 1 in 3 for men and 1 in 4 for women (eTable 16 in the **Supplement**). These odds differ substantially among SDI quintiles, ranging from 1 in 7 at the lowest SDI quintile to 1 in 2 at the highest SDI quintile for both sexes. In 2017, skin; tracheal, bronchus, and lung (TBL); and prostate cancers were the most common incident cancers in men, accounting for 54% of all cancer cases. The most common causes of cancer deaths and DALYs for men were TBL, liver, and stomach cancers (**Table**). For women in 2017, the most common incident cancers were nonmelanoma skin cancer (NMSC), breast cancer, and colorectal cancer, accounting for 54% of all incident cases. The leading causes of cancer deaths and DALYs for women were breast, TBL, and colorectal cancers.




**Table. 2017 Global Incidence and Deaths for All Cancers and 29 Cancer Groups<sup>a</sup>**

 [2017 Global Incidence and Deaths for All Cancers and 29 Cancer Groups<sup>a</sup>](#)

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Between 2007 and 2017, the average annual age-standardized incidence rates (ASIRs) for all cancers combined increased in 123 of 195 countries (**Figure 1** and eFigure 5 in the **Supplement**). In contrast, the average annual age-standardized death rates for all cancers combined decreased within that timeframe in 145 of 195 countries (**Figure 2** and eFigure 6 in the **Supplement**). Incident cases for both sexes combined increased in all SDI quintiles between 2007 and 2017 for nearly all cancers (eTable 14 in the **Supplement**). The largest increase in cancer incident cases between 2007 and 2017 occurred in middle SDI countries, with a 52% increase, of which changing age structure contributed 24%, population growth 10%, and changing age-specific incidence rates 18%. The drivers behind increasing cancer incidence differ substantially by SDI. Whereas in the lowest SDI quintile, population growth is the major contributor to the increase in total cancer incidence, in low-middle SDI countries aging and changes in incidence rates contribute equally (each 12%), and in high-middle and high SDI countries, increased incidence is mainly driven by population aging (eTable 14 in the **Supplement**).

## Figure 1. Average Annual Percentage Change in Age-Standardized Incidence Rate in Both Sexes for All Cancers From 2007 to 2017


 Average Annual Percentage Change in Age-Standardized Incidence Rate in Both Sexes for All Cancers From 2007 to 2017

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ATG indicates Antigua and Barbuda; BRB, Barbados; COM, Comoros; DMA, Dominica; E Med., Eastern Mediterranean; FJI, Fiji; FSM, Federated States of Micronesia; GRD, Grenada; KIR, Kiribati; LCA, Saint Lucia; MDV, Maldives; MLT, Malta; MUS, Mauritius; MHL, Marshall Islands; SGP, Singapore; SLB, Solomon Islands; SYC, Seychelles; TLS, Timor-Leste; TON, Tonga; TTO, Trinidad and Tobago; VCT, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; VUT, Vanuatu; W Africa, West Africa; WSM, Samoa.



## Figure 2. Average Annual Percentage Change in Age-Standardized Mortality Rate in Both Sexes for All Cancers From 2007 to 2017

 Average Annual Percentage Change in Age-Standardized Mortality Rate in Both Sexes for All Cancers From 2007 to 2017

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ATG indicates Antigua and Barbuda; BRB, Barbados; COM, Comoros; DMA, Dominica; E Med., Eastern Mediterranean; FJI, Fiji; FSM, Federated States of Micronesia; GRD, Grenada; KIR, Kiribati; LCA, Saint Lucia; MDV, Maldives; MLT, Malta; MUS, Mauritius; MHL, Marshall Islands; SGP, Singapore; SLB, Solomon Islands; SYC, Seychelles; TLS, Timor-Leste; TON, Tonga; TTO, Trinidad and Tobago; VCT, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; VUT, Vanuatu; W Africa, West Africa; WSM, Samoa.

## Global Top 10 Cancers in 2017

The global top 10 cancers were ranked by the highest number of incident cases, excluding “other malignant neoplasms.”

### 1. Nonmelanoma Skin Cancer

In 2017, there were 7.7 million (95% UI, 5.3-10.6 million) incident cases of NMSC, of which 5.9 million (95% UI, 3.7-8.7 million) were due to basal cell carcinoma and 1.8 million (95% UI, 1.1-2.6 million) due to squamous cell carcinoma. There were 65 000 (95% UI, 63 000-66 000) deaths due to NMSC (**Table**) and 1.3 million (95% UI, 1.3-1.4 million) DALYs, of which 97% came from YLLs (**Figure 3**) and 3% from YLDs (eTable 15 and eFigure 4 in the **Supplement**). Over a lifetime, the odds of developing NMSC were 1 in 7 for men and 1 in 10 for women globally. For men, the odds ranged from 1 in 71 in low SDI countries to 1 in 2 in high SDI countries, and for women from 1 in 104 in low SDI countries to 1 in 4 in high SDI countries (eTable 16 in the **Supplement**). An aging and growing population has led to a 33% (95% UI, 29%-36%) increase in NMSC cancer cases, from 5.8 million (95% UI, 4.1-7.8 million) in 2007 to 7.7 million (95% UI, 5.3-10.6 million) in 2017. The majority of this increase (20%) can be attributed to a change in the population age structure, and 13% can be attributed to population growth (eTable 14 and eFigure 11 in the **Supplement**).

## Figure 3. Cancers Ranked by Absolute Years of Life Lost (YLLs) Among Both Sexes Between 2007 and 2017<sup>a</sup>

 Cancers Ranked by Absolute Years of Life Lost (YLLs) Among Both Sexes Between 2007 and 2017<sup>a</sup>

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UI indicates uncertainty interval.

<sup>a</sup>Excluding other cancer.

### 2. Tracheal, Bronchus, and Lung Cancer

In 2017, there were 2.2 million (95% UI, 2.1-2.2 million) incident cases of TBL cancer and 1.9 million (95% UI, 1.8-1.9 million) deaths. Tracheal, bronchus, and lung cancer caused 40.9 million (95% UI, 40.0-41.9 million) DALYs in 2017, of which 99% came from YLLs and 1% from YLDs (eTable 15 and eFigure 4 in the [Supplement](#)). Men were more likely to develop TBL cancer over a lifetime than women (1 in 17 men vs 1 in 43 women) (eTable 16 in the [Supplement](#)). The odds were the highest in high-middle SDI countries for men (1 in 13) and in high SDI countries for women (1 in 28). In low SDI countries, the odds were the lowest (1 in 45 for men and 1 in 142 for women). Tracheal, bronchus, and lung cancer was the leading cause of cancer in high-middle SDI countries (eFigure 5 in the [Supplement](#)). It was the most common cause of cancer deaths by absolute cases globally, as well as in all SDI quintiles (eFigure 6 in the [Supplement](#)). For men, TBL cancer was the most common incident cancer in 48 countries and the most common cause for cancer deaths in 110 countries (eFigures 7 and 9 in the [Supplement](#)). For women, TBL cancer was the most common incident cancer in Greenland and the most common cause of cancer deaths in 22 countries (eFigures 8 and 10 in the [Supplement](#)). Between 2007 and 2017, TBL cancer cases increased by 37% (95% UI, 33%-40%). Changing age structure contributed 19%, population growth 13%, and changes in age-specific incidence rates 5% (eTable 14 and eFigure 11 in the [Supplement](#)). The ASIRs between 1990 and 2017 show diverging results between men and women globally and in high SDI countries, with ASIRs decreasing in men but increasing in women (eFigure 12 in the [Supplement](#)). In high-middle SDI countries, ASIRs remained stable for men but increased for women, whereas rates increased for both sexes in middle SDI countries (eFigures 13 and 14 in the [Supplement](#)).

### 3. Breast Cancer

Breast cancer was the third most common incident cancer overall with an estimated 2.0 million (95% UI, 1.9-2.0 million) incident cases in 2017. The majority occurred in women (1.9 million [95% UI, 1.9 -2.0 million]) ([Table](#)). Breast cancer was among the top 3 leading causes of cancer in all SDI quintiles except for the high and high-middle SDI quintiles, where it was the fourth most common cancer (eFigure 5 in the [Supplement](#)). It caused 601 000 (95% UI, 579 000-630 000) deaths in women and 11 000 (95% UI, 10 000-11 000) deaths in men, making it the fifth leading cause of cancer deaths for both sexes combined in 2017 globally (eFigure 6 in the [Supplement](#)). For women, breast cancer was the leading cause of cancer death in 2017 ([Table](#)). Breast cancer caused 17.7 million (95% UI, 16.9-18.7 million) DALYs for both sexes, of which 93% came from YLLs and 7% from YLDs (eTable 15 and eFigure 4 in the [Supplement](#)). Globally, 1 in 18 women developed breast cancer over a lifetime (eTable 16 in the [Supplement](#)). For women, the odds of developing breast cancer were the highest in high SDI

**Supplement**). Overall, incident cases increased by 35% (95% UI, 30%-39%) because of a change in the population age structure (contributing 15%), population growth (contributing 13%), and an increase in age-specific incidence rates (contributing 7%) (eFigure 11 in the **Supplement**). Between 2007 and 2017, ASIRs for women decreased in high SDI countries but increased in the other SDI quintiles (eFigures 12-16 in the **Supplement**).

#### 4. Colon and Rectum Cancer

In 2017, there were 1.8 million (95% UI, 1.8-1.9 million) incident cases of colon and rectum cancer, and 896 000 (95% UI, 876 000-916 000) deaths (**Table**). Colon and rectum cancer caused 19.0 million (95% UI, 18.5-19.5 million) DALYs in 2017, of which 95% came from YLLs and 5% from YLDs (eTable 15 and eFigure 4 in the **Supplement**). The odds of developing colon and rectum cancer globally were higher for men than for women (1 in 26 for men vs 1 in 40 for women) (eTable 16 in the **Supplement**). The highest odds were in the high SDI quintile (1 in 15 for men and 1 in 25 for women) and the lowest in the low SDI quintile (1 in 81 for men and 1 in 98 for women). Between 2007 and 2017, incidence increased by 38% (95% UI, 34%-41%), from 1.3 million (95% UI, 1.3-1.3 million) to 1.8 million (95% UI, 1.8-1.9 million) cases (eTable 14 in the **Supplement**). Most of this increase can be explained by an aging and growing population (20% and 13%, respectively); however, even with the same population size and age structure, colorectal cancer cases would have increased by 5% between 2007 and 2017 owing to changing age-specific incidence rates. The ASIRs between 1990 and 2017 are similar for men and women at the global level and for all SDI quintiles (eFigures 12-16 in the **Supplement**).

#### 5. Prostate Cancer

In 2017, there were 1.3 million (95% UI, 1.2-1.7 million) incident cases of prostate cancer and 416 000 (95% UI, 357 000-490 000) deaths. Prostate cancer caused 7.1 million (95% UI, 6.1 million-8.4 million) DALYs globally in 2017, with 88% coming from YLLs and 12% from YLDs (eTable 15 and eFigure 4 in the **Supplement**). Globally, the odds of developing prostate cancer were 1 in 18, ranging from 1 in 52 for low SDI countries to 1 in 9 in high SDI countries (eTable 16 in the **Supplement**). In 2017, prostate cancer was the cancer with the highest incidence for men in 114 countries and the leading cause of cancer-related deaths for men in 56 countries (eFigures 7 and 9 in the **Supplement**). The increasing incidence rates, together with an aging and growing population, have led to a 42% (95% UI, 37%-52%) increase in prostate cancer cases since 2007 (940 000 [95% UI, 774 000-1.2 million] in 2007 and 1.3 million [95% UI, 1.2-1.7 million] in 2017). Twenty-one percent of this increase can be attributed to a change in the population age structure, 13% to a change in the population size, and 8% to a change in the age-specific incidence rates (eTable 14 and eFigure 11 in the **Supplement**).

#### 6. Stomach Cancer

In 2017, there were 1.2 million (95% UI, 1.2-1.3 million) incident cases of stomach cancer and 865 000 (95% UI, 848 000-885 000) deaths worldwide. Stomach cancer caused 19.1 million (95% UI, 18.7-19.6 million) DALYs in 2017, with 98% coming from YLLs and 2% coming from YLDs (eTable 15 and eFigure 4 in the **Supplement**). One in 33 men and 1 in 78 women developed stomach cancer over a lifetime. The highest odds for men and women were in high-middle SDI countries (1 in 21 and 1 in 57, respectively), and the lowest odds were for men in low SDI countries (1 in 78) and for women in low-middle SDI countries (1 in 104) (eTable 16 in the **Supplement**). Between 2007 and 2017, stomach cancer moved from the second leading cause of crude cancer YLLs to the third place with a 5% (95% UI, 2%-7%) increase in absolute YLLs (**Figure 3**). Overall, incidence between 2007 and 2017 increased by 25% (95% UI, 22%-29%), of which a change in the population age structure contributed 19%, population

## 7. Liver Cancer

In 2017, there were 953 000 (95% UI, 917 000-997 000) incident cases of liver cancer globally and 819 000 (95% UI, 790 000-856 000) deaths. Liver cancer caused 20.8 million (95% UI, 19.9-21.8 million) DALYs in 2017, with 99% coming from YLLs and 1% coming from YLDs (eTable 15 and eFigure 4 in the [Supplement](#)). Globally, liver cancer was more common in men, with 1 in 42 men developing liver cancer compared with 1 in 118 women. The highest odds of developing liver cancer were in high-middle SDI countries for men (1 in 31) and in middle SDI countries for women (1 in 94), whereas the lowest were seen in low SDI countries (1 in 98 men and 1 in 177 women) (eTable 16 in the [Supplement](#)). Population aging and population growth were the drivers of the increase from 705 000 (95% UI, 690 000-734 000) cases in 2007 to 953 000 (95% UI, 917 000-997 000) cases in 2017 (eTable 14 and eFigure 11 in the [Supplement](#)). Of the 35% increase in cases between 2007 and 2017, 17% was due to population aging, 13% due to population growth, and 6% due to an increase in age-specific incidence rates.

## 8. Cervical Cancer

In 2017, 601 000 (95% UI, 554 000-625 000) women developed cervical cancer worldwide, and it caused 260 000 (95% UI, 241 000-269 000) deaths ([Table](#)). Cervical cancer caused 8.1 million (95% UI, 7.5-8.4 million) DALYs, with 96% coming from YLLs and 4% from YLDs (eTable 15 and eFigure 4 in the [Supplement](#)). Globally, 1 in 65 women developed cervical cancer during a lifetime (eTable 16 in the [Supplement](#)). The odds were the highest in low SDI countries (1 in 40) and the lowest in high SDI countries (1 in 106). In 2017, cervical cancer was the most common incident cancer for women in 50 countries (eFigure 8 in the [Supplement](#)) and the most common cause of cancer deaths in 39 countries (eFigure 10 in the [Supplement](#)). Between 2007 and 2017, incident cases increased by 19% (95% UI, 13%-23%) globally. Population growth contributed 13% and population aging 9%, while falling age-specific incidence rates offset this increase by -3% (eFigure 11 and eTable 14 in the [Supplement](#)). Deaths increased by 19% (95% UI, 13%-23%) between 2007 and 2017, and DALYs by 15% (95% UI, 10%-19%). The ASIRs decreased globally and for all SDI quintiles (eFigures 12-16 in the [Supplement](#)).

## 9. Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma

In 2017, there were 488 000 (95% UI, 479 000-497 000) incident cases of non-Hodgkin lymphoma and 249 000 (95% UI, 243 000-253 000) deaths. Non-Hodgkin lymphoma caused 7.0 million (95% UI, 6.8-7.2 million) DALYs in 2017, with 97% coming from YLLs and 3% from YLDs (eTable 15 and eFigure 4 in the [Supplement](#)). Globally, 1 in 108 men and 1 in 162 women developed non-Hodgkin lymphoma over a lifetime. The highest odds were in high SDI countries (1 in 54 for men and 1 in 80 for women) and the lowest in low SDI countries (1 in 221 for men and 1 in 322 for women) (eTable 16 in the [Supplement](#)). Globally, incident cases between 2007 and 2017 increased by 39% (95% UI, 35%-42%), of which 15% was due to changing population age structure, 13% due to population growth, and 11% due to change in incidence rates (eTable 14 and eFigure 11 in the [Supplement](#)).

## 10. Bladder Cancer

In 2017, there were 474 000 (95% UI, 462 000-492 000) incident cases of bladder cancer and 197 000 (95% UI, 192 000-206 000) deaths. Bladder cancer caused 3.6 million (95% UI, 3.5-3.8 million) DALYs in 2017, with 93% coming from YLLs and 7% from YLDs (eTable 15 and eFigure 4 in the [Supplement](#)). Globally, 1 in 74 men and 1 in 301 women developed bladder cancer over a lifetime. The highest odds were in high SDI countries (1 in 42 for men and 1 in 185 for women) and the lowest in low SDI countries (1 in 198 for men and 1 in 489 for women) (eTable 16 in the [Supplement](#)). Globally, incident cases between 2007 and 2017 increased by 32% (95% UI, 30%-35%), of




## Cancer in Comparison to Other Diseases

Within the 22 mutually exclusive and collectively exhaustive GBD level 2 disease categories (eTable 17 in the [Supplement](#)), neoplasms ranked last for incidence in 1990 and 2017 (eTable 18 in the [Supplement](#)). For prevalence, neoplasms ranked last in 1990 but surpassed enteric infections in 2017. The YLDs ranking for neoplasms also increased between 1990 and 2017 from the 21st to the 19th position. Mortality due to neoplasms remained at the second place between 1990 and 2017. The largest increase was seen for neoplasm YLLs and DALYs, which increased from the sixth place in 1990 to the second place in 2017 after cardiovascular diseases ([Figure 4](#)). The 4 causes with higher DALYs in 1990 that had been surpassed by neoplasms in 2017 are respiratory infections and tuberculosis, maternal and neonatal disorders, enteric infections, and other infections.



### Figure 4. Change in the Absolute Number of Disability-Adjusted Life-Years (DALYs) Between 1990 and 2017 for Both Sexes at the Global Level for Global Burden of Disease Level 2 Causes<sup>a</sup>

 [Change in the Absolute Number of Disability-Adjusted Life-Years \(DALYs\) Between 1990 and 2017 for Both Sexes at the Global Level for Global Burden of Disease Level 2 Causes<sup>a</sup>](#)

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The cause neoplasms includes all cancers as defined under *International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)* causes C00 through C96, as well as myelodysplastic, myeloproliferative, and other hematopoietic neoplasms (*ICD-10* codes D45-D47.9).

<sup>a</sup>All diseases are grouped into 22 mutually exclusive and collectively exhaustive causes.

## Discussion

The GBD study results are updated on an annual basis. In this article we focus on changes over the past decade and present the most recent results from the GBD 2017 study using cancer registry, vital registration, and verbal autopsy data to estimate the burden of cancer for 195 countries and territories from 1990 through 2017.<sup>13,14</sup> All results presented can also be found online at <https://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare/> and <http://ghdx.healthdata.org/gbd-results-tool>. For this article, we also compare cancer burden with other diseases.

The GBD 2017 results show that there are 24.5 million incident cancer cases worldwide (16.8 million without NMSC) and 9.6 million deaths, which is similar to the latest GLOBOCAN estimates for 2018 that estimate 17.0 million cases (without NMSC) and 9.4 million deaths.<sup>15</sup>

The largest change in our estimates compared with the last iteration of the GBD study (GBD 2016) are the incidence estimates for NMSC, which have substantially increased. Despite being the most common incident cancer in many populations, cancer registry data to inform incidence estimates are often unreliable or nonexistent. For GBD 2017 we have therefore used MarketScan data for the United States, which has led to substantially higher estimates for NMSC.<sup>16</sup>

second place in the ranking of global deaths, YLLs, and DALYs, and is among the top 2 leading causes of deaths, YLLs, and DALYs in the highest 3 SDI quintiles. This shift in disease burden owing to the demographic and epidemiological transitions has important implications on health policy: ensuring access to universal health coverage and protection against catastrophic health expenditure directly related to the cancer treatment, but also against the long-term costs associated with a cancer diagnosis for a household, has to be prioritized.<sup>17</sup> Fifty percent of cancer cases occur in high SDI countries, but only 30% of cancer deaths, 25% of cancer DALYs, and 23% of cancer YLLs. To ensure sustainable global development, increased efforts are needed to reduce these health inequalities. Recognizing the strong interdependencies between socioeconomic status and health and the large contribution of cancer to the overall disease burden is a first step in making investments in cancer prevention and treatment a priority.<sup>18</sup> Cervical cancer is likely the best example of inequalities in cancer with vast differences in burden by SDI. As a completely preventable cancer where cost-effective vaccination<sup>3</sup> and screening approaches are available, cervical cancer has recently gained global attention through the World Health Organization's call for elimination.<sup>19</sup> Falling incidence rates in all SDI quintiles are encouraging, but countries with the least resources are still facing the largest burden because of lack of screening programs. Immunization against human papillomavirus, screening, and treatment of cervical cancer is therefore of utmost importance in all socioeconomic settings.

Deaths due to cancer contribute the majority of total health loss measured in DALYs, with disability contributing less than 12% for all cancers. As access to cancer care increases and treatments improve, cancer mortality decreases, but prevalence and disability in the survivor population increase, which is already the case in some high-income countries.<sup>20</sup> The World Health Organization Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals focus on the reduction of premature mortality as the first goal. At the same time, infrastructure should be planned that can address the growing survivor population's need.

## Limitations

The most important limitation for the GBD, as for other disease burden estimation, is the lack of data for many locations. A key GBD principle is to take advantage of all relevant data sources. This means for cancer estimation that incidence data from cancer registries, as well as mortality data from vital registration systems or verbal autopsies, is used to produce disease burden estimates. Despite these broad inclusion criteria for different types of data sources, certain locations have neither of these data sources available, and estimates rely either on predictive covariates or trends from neighboring locations. Also, diagnostic accuracy for cause of death data and ascertainment bias in cancer registries remains a limitation, which requires corrections for underregistration and redistribution algorithms for insufficiently specific or implausible diagnostic codes. Because of a lag in data availability, estimates for the most recent years are based on past time trends and covariates rather than data, which is reflected in larger uncertainty. Scarcity of reliable survival data worldwide requires the estimation of survival based on the mortality-to-incidence ratio, which is a surrogate for survival. Because in the majority of deaths due to Kaposi sarcoma the underlying cause of deaths is AIDS, deaths and incidence of Kaposi sarcoma are not estimated in the GBD. Also, common pediatric cancers are not estimated separately in the GBD and are estimated under the aggregated cause "other malignant neoplasms."

## Conclusions

The national epidemiological profiles of cancer burden in the GBD study show large heterogeneities, which are a

can be used by policy makers and other stakeholders to develop and improve local cancer control in order to achieve the global targets and improve equity in cancer care.

## Article Information

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**Corresponding Author:** Christina Fitzmaurice, MD, MPH, Division of Hematology, Department of Medicine, Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, University of Washington, 2301 5th Ave, Ste 600, Seattle, WA 98121 (cf11@uw.edu).

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**The Global Burden of Disease Cancer Collaboration Authors:** The following investigators take authorship responsibility for the study results: Christina Fitzmaurice, MD; Degu Abate, MSc; Naghmeh Abbasi, MSc; Hedayat Abbastabar, PhD; Foad Abd-Allah, MD; Omar Abdel-Rahman, MD; Ahmed Abdelalim, MD; Amir Abdoli, PhD; Ibrahim Abdollahpour, PhD; Abdishakur S. M. Abdulle, PhD; Nebiyu Dereje Abebe, MPH; Haftom Niguse Abraha, MSc; Laith Jamal Abu-Raddad, PhD; Ahmed Abualhasan, MD; Isaac Akinkunmi Adedeji, PhD; Shailesh M. Advani, PhD; Mohsen Afarideh, MD; Mahdi Afshari, MD; Mohammad Aghaali, PhD; Dominic Agius, MD; Sutapa Agrawal, PhD; Ayat Ahmadi, PhD; Elham Ahmadian, PhD; Ehsan Ahmadpour, PhD; Muktar Beshir Ahmed, MPH; Mohammad Esmail Akbari, MD; Tomi Akinyemiju, PhD; Ziyad Al-Aly, MD; Assim M. AlAbdulKader, MD; Fares Alahdab, MD; Tahiya Alam, MPH; Genet Melak Alamene, BS; Birhan Tamene T. Alemnew, MSc; Kefyalew Addis Alene, MPH; Cyrus Alinia, PhD; Vahid Alipour, PhD; Syed Mohamed Aljunid, PhD; Fatemeh Allah Bakeshei, MPH; Majid Abdulrahman Hamad Almadi, FRCPC; Amir Almasi-Hashiani, PhD; Ubai Alsharif, MD; Shirina Alsowaidi, FRCPS; Nelson Alvis-Guzman, PhD; Erfan Amini, MD; Saeed Amini, PhD; Yaw Ampem Amoako, MD; Zohreh Anbari, PhD; Nahla Hamed Anber, PhD; Catalina Liliana Andrei, PhD; Mina Anjomshoa, PhD; Fereshteh Ansari, PhD; Ansariadi Ansariadi, PhD; Seth Christopher Yaw Appiah, MPhil; Morteza Arab-Zozani, PhD; Jalal Arabloo, PhD; Zohreh Arefi, PhD; Olatunde Aremu, PhD; Habtamu Abera Areri, MSc; Al Artaman, PhD; Hamid Asayesh, MSc; Ephrem Tsegay Asfaw, MSc; Alebachew Fasil Ashagre, MSc; Reza Assadi, PhD; Bahar Ataeinia, MD; Hagos Tasew Atalay, MSc; Zerihun Ataro, MSc; Suleman Atique, PhD; Marcel Ausloos, PhD; Leticia Avila-Burgos, PhD; Euripide F. G. A. Avokpaho, MD; Ashish Awasthi, PhD; Nefsu Awoke, MSc; Beatriz Paulina Ayala Quintanilla, PhD; Martin Amogre Ayanore, PhD; Henok Tadesse Ayele, PhD; Ebrahim Babaei, PhD; Umar Bacha, MPhil; Alaa Badawi, PhD; Mojtaba Bagherzadeh, PhD; Eleni Bagli, PhD; Senthilkumar Balakrishnan, PhD; Abbas Balouchi, MSc; Till Winfried Bärnighausen, MD; Robert J. Battista, MBA; Masoud Behzadifar, PhD; Meysam Behzadifar, MS; Bayu Begashaw Bekele, MPH; Yared Belete Belay, MSc; Yaschilal Muche Belayneh, MSc; Kathleen Kim Sachiko Berfield, MD; Adugnaw Berhane, PhD; Eduardo Bernabe, PhD; Mircea Beuran, PhD; Nickhill Bhakta, MD; Kritika Bhattacharyya, MSc; Belete Biadgo, MSc; Ali Bisi, PhD; Muhammed Shabdoat Bin Saoud, MSc; Charles Binyasa, MSc; Catherine Binyasa, MD; Helen Binyasa, MD; ...



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**Affiliations of The Global Burden of Disease Cancer Collaboration Authors:** Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, University of Washington, Seattle, (Fitzmaurice, Alam, Bisignano, Dharmaratne, Force, S. I. Hay, Henry, James, Krohn, Lopez, Mokdad, Nixon, Pennini, Reiner, Vollset, Vos, Murray); Division of Hematology, University of Washington, Seattle (Fitzmaurice); Haramaya University, Harar, Ethiopia (Abate); Department of Clinical Biochemistry, Babol University of Medical Sciences, Babol, Iran (Abbasi, Khalilarjmandi, Mir, Mosapour, Parsian); Iranian Center of Neurological Research, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Abbastabar); Department of Neurology, Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt (Abd-Allah, Abdelalim, Abualhasan, El-Jaafary); Department of Oncology, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada (Abdel-Rahman); Department of Oncology, Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt (Abdel-Rahman); Department of Parasitology and Mycology, Jahrom University of Medical Sciences, Jahrom, Iran (Abdoli); Research Center for Non-communicable Diseases, Jahrom University of Medical Sciences, Jahrom, Iran (Abdoli); Department of Epidemiology, Arak University of Medical Sciences, Arak, Iran (Abdollahpour, Almasi-Hashiani); Multiple Sclerosis Research Center, Tehran, Iran (Abdollahpour); Public Health Research Center, New York University Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates



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Research, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, Doha, Qatar (Abu-Raddad); Department of Sociology, Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago Iwoye, Nigeria (Adedeji); Social Behavioral Research Branch, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland (Advani); Cancer Prevention and Control Program, Georgetown University, Washington, DC (Advani); Endocrinology and Metabolism Research Institute, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Afarideh, Ghajar, Rahim); Zabol University of Medical Sciences, Zabol, Iran (Afshari); Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Qom University of Medical Sciences, Qom, Iran (Aghaali, Mohammadbeigi); Department of Health, Directorate for Health Information and Research, Pieta, Malta (Agius); Public Health Foundation of India, Gurugram, India (Agrawal, Awasthi, Lal, Mathur, Zodpey); Vital Strategies, Gurugram, India (Agrawal); Knowledge Utilization Research Center, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Ahmadi); Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Iran (Ahmadian, Eftekhari); Department of Parasitology and Mycology, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Iran (Ahmadpour); Department of Epidemiology, Jimma University, Jimma, Ethiopia (Ahmed, Gebrehiwot); Cancer Research Center, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Akbari, Khayamzadeh); Department of Population Health Sciences, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina (Akinyemiju); Duke Global Health Institute, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina (Akinyemiju); John T. Milliken Department of Internal Medicine, Washington University in St. Louis, St Louis, Missouri (Al-Aly); Clinical Epidemiology Center, VA Saint Louis Health Care System, Department of Veterans Affairs, St Louis, Missouri (Al-Aly); Department of Family and Community Medicine, Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University, Dammam, Saudi Arabia (AlAbdulKader); Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio (AlAbdulKader); Evidence-Based Practice Research Center, Mayo Clinic Foundation for Medical Education and Research, Rochester, Minnesota (Alahdab); School of Health Sciences, Madda Walabu University, Bale Goba, Ethiopia (Alamene); Department of Health Sciences, Woldia University, Woldia, Ethiopia (Alemnew); Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Parasitology, Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (Alemnew); Institute of Public Health, University of Gondar, Gondar, Ethiopia (Alene, Bekele, Limenih, Melaku, Melku, Mucbe, Tessema); Research School of Population Health, Australian National University, Canberra, Australian Capitol Territory, Australia (Alene); Department of Health Care Management and Economics, Urmia University of Medical Science, Urmia, Iran (Alinia); Health Management and Economics Research Center, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Alipour, Arabloo, Masoud Behzadifar); Department of Health Economics, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Alipour); Department of Health Policy and Management, Kuwait University, Safat, Kuwait (Aljunid); International Centre for Casemix and Clinical Coding, National University of Malaysia, Bandar Tun Razak, Malaysia (Aljunid); Department of Social Medicine, Behbahan Faculty of Medical Sciences, Behbahan, Iran (Bakeshei); Department of Medicine, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (Almadi); Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, McGill University, Montreal, Québec, Canada (Almadi); Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, University Hospital Knappschafts Krankenhaus Bochum, Bochum, Germany (Alsharif); College of Medicine and Health Sciences, United Arab Emirates University, Al-Ain, United Arab Emirates (Alsowaidi); Research Group in Health Economics, Universidad de Cartagena, Cartagena, Colombia (Alvis-Guzman); Research Group in Hospital Management and Health Policies, Universidad de la Costa, Barranquilla, Colombia (Alvis-Guzman); Department of Urology, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (E. Amini); Department of Health Services Management, Arak University of Medical Sciences, Arak, Iran (S. Amini, Anbari); Department of Internal Medicine, Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, Kumasi, Ghana (Amoako); Mansoura University, Mansoura, Egypt (Anber); Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest, Romania (Andrei); Social Determinants of Health Research Center, Rafsanjan University of Medical Sciences, Rafsanjan, Iran (Anjomshoa); Research Center for Evidence Based



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of Sociology and Social Work, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana (Appiah); Center for International Health, Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich, Germany (Appiah); Department of Healthcare Management, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Iran (Arab-Zozani); Department of Health Education and Health Promotion, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Arefi); School of Health Sciences, Birmingham City University, Birmingham, England, United Kingdom (Aremu); School of Nursing and Midwifery, Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (Areri); Department of Community Health Sciences, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada (Artaman); Qom University of Medical Sciences, Qom, Iran (Asayesh); Institute of Biomedical Science, Mekelle University, Mekelle, Ethiopia (Asfaw); Department of Clinical Chemistry, University of Gondar, Gondar, Ethiopia (Ashagre, Biadgo); Education Development Center, Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, Mashhad, Iran (Assadi); Non-communicable Diseases Research Center, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Ataenia, Ebrahimi, Farzadfar, Irvani, Mohebi, Pishgar); College of Nursing, Aksum University, Aksum, Ethiopia (Atalay, Gebremeskel, Weldesamuel); Department of Medical Laboratory Science, Haramaya University, Harar, Ethiopia (Ataro, Weldegebreal); University Institute of Public Health, The University of Lahore, Lahore, Pakistan (Atique); College of Public Health, University of Hail, Hail, Saudi Arabia (Atique); School of Business, University of Leicester, Leicester, England, United Kingdom (Ausloos); Center for Health Systems Research, National Institute of Public Health, Cuernavaca, Mexico (Avila-Burgos, Ortega-Altamirano); Bénin Clinical Research Institute, Abomey-Calavi, Benin (Avokpaho); Contrôle des Maladies Infectieuses, Laboratory of Studies and Research-Action in Health, Porto Novo, Benin (Avokpaho); Indian Institute of Public Health, Gandhinagar, India (Awasthi); Department of Nursing, Wolaita Sodo University, Sodo, Ethiopia (Awoke, Chichiabellu, Demissie, Hanfore, Lake); The Judith Lumley Centre, La Trobe University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia (Ayala Quintanilla); General Office for Research and Technological Transfer, Peruvian National Institute of Health, Lima, Peru (Ayala Quintanilla); Department of Family and Community Health, School of Public Health, University of Health and Allied Sciences, Ho, Ghana (Ayanore, Kugbey); Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Occupational Health, McGill University, Montreal, Québec, Canada (Ayele); Public Health Department, Dilla University, Dilla, Ethiopia (Ayele); Preventive Medicine and Public Health Research Center, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Babae, Moradi-Lakeh, Nojomi, Tehrani-Banihashemi); School of Health Sciences, University of Management and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan (Bacha); Public Health Risk Sciences Division, Public Health Agency of Canada, Toronto, Ontario, Canada (Badawi); Department of Nutritional Sciences, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada (Badawi); Department of Chemistry, Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran (Bagherzadeh, N. Rabiee); Department of Ophthalmology, University Hospital of Ioannina, Ioannina, Greece (Bagli); Institute of Molecular Biology & Biotechnology, Foundation for Research & Technology, Ioannina, Greece (Bagli); Department of Medical Microbiology, Haramaya University, Harar, Ethiopia (Balakrishnan); School of Nursing and Allied Medicine, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Balouchi); Heidelberg Institute of Global Health, Faculty of Medicine and University Hospital, Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany (Bärnighausen); Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts (Bärnighausen, P. C. Gupta); Doctor Evidence, Santa Monica, California (Battista); Social Determinants of Health Research Center, Lorestan University of Medical Sciences, Khorramabad, Iran (Masoud Behzadifar); Lorestan University of Medical Sciences, Khorramabad, Iran (Meysam Behzadifar); Public Health Department, Mizan-Tepi University, Teppi, Ethiopia (Bekele, Hassen); Department of Pharmacoepidemiology and Social Pharmacy, Mekelle University, Mekelle, Ethiopia (Belay); AC Environments Foundation, Cuernavaca, Mexico (Belay); Department of Pharmacy, Wollo University, Dessie, Ethiopia (Belayneh, Geta); Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, University of Washington, Seattle, (Berfield); Dental Institute, King's College London, London, England,



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Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee (Bhakta); Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, National Institute of Biomedical Genomics, Kalyani, India (Bhattacharyya); Social Determinants of Health Research Center, Babol University of Medical Sciences, Babol, Iran (Bijani); National Centre for Epidemiology & Population Health, Australian National University, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, Australia (Bin Sayeed); Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmacology, University of Dhaka, Ramna, Bangladesh (Bin Sayeed); The UCL Centre for Global Health Economics, University College London, London, England, United Kingdom (Birungi); Fast-Track Implementation Department, United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, Gaborone, Botswana (Birungi); School of Pharmacy, Mekelle University, Mekelle, Ethiopia (Bitew, Tsadik, Yimer); Department of Global Public Health and Primary Care, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway (Bjørge); Cancer Registry of Norway, Oslo, Norway (Bjørge); Department of Radiation Medicine, Oregon Health and Science University, Portland (Bleyer); Department of Pediatrics, The University of Texas, Houston (Bleyer); Department of Public Health and Epidemiology, Bahir Dar University, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia (Bogale); School of Pharmacy, College of Medicine and Health Science, Haramaya University, Harar, Ethiopia (Bojia, A. S. Mohammed); Department of Clinical and Molecular Biomedicine, University of Catania, Catania, Italy (Borzi); Department of Oncology, Mario Negri Institute for Pharmacological Research, Milan, Italy (Bosetti); Ministry of Public Health, Beirut, Lebanon (Bou-Orm); Division of Clinical Epidemiology and Aging Research, German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg, Germany (Brenner, Schöttker); Department of Dermatology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota (Brewer); Biomedical Technologies, Bauman Moscow State Technical University, Moscow, Russia (A. N. Briko); Department of Epidemiology and Evidence-Based Medicine, I. M. Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University, Moscow, Russia (N. I. Briko, Lopukhov); Public Health Department, Federal University of Juiz de Fora, Juiz de Fora, Brazil (Bustamante-Teixeira); School of Population and Public Health, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada (Butt, Pourmalek); Al Shifa School of Public Health, Al Shifa Trust Eye Hospital, Rawalpindi, Pakistan (Butt); Institute for Cancer Research, Prevention and Clinical Network, Florence, Italy (Carreras); Department of Medical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden (Carrero); Applied Molecular Biosciences Unit, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal (Carvalho); Institute of Public Health, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal (Carvalho); Department of Epidemiology, Portuguese Oncology Institute of Porto, Porto, Portugal (C. Castro); EpiUnit, Instituto de Saúde Pública, University of Cartagena, Cartagena, Colombia (C. Castro); Department of Research and Health Technology Assessment, Gorgas Memorial Institute for Health Studies, Panama City, Panama (F. Castro); National School of Public Health, Carlos III Health Institute, Madrid, Spain (Catalá-López); Clinical Epidemiology Program, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada (Catalá-López); Mary MacKillop Institute for Health Research, Australian Catholic University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia (Cerin); School of Public Health, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China (Cerin); College of Medicine, Alfaisal University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (Chaiah, M. Temsah, O. Temsah); Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Gondar, Gondar, Ethiopia (Chanie); Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada (Chattu); China Institute, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada (Chattu); Department of Surgical Oncology, Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, India (Chaturvedi); Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, People's College of Medical Sciences and Research Centre, Bhopal, India (Chauhan); Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, Babol University of Medical Sciences, Babol, Iran (Chehrazi); Epidemiology Research Center, Royan Institute, Tehran, Iran (Chehrazi); Clinical Governance, Gold Coast Health, Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia (Chiang); Department of Epidemiology, Human Genetics, and Environmental Sciences, The University of Texas, Houston (Chido-Amajuoyi); Institute of Industrial Ecological Science, University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Kitakyushu, Japan (Chimed-Ochir); Departments of Biochemistry and Biomedical Science, Seoul National University Hospital, Seoul, South Korea



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Immunology, Oslo University Hospital, Oslo, Norway (Chu); Department of Dermatology, 2nd Clinic of Dermatology, Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest, Romania (Constantin); 2nd Department of Dermatology, Colentina Clinical Hospital, Bucharest, Romania (Constantin); UCIBIO/REQUIMTE, Laboratory of Toxicology, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal (Costa); Istituto Scientifico Romagnolo per lo Studio e la Cura dei Tumori (IRST) IRCCS, Meldola, Italy (Crocetti); Division of Plastic Surgery, University of Washington, Seattle (Crowe, Massenburg); Department of Epidemiology, A. C. Camargo Cancer Center, Sao Paulo, Brazil (Curado); Department of Environmental Health, College of Public Health, Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University, Dammam, Saudi Arabia (Dahlawi); Department of Dermatology, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio (Damiani); Pediatric Department, Faculty of Medicine, Tanta University, Tanta, Egypt (Darwish); Toxoplasmosis Research Center, Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences, Sari, Iran (Daryani); Institute for Research and Innovation in Health (i3S), University of Porto, Porto, Portugal (das Neves); Institute of Biomedical Engineering (INEB), University of Porto, Porto, Portugal (das Neves); Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, Bahir Dar University, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia (Demeke); Nursing Department, Woldia University, Woldia, Ethiopia (Demis, Kassaw, Tlaye); Department of Nursing, Jimma University, Jimma, Ethiopia (Demis); School of Pharmacy, Aksum University, Aksum, Ethiopia (Demoz, Kasahun); Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (Demoz); Center for Nutrition and Health Research, National Institute of Public Health, Cuernavaca, Mexico (Denova-Gutiérrez); Department of Immunology, Birjand University of Medical Sciences, Birjand, Iran (Derakhshani); Department of Preventive Medicine, Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (Deribe, Getachew); Division of Cardiology, Atlanta Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Decatur, Georgia (Desai); School of Nutrition, Food Science and Technology, Hawassa University, Hawassa, Ethiopia (Desalegn); Department of Midwifery, Debre Berhan University, Debre Berhan, Ethiopia (Desta, Dinberu); Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Zootechnics, Autonomous University of Sinaloa, Culiacán Rosales, Mexico (Desta, Diaz); Disha Foundation, Gurgaon, India (Dey); Department of Community Medicine, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka (Dharmaratne); Health Research Section, Nepal Health Research Council, Kathmandu, Nepal (Dhimal); Center of Complexity Sciences, National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico (Diaz); Research and Technology, Ministry of Health and Medical Education, Tehran, Iran (Djalalinia); Department of Population and Health, University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana (Doku); Faculty of Social Sciences, Health Sciences, University of Tampere, Tampere, Finland (Doku); Department of Clinical Surgery, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom (Drake); United Nations World Food Programme, New Delhi, India (Dubey); Faculty of Medicine, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia (Dubljanin, Vujcic); College of Health Sciences, Wollega University, Nekemte, Ethiopia (Duken); Mycobacteriology Research Center, Jimma University, Jimma, Ethiopia (Duken); Liver and Pancreaticobiliary Disease Research Center, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Ebrahimi); Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of Newcastle, Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia (Effiong); Department of Basic Sciences, Maragheh University of Medical Sciences, Maragheh, Iran (Eftekhari); Medical Research Institute, Alexandria University, Alexandria, Egypt (El Sayed); Department of Clinical Pathology, Mansoura University, Mansoura, Egypt (M. E. S. Zaki); Department of Public Health Sciences, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden (El-Khatib); Department of Statistics, Debre Markos University, Debre Markos, Ethiopia (Elemineh); Department of Community Medicine, Tripoli University, Tripoli, Libya (Elkout); Department of Health Information, World Health Organization, Tripoli, Libya (Elkout); Department of Neurology, University of Washington, Seattle (Ellenbogen); Department of Surgery, Seattle Children's Hospital, Seattle, Washington (Ellenbogen); Endemic Medicine and Hepatogastroenterology Department, Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt (Elsharkawy); Ophthalmic Epidemiology Research Center, Shahroud



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Ethiopia (Endries); Center of Communicable Disease Control, Ministry of Health and Medical Education, Tehran, Iran (Eshрати); School of Public Health, Arak University of Medical Sciences, Arak, Iran (Eshрати); Department of Non-communicable Diseases, Ministry of Public Health, Dubai, United Arab Emirates (Fadhil); Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Fallah Omrani); Babol University of Medical Sciences, Babol, Iran (Faramarzi); Department of Community Nutrition, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Iran (Farhangi); Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy (Farioli, Violante); Department of Public Health Nutrition, Bahir Dar University, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia (Fentahun); Requite/LAQV, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal (Fernandes, Pereira); Department of Health Education and Behavioral Sciences, Jimma University, Jimma, Ethiopia (Feyissa); Jimma University, Jimma, Ethiopia (Feyissa); Department of Psychiatry, Kaiser Permanente, Fontana, California (Filip); School of Health Sciences, A.T. Still University, Mesa, Arizona (Filip); School of Public Health Medicine, Bielefeld University, Bielefeld, Germany (Fischer); James Cancer Hospital, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio (Fisher); Department of Oncology, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee (Force); Abadan School of Medical Sciences, Abadan, Iran (Foroutan); Department of Chemical Sciences, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal (Freitas); Gene Expression and Regulation Program, Cancer Institute, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Fukumoto); Department of Dermatology, Kobe University, Kobe, Japan (Fukumoto); Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, University of Washington, Seattle (Futran); Department of Environmental Health Science, Mario Negri Institute for Pharmacological Research, Milan, Italy (Gallus); Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy of Fez, University Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdellah, Fez, Morocco (Gankpe); Non-communicable Disease Department, Laboratory of Studies and Research-Action in Health, Porto Novo, Benin (Gankpe); Department of Nursing, Wollega University, Nekemte, Ethiopia (Gayesa); Department of Nursing, Mekelle University, Mekelle, Ethiopia (Gebremeskel); Bahir Dar University, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia (Gedefaw); Haramaya University, Dire Dawa, Ethiopia (Gedefaw); School of Pharmacy, Ambo University, Ambo, Ethiopia (Gelaw); Institute of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Informatics, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Halle, Germany (Getachew); Department of Biostatistics, Mekelle University, Mekelle, Ethiopia (Gezae); Medical Surgical Department, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Iran (Ghafourifard); Department of Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston (Ghajar); Department of Health Services Management, School of Health Management and Information Sciences, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Ghashghaee, Raoofi); Physiology Department, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Gholamian); Medical Department, Islamic Azad University, Rasht, Iran (Gholamian); Unit of Academic Primary Care, University of Warwick, Coventry, England, United Kingdom (Gill); Department of Public Health Medicine, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa (Ginindza, Kuupiel, Mashamba-Thompson, Moodley); University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa (Ginindza); Department of Nursing, A.C.S. Medical College and Hospital, Aksum, Ethiopia (Girmay); Department of Surgery, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, Brazil (Gomez); Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City (Gopalani); Department of Health and Social Affairs, Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, Palikir, Federated States of Micronesia (Gopalani); Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Section, Cancer Prevention and Research Institute, Florence, Italy (Gorini); Postgraduate Program in Epidemiology, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil (Goulart); School of Medicine, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts (Grada); Department of Public Health, Federal University of Juiz de Fora, Juiz de Fora, Brazil (Ribeiro Guerra); School of Dentistry, State University of Montes Claros, Montes Claros, Brazil (Guimaraes); Department of Epidemiology, Healis Sekhsaria Institute for Public Health, Mumbai, India (P. C. Gupta); West Virginia Bureau for Public Health, Charleston (R. Gupta); Department of Health Policy, Management & Leadership, West Virginia



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Mirzaian); Obesity Research Center, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Arvin Haj-Mirzaian); Department of Radiology, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland (Arya Haj-Mirzaian); Department of Family and Community Medicine, Arabian Gulf University, Manama, Bahrain (Hamadeh); School of Health and Environmental Studies, Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University, Dubai, United Arab Emirates (Hamidi); Biomedical Research Networking Center for Mental Health Network, Madrid, Spain (Haro); Research and Development Unit, San Juan de Dios Sanitary Park, Sant Boi de Llobregat, Spain (Haro); School of Nutrition and Food Sciences, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Iran (Hasankhani); Department of Microbiology, Maragheh University of Medical Sciences, Maragheh, Iran (Hasanzadeh); Department of Microbiology, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Hasanzadeh); Unit of Epidemiology and Social Medicine, University Hospital Antwerp, Wilrijk, Belgium (Hassen); International Foundation for Dermatology, London, England, United Kingdom (R. J. Hay); St John's Institute of Dermatology, King's College London, London, England, United Kingdom (R. J. Hay); Department of Health Metrics Sciences, School of Medicine, University of Washington, Seattle (S. I. Hay, Mokdad, Reiner, Sartorius, Vollset, Vos, Murray); Mizan-Tepi University, Teppi, Ethiopia (Henok); Department of Statistics and Econometrics, Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Bucharest, Romania (Herteliu, Ileanu, Pana); Department of Epidemiology, Adigrat University, Adigrat, Ethiopia (Hidru); Center of Excellence in Behavioral Medicine, Nguyen Tat Thanh University, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (Hoang, Vu); The University of Texas at Austin, Austin (Hole); Transdisciplinary Centre for Qualitative Methods, Manipal University, Manipal, India (Hoogar); Department of Pulmonology, Yokohama City University, Kanazawa-ku, Yokohama, Japan (Horita); National Human Genome Research Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland (Horita); Department of Epidemiology and Population Health, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY (Hosgood); Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Hosseini, Mansournia, Yaseri); Department of Computer Engineering, Science and Research Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran (Hosseinzadeh); Department of Computer Science, University of Human Development, Sulaimaniyah, Iraq (Hosseinzadeh); Department of General Surgery, Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest, Romania (M. Hostiu); Department of Internal Medicine, Bucharest Emergency Hospital, Bucharest, Romania (M. Hostiu); Faculty of Dentistry, Department of Legal Medicine and Bioethics, Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest, Romania (S. Hostiu); Department of Clinical Legal Medicine, National Institute of Legal Medicine Mina Minovici, Bucharest, Romania (S. Hostiu); Division of Information and Computing Technology, College of Science and Engineering, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Doha, Qatar (Househ); Qatar Foundation, Doha, Qatar (Househ); Department of Medical Laboratory Science, Arba Minch University, Arba Minch, Ethiopia (Hussen); Center for Health Outcomes & Evaluation, Bucharest, Romania (Ileanu, Pana); Department of Epidemiology, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Kragujevac, Kragujevac, Serbia (Ilic); Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, National Institute for Health Development, Tallinn, Estonia (Innos); Research Institute for Endocrine Sciences, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Irvani); Department of Surgery, Usmanu Danfodiyo University Teaching Hospital, Sokoto, Nigeria (Iseh); Institute for Physical Activity and Nutrition, Deakin University, Burwood, Victoria, Australia (Islam); Sydney Medical School, University of Sydney, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia (Islam); Surveillance and Health Services Research, American Cancer Society, Atlanta, Georgia (Islami); Department of Psychosis, Babol Noshirvani University of Technology, Babol, Iran (Jafari Balalami); Department of Immunology, School of Medicine, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Isfahan, Iran (Jafarinia); Health Education and Health Promotion Department, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Iran (Jahangiry); Faculty of Medicine, Babol University of Medical Sciences, Babol, Iran (Jahani); School of Public Health, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Jahanmehr); Safety Promotion and Injury



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United Kingdom (Javanbakht); Department of Surgery, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond (Jayaraman); Department of Public Health, Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea (Jee); Harvard Medical School, Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts (Jee); Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery, Hamadan University of Medical Sciences, Hamadan, Iran (Jenabi); Department of Community Medicine, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India (Jha); Department of Ophthalmology, Heidelberg University, Mannheim, Germany (Jonas); Beijing Institute of Ophthalmology, Beijing Tongren Hospital, Beijing, China (Jonas); School of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of New South Wales, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia (Jonagaddala, Sitas); NSW Health, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia (Jonagaddala); Health Services Management Training Centre, Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary (Joo); School of Health Sciences, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, India (Jungari); Institute of Family Medicine and Public Health, University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia (Jürisson); Minimally Invasive Surgery Research Center, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Kabir); Department of Biology, Morgan State University, Baltimore, Maryland (Kamangar); Institute for Epidemiology and Social Medicine, University of Münster, Münster, Germany (Karch); Immunogenetics Research Center, Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences, Sari, Iran (Karimi); Department of Neurology, Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences, Sari, Iran (Karimi); Cellular and Molecular Biology Research Center, Babol University of Medical Sciences, Babol, Iran (Karimian); Drug Applied Research Center, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Iran (Karimian, Rahimi, Yousefi); Hematology-Oncology and Stem Cell Transplantation Research Center, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Kasaeian); Hematologic Malignancies Research Center, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Kasaeian); Department of Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacy, Addis Ababa University, Dessie, Ethiopia (B. Kassa); Department of Public Health, Amhara Public Health Institute, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia (Kassaw); School of Health Care Administration, Oklahoma State University, Tulsa (Kaul); Health Care Delivery Sciences, University of Tulsa, Tulsa, Oklahoma (Kaul); ODeL Campus, University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya (Keiyoro); Department of Dermatology, Wolaita Sodo University, Wolaita Sodo, Ethiopia (Kelbore); Department of Public Health, Madda Walabu University, Goba, Ethiopia (Kerbo); School of Public Health, Wolaita Sodo University, Wolaita Sodo, Ethiopia (Kerbo); Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Ramtha, Jordan (Khader); Epidemiology and Biostatistics Department, Health Services Academy, Islamabad, Pakistan (E. A. Khan); Department of Medical Microbiology & Immunology, United Arab Emirates University, Al Ain, United Arab Emirates (G. Khan); Division of Health Policy and Management, Seoul National University, Seoul, South Korea (Khang); Faculty of Health and Wellbeing, Sheffield Hallam University, Sheffield, United Kingdom (Khatab); College of Arts and Sciences, Ohio University, Zanesville (Khatab); Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology Department, National Hepatology and Tropical Research Institute, Cairo, Egypt (Khater); Academy of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Khayamzadeh); Department of Public Health, Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences, Sari, Iran (Khazae-Pool); Health Sciences Research Center, Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences, Sari, Iran (Khazae-Pool, Moosazadeh); Department of Epidemiology, Hamadan University of Medical Sciences, Hamadan, Iran (Khazaei); Department of Public Health, Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (Khoja); Department of Health Policy and Management, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland (Khoja); Student Research Committee, Baqiyatallah University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Khosravi); International Otorhinolaryngology Research Association, Tehran, Iran (Khosravi); Department of Nutrition and Health Science, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana (Khubchandani); Department of Public Health, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences, Kermanshah, Iran (Kianipour); Department of Health Sciences, Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts (D. Kim); School of Medicine, Xiamen University Malaysia, Sepang, Malaysia (Y. J. Kim); Department of Health Management and Health Economics, Kristiania University College, Oslo,



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Department of Health Economics and Social Security, Jagiellonian University Medical College, Krakow, Poland (Kissimova-Skarbek); Neurophysiology Research Center, Hamadan University of Medical Sciences, Hamadan, Iran (Komaki); Brain Engineering Research Center, Institute for Research in Fundamental Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Komaki); Networking Center for Mental Health Network, San Juan de Dios Sanitary Park, Sant Boi de Llobregat, Spain (Koyanagi); Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Studies, Barcelona, Spain (Koyanagi); Department of Public Health, Yüksek İhtisas University, Ankara, Turkey (Bicer); Department of Public Health, Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey (Bicer); Department of Psychology and Health Promotion, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa (Kugbey); Department of Medicine Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts (Kumar); Department of Nursing, St. John of God Hospital, Duayaw Nkwanta, Ghana (Kuupiel); Clinical Medicine and Community Health, A.C.S. Medical College and Hospital, Milan, Italy (La Vecchia); Department of Internal Medicine, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, India (Lad); Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of Gondar, Gondar, Ethiopia (Lakew); Department of Community and Family Medicine, Academy of Medical Science, Baghdad, Iraq (Lami); Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute, Rockville, Maryland (Lan); Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Father Muller Medical College, Mangalore, India (Lasrado); Institute of Clinical Physiology, Italian National Research Council, Pisa, Italy (Lauriola); Barcelona Institute for Global Health, Barcelona, Spain (Lazarus); Asbestos Diseases Research Institute, University of Sydney, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia (Leigh, Takahashi); Department of Public Health, Debre Markos University, Debre Markos, Ethiopia (Leshargie, Wonde); Department of Medical Statistics and Epidemiology, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China (Liao); Alliance for Improving Health Outcomes, Inc, Quezon City, Philippines (Liao); Department of Dentistry, Radboud University, Nijmegen, Netherlands (Listl); Section for Translational Health Economics, Heidelberg University Hospital, Heidelberg, Germany (Listl); University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Queensland, Australia (Lopez); Department of General Surgery, Aintree University Hospital National Health Service Foundation Trust, Liverpool, England, United Kingdom (Lunevicius); Department of Surgery, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, England, United Kingdom (Lunevicius); Department of Pathology, College of Medicine, Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University, Dammam, Saudi Arabia (Madadin); Proteomics and Metabolomics Unit, Children Cancer Hospital, Cairo, Egypt (Magdeldin); Department of Physiology, Suez Canal University, Ismailia, Egypt (Magdeldin); Department of Cardiology, Damietta University, Damietta, Egypt (El Razek); Department of Primary Care and Public Health, Imperial College London, London, England, United Kingdom (Majeed, S. Rawaf); Department of Environmental Health, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Maleki); Environmental Health Research Center, Research Institute for Health Development, Kurdistan University of Medical Sciences, Sanandaj, Iran (Maleki); Digestive Diseases Research Institute, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Malekzadeh, Merat, Pourshams, Roshandel, Salimzadeh, Sepanlou); Non-communicable Diseases Research Center, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran (Malekzadeh, Sepanlou); Department of Plastic Surgery, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (A. Manafi); Department of Ophthalmology, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (N. Manafi); Department of Ophthalmology, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada (N. Manafi); Department of Health Education and Promotion, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Mansourian); School of Medicine and Surgery, University of Milan-Bicocca, Monza, Italy (Mantovani); School of Nursing and Midwifery, Guilan University of Medical Sciences, Rasht, Iran (Maroufizadeh); Department of Epidemiology, Airlangga University, Surabaya, Indonesia (Martini); Indonesian Public Health Association, Surabaya, Indonesia (Martini); School of Public Health, University of Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana (Maswabi); Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, University College London, London, England, United Kingdom (Mathur);



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London, England, United Kingdom (McKee); Department of Nursing, Debre Markos University, Debre Markos, Ethiopia (Meheretu, Wagnew); School of Public Health, Bahir Dar University, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia (Meheretu); Department of Preventive Oncology, National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research, Noida, India (Mehrotra); Department of Internal Medicine, SevenHills Hospital, Mumbai, India (Mehta); Institute for Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Halle, Germany (Meier); Innovation Office, Competence Cluster for Nutrition and Cardiovascular Health, Halle, Germany (Meier); Adelaide Medical School, University of Adelaide, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia (Melaku); Department of Public Health and Epidemiology, Arba Minch University, Arba Minch, Ethiopia (G. G. Meles); Mekelle University, Mekelle, Ethiopia (H. G. Meles, Tassew, F. H. Tesfay); Department of Medical Laboratory Science, Bahir Dar University, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia (Melese); Department of Public Health, University of West Florida, Pensacola, Florida (Memiah); Peru Country Office, United Nations Population Fund, Lima, Peru (Mendoza); Forensic Medicine Division, Department of Pathology, College of Medicine, Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University, Dammam, Saudi Arabia (Menezes); Breast Surgery Unit, Helsinki University Hospital, Helsinki, Finland (Meretoja); University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland (Meretoja); Clinical Microbiology and Parasitology Unit, Dr. Zora Profozic Polyclinic, Zagreb, Croatia (Mestrovic); University Centre Varazdin, University North, Varazdin, Croatia (Mestrovic); Center for Innovation in Medical Education, Pomeranian Medical University, Szczecin, Poland (B. Miazgowski); Pomeranian Medical University, Szczecin, Poland (B. Miazgowski); Department of Hypertension, Pomeranian Medical University, Szczecin, Poland (T. Miazgowski); Department of Epidemiology, Bahir Dar University, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia (Mihretie); Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, Calverton, Maryland (Miller); School of Public Health, Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia, Australia (Miller); Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada (Mills); Golestan University of Medical Sciences, Golestan, Iran (Mir); Research Center for Biochemistry and Nutrition in Metabolic Diseases, Kashan University of Medical Sciences, Kashan, Iran (H. Mirzaei, Tamtaji); Department of Medical Immunology, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (H. R. Mirzaei); Department of Oral Medicine, University of Washington, Seattle, (Mishra); Institute of Public Health, Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany (Moazen, S. Mohammed); Institute of Addiction Research, Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences, Frankfurt, Germany (Moazen); Department of Biology, Salahaddin University, Erbil, Iraq (D. K. Mohammad, K. A. Mohammad); Department of Medicine, Huddinge, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden (D. K. Mohammad); ISHIK University, Erbil, Iraq (K. A. Mohammad); Department of Internal Medicine, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (Y. Mohammad); Department of Information Technology, University of Human Development, Sulaymaniyah, Iraq (Darwesh); Department of Neurology, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences, Kermanshah, Iran (H. Mohammadi); Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences, Sari, Iran (M. Mohammadi); Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Bushehr University of Medical Sciences, Bushehr, Iran (Mohammadian); Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Shahrekord University of Medical Sciences, Shahrekord, Iran (Mohammadian-Hafshejani); Department of Clinical Biochemistry, Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran, Iran (Mohammadoo-Khorasani, Mosapour); Department of Nursing, Shahroud University of Medical Sciences, Shahroud, Iran (Mohammadpourhodki); Department of Public Health, Samara University, Samara, Ethiopia (J. A. Mohammed); Health Systems and Policy Research Unit, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria (S. Mohammed); Iran National Institute of Health Research, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Mohebi); Clinical Epidemiology and Public Health Research Unit, Burlo Garofolo Institute for Maternal and Child Health, Trieste, Italy (Monasta, Ronfani, Traini); Department of Molecular Medicine, Birjand University of Medical Sciences, Birjand, Iran (Moossavi); Social Determinants of Health Research Center, Kurdistan University of Medical



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Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Moradi-Joo); International Laboratory for Air Quality and Health, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia (Morawska); Hospital de Santo António, Hospital Center of Porto, Porto, Portugal (Morgado-da-Costa); Department of Social Medicine, National Center for Child Health and Development, Setagaya, Japan (Morisaki); Department of Surgery, University of Washington, Seattle, (Morrison); Department of Health Management and Economics, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Mousavi); Department of Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacy, Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (Muhammed, Wondafrash); Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Jos, Jos, Nigeria (Musa); Center for Global Health, Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois (Musa); Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt (Nabhan); Knowledge Translation and Utilization, Egyptian Center for Evidence Based Medicine, Cairo, Egypt (Nabhan); School of Paramedical Sciences, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences, Kermanshah, Iran (Naderi); Department of Research and Analytics, Initiative for Financing Health and Human Development, Chennai, India (Nagarajan); Department of Research and Analytics, Bioinsilico Technologies, Chennai, India (Nagarajan); Institute of Epidemiology and Medical Biometry, Ulm University, Ulm, Germany (Nagel); Cancer Institute, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Nahvijou, Shirkoohi, Zendehtdel); O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Alabama at Birmingham (Naik); Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences, Kermanshah, Iran (Najafi); Department of Dermatology, San Bortolo Hospital, Vicenza, Italy (Naldi); GISED Study Center, Bergamo, Italy (Naldi); Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, Chungnam National University School of Medicine, Daejeon, South Korea (Nam); Daejeon Regional Cancer Center, Chungnam National University Hospital, Daejeon, South Korea (Nam); Department of Public Health, School of Public Health, Jiroft University of Medical Sciences, Jiroft, Iran (Nasiri); Department of Pediatrics, Arak University of Medical Sciences, Arak, Iran (Nazari); Ministry of Health and Medical Education, Tehran, Iran (Nazari); Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Tampere, Tampere, Finland (Neupane); Public Health Sciences Division, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, Washington (Newcomb); Department of Epidemiology, University of Washington, Seattle, (Newcomb, Oren); Department of Histopathology, University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital, Maiduguri, Nigeria (Nggada); Department of Human Pathology, University of Maiduguri, Maiduguri, Nigeria (Nggada); Department of Biological Sciences, University of Embu, Embu, Kenya (Ngunjiri); Institute for Global Health Innovations, Duy Tan University, Hanoi, Vietnam (Nguyen); Tabriz Health Services Management Research Center, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Iran (Nikniaz); Department of Public Health Sciences, State University of Semarang, Semarang, Indonesia (Ningrum); Graduate Institute of Biomedical Informatics, Taipei Medical University, Taipei City, Taiwan (Ningrum); Cochrane South Africa, South African Medical Research Council, Cape Town, South Africa (Nnaji); School of Public Health and Family Medicine, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa (Nnaji); Department of Community and Family Medicine, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Nojomi); Department of Health Economics, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Iran (Nosratnejad); Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences, Sari, Iran (Shiadeh); Department of Anesthesia, Wolaita Sodo University, Sodo, Ethiopia (Obsa); Centre of Cardiovascular Research and Education in Therapeutics, Monash University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia (Ofori-Asenso); Independent consultant, Accra, Ghana (Ofori-Asenso); Translational Health Research Institute, Western Sydney University, Penrith, New South Wales, Australia (Ogbo); Department of Preventive Medicine, Kyung Hee University, Dongdaemun-gu, South Korea (Oh); Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada (A. T. Olagunju); Department of Psychiatry, University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria (A. T. Olagunju); Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada (T. O. Olagunju); Department of Health Promotion and Education,



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State University Teaching Hospital, Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria (Omonisi); Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu, Nigeria (Onwujekwe); Department of Community Health, Christian Medical College, Vellore, India (Oommen); Graduate School of Public Health, San Diego State University, San Diego, California (Oren); Department of Global Health Nursing, St. Luke's International University, Chuo-ku, Japan (Ota); Analytical Center, Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, Dolgoprudny, Russia (Ostavnov); Institute for Advanced Medical Research and Training, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria (Owolabi); Department of TB & Respiratory Medicine, Jagadguru Sri Shivarathreeswara University, Mysore, India (P A); Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology, Manipal University, Mangaluru, India (Padubidri); Department of Medicine, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada (Pakhale); Department of Public Health, Qazvin University of Medical Sciences, Qazvin, Iran (Pakpour); Department of Nursing, Jönköping University, Jönköping, Sweden (Pakpour); Department of Medical Humanities and Social Medicine, Kosin University, Busan, South Korea (Park); Environmental Health Research Center, Research Institute for Health Development, Kurdistan University of Medical Sciences, Sanandaj, Iran (Pashaei); Department of Medicine, Maimonides Medical Center, Brooklyn, New York (Patel); Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences, Deemed University, Karad, India (Patil); University of Cartagena, Cartagena, Colombia (Pereira); ReferenceCenter for Epidemiology and Cancer Prevention, CPO Piedmont, Torino, Italy (Piccinelli); Basic Medical Sciences Department, Durban University of Technology, Durban, South Africa (Pillay); Departments of Parasitology and Entomology, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran, Iran (Pirestani); Uro-Oncology Research Center, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Pishgar); University Medical Center Groningen, University of Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands (Postma); Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands (Postma); Department of Public Health, Maragheh University of Medical Sciences, Maragheh, Iran (Pourjafar); Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences, Maragheh University of Medical Sciences, Maragheh, Iran (Pourjafar); Department of Nephrology, Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow, India (Prakash, Prasad); Non-communicable Diseases Research Center, Alborz University of Medical Sciences, Karaj, Iran (Qorbani); Department of Biomedical Engineering, Amirkabir University of Technology, Tehran, Iran (M. Rabiee); Divisions of Chemistry and Diseases, Advanced Technologies Research Group, Tehran, Iran (N. Rabiee); A.T. Still University, Mesa, Arizona (Radfar); Department of Immunology, Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences, Sari, Iran (Rafiei); Molecular and Cell Biology Research Center, Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences, Sari, Iran (Rafiei); Thalassemia and Hemoglobinopathy Research Center, Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences, Ahvaz, Iran (Rahim); Austin Health Clinical School of Nursing, La Trobe University, Heidelberg, Victoria, Australia (Rahman); National Centre for Farmer Health, Deakin University, Waurn Ponds, Victoria, Australia (Rahman); Department of Health Education and Promotion, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences, Kermanshah, Iran (Rajati); Department of Public Health, Contech School of Public Health, Lahore, Pakistan (Rana); Public Health Department, University of Health Sciences, Lahore, Pakistan (Rana); Department of Radiation Oncology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India (Rath); WHO Collaborating Centre for Public Health Education and Training, Imperial College London, London, England, United Kingdom (D. L. Rawaf); University College London Hospitals, London, England, United Kingdom (D. L. Rawaf); Academic Public Health, Public Health England, London, England, United Kingdom (S. Rawaf); School of Social Sciences and Psychology, Western Sydney University, Penrith, New South Wales, Australia (Renzaho); Research Center for Immunodeficiencies, Children's Medical Center, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Rezaei); Network of Immunity in Infection, Malignancy, and Autoimmunity, Universal Scientific Education and Research Network, Tehran, Iran (Rezaei); Health Management and Economics Research Center, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Rezapour, Moghadam); Epidemiology Research



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Wollega University, Nekemte, Ethiopia (Roro); Golestan Research Center of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Golestan University of Medical Sciences, Gorgan, Iran (Roshandel); Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine Research Center, Babol University of Medical Sciences, Babol, Iran (Rostami, Sabbagh); Clinical Operations, Doctor Evidence, Santa Monica, California (Saad); Department of Epidemiology, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Sabour); Medical Department, University of Sharjah, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates (Saddik); Managerial Epidemiology Research Center, Maragheh University of Medical Sciences, Maragheh, Iran (Safiri); Biotechnology Research Center, Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, Mashhad, Iran (Sahebkar); Neurogenic Inflammation Research Center, Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, Mashhad, Iran (Sahebkar); A.C.S. Medical College and Hospital, Tehran, Iran (Salahshoor); Taleghani Hospital, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences, Kermanshah, Iran (Salehi); Department of Urology, Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt (H. Salem); Public Health and Community Medicine Department, Cairo University, Giza, Egypt (M. R. Salem); Center for Health Policy and Center for Primary Care and Outcomes Research, Stanford University, Stanford, California (Salomon); Department of Entomology, Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt (Samy); Department of Surgery, Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia (Sanabria); Departments of Nutrition and Preventive Medicine, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio (Sanabria); School of Public Health and Health Management, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia (Santric Milicevic); Faculty of Infectious and Tropical Diseases, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, London, England, United Kingdom (Sartorius); Colorectal Research Center, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Sarveazad); Surgery Department, Hamad Medical Corporation, Doha, Qatar (Sathian); Faculty of Health & Social Sciences, Bournemouth University, Bournemouth, England, United Kingdom (Sathian); UGC Centre of Advanced Study in Psychology, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, India (Satpathy); Udyam-Global Association for Sustainable Development, Bhubaneswar, India (Satpathy); GSK Biologicals, Wavre, Belgium (Savic); Department of Public Health Sciences, University of North Carolina at Charlotte (Sawhney); Education Development Center, Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences, Ahvaz, Iran (Sayyah); School of Health Sciences, Federal University of Santa Catarina, Ararangua, Brazil (Schneider); Department of Medical Statistics, Epidemiology and Medical Informatics, University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia (Sekerija); Division of Epidemiology and Prevention of Chronic Noncommunicable Diseases, Croatian Institute of Public Health, Zagreb, Croatia (Sekerija); Gastrointestinal and Liver Diseases Research Center, Guilan University of Medical Sciences, Rasht, Iran (Sepehrimanesh); Center of Expertise in Microbiology, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Seyedmousavi); Invasive Fungi Research Center, Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences, Sari, Iran (Seyedmousavi); Department of Health Promotion and Education, Alborz University of Medical Sciences, Karaj, Iran (Shaahmadi); Department of Health Policy, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Shabaninejad); Department of Epidemiology, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Shahbaz); Independent consultant, Karachi, Pakistan (Shaikh); Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences, Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences, Sari, Iran (Shamshirian); Chronic Diseases (Home Care) Research Center, Hamadan University of Medical Sciences, Hamadan, Iran (Shamsizadeh); Department of Molecular Hepatology, Middle East Liver Disease Center, Tehran, Iran (H. Sharafi); Razi Herbal Medicines Research Center, Lorestan University of Medical Sciences, Khorramabad, Iran (Z. Sharafi); Department of Basic Sciences, Islamic Azad University, Sari, Iran (Sharif); Department of Laboratory Sciences, Islamic Azad University, Sari, Iran (Sharif); Department of Ophthalmology, Kerman University of Medical Sciences, Kerman, Iran (A. Sharifi); HIV/STI Surveillance Research Center, Institute for Futures Studies in Health, Kerman University of Medical Sciences, Kerman, Iran (H. Sharifi); University School of Management and Entrepreneurship, Delhi Technological University, New Delhi, India (Sharma); Usher Institute of Population Health Sciences and Informatics, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom



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Symbiosis Institute of Health Sciences, Symbiosis International University, Pune, Maharashtra, India (Shukla); School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia (Si); Imam Ali Cardiovascular Research Center, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences, Kermanshah, Iran (Siabani); Faculty of Health, University of Technology Sydney, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia (Siabani); School of Health Sciences, Federal University of Santa Catarina, Florianópolis, Brazil (Silva); University of Brasília, Brasília, Brazil (Silveira); Department of the Health Industrial Complex and Innovation in Health, Ministry of Health, Brasília, Brazil (Silveira); Menzies Institute for Medical Research, University of Tasmania, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia (A. Singh); Global Patient Outcome and Real World Evidence, Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, Indiana (A. Singh); Department of Medicine, University of Alabama at Birmingham (J. A. Singh); Department of Epidemiology, University of Alabama at Birmingham (J. A. Singh); Medical Department, German Leprosy and TB Relief Association, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (Sisay); Sydney School of Public Health, University of Sydney, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia (Sitas); Department of Internal Medicine and Specialties, University of Yaoundé I, Yaoundé, Cameroon (Sobngwi); Department of Endocrinology and Diabetes, Central Hospital of Yaoundé, Yaoundé, Cameroon (Sobngwi); Social Development and Health Promotion Research Center, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences, Kermanshah, Iran (Soofi, Zangeneh); Hospital Universitario de la Princesa, Autonomous University of Madrid, Madrid, Spain (Soriano); Centro de Investigación en Red de Enfermedades Respiratorias, Institute of Health Carlos III, Madrid, Spain (Soriano); Department of Occupational Therapy, Athens University of Applied Sciences, Athens, Greece (Stathopoulou); Department of Community Medicine, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria (Sufiyan); Department of Medicine, University of Valencia, Valencia, Spain (Tabarés-Seisdedos); Biomedical Research Networking Center for Mental Health Network, Carlos III Health Institute, Madrid, Spain (Tabarés-Seisdedos); Cancer Control Center, Osaka International Cancer Institute, Osaka, Japan (Tabuchi); University of Sydney, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia (Takahashi); Jordan University of Science and Technology, Ramtha, Jordan (Tarawneh); Department of Public Health, Kurdistan University of Medical Sciences, Sanandaj, Iran (Taymoori); Department of Community Medicine, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Tehrani-Banihashemi); Department of Pediatrics, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (M. Temsah); Department of Public Health, Adigrat University, Adigrat, Ethiopia (B. E. Tesfay); Southgate Institute for Health, Society and Equity, Flinders University, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia (F. H. Tesfay); Department of Public Health, Arba Minch University, Arba Minch, Ethiopia (Teshale); School of Public Health, University of Adelaide, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia (Tessema); Department of Public Health, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark (Thapa); Faculty of Health Sciences, Jagiellonian University Medical College, Krakow, Poland (Topor-Madry); The Agency for Health Technology Assessment and Tariff System, Warsaw, Poland (Topor-Madry); Department of Pathology and Legal Medicine, University of São Paulo, Ribeirão Preto, Brazil (Tovani-Palone); Department of Health Economics, Hanoi Medical University, Hanoi, Vietnam (B. X. Tran); Department of Molecular Medicine and Pathology, The University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand (K. B. Tran); Department of Clinical Hematology and Toxicology, Military Medical University, Hanoi, Vietnam (K. B. Tran); Gomal Center of Biochemistry and Biotechnology, Gomal University, Dera Ismail Khan, Pakistan (Ullah); Division of Health Sciences, University of Warwick, Coventry, England, United Kingdom (Uthman); Department of General Surgery and Medical-Surgical Specialties, University of Catania, Catania, Italy (Vacante); Women's Reproductive Health Research Center, A.C.S. Medical College and Hospital, Tabriz, Iran (Vaezi); Alzahra Teaching Hospital, Tabriz, Iran (Vaezi); Department for International Development, Health Network of Cuba, Havana, Cuba (Varona Pérez); Centre of Research in Environmental Epidemiology, Barcelona Institute for Global Health, Barcelona, Spain (Varona Pérez); Psychosocial Injuries Research Center, Ilam University of Medical Sciences, Ilam, Iran (Veisani); Department



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Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia (Vlassov); Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland (Vosoughi); Department of Pathology, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda (Wabinga); Department of Public Health, Woldia University, Woldia, Ethiopia (Wachamo, Yimam); Foundation University Medical College, Foundation University, Rawalpindi, Pakistan (Waheed); Department of Psychology and Counselling, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia (Wijeratne); Department of Medicine, University of Melbourne, St Albans, Victoria, Australia (Wijeratne); Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Mekelle University, Mekelle, Ethiopia (Wondafrash); Department of Nursing, Wollo University, Dessie, Ethiopia (Wondmieneh); Department of Nursing, Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (Wondmieneh); Department of Neonatal and Pediatric Health Nursing, Bahir Dar University, Bahirdar, Ethiopia (Workie); Department of Population Studies, International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, India (Yadav); Foodborne and Waterborne Diseases Research Center, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Yadegar); Department of Medical Physics, Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences, Ahvaz, Iran (Yadollahpour); Ophthalmic Research Center, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Yaseri); Department of Health Management, Policy, and Economics, Kerman University of Medical Sciences, Kerman, Iran (Yazdi-Feyzabadi); Health Services Management Research Center, Institute for Futures Studies in Health, Kerman University of Medical Sciences, Kerman, Iran (Yazdi-Feyzabadi); Wolkite University, Wolkite, Ethiopia (Yeshaneh); School of Allied Health Sciences, Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (Yisma); Department of Neuropsychopharmacology, National Center of Neurology and Psychiatry, Tokyo, Japan (Yonemoto); Health Economics & Finance, Global Health, Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi (Younis); Department of Public Health, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China (Younis); Department of Clinical Biochemistry, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Iran (Yousefi); Physiology Research Center, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Youseffard); Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Wuhan University, Wuhan, China (Yu); Global Health Institute, Wuhan University, Wuhan, China (Yu); Department of Electrical Engineering, Institute for Research in Fundamental Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Zabeh); Department of Electrical Engineering, Bioelectric Group, Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran (Zabeh); Epidemiology and Cancer Registry Sector, Institute of Oncology, Ljubljana, Slovenia (Zadnik); Social Determinants of Health Research Center, Ardabil University of Medical Science, Ardabil, Iran (Moghadam, Zandian); Department of Epidemiology, University Hospital of Setif, Setif, Algeria (Zaidi); Student Research Committee, Babol University of Medical Sciences, Babol, Iran (Zamani); Department of Parasitology, Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran, Iran (L. Zaki); Department of Midwifery, Mekelle University, Mekelle, Ethiopia (Zenebe); Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Bahir Dar University, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia (Zewale); Health Promotion Research Center, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Ziapour).

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*Study concept and design:* Fitzmaurice, Abbastabar, Abd-Allah, Abdelalim, Abdollahpour, Abualhasan, Alene, E. Amini, Anbari, Andrei, Ansariadi, Ataeinia, Ausloos, Babaee, Bagherzadeh, Bärnighausen, Belayneh, Bogale, Chanie, Chaturvedi, Constantin, Derakhshani, Deribe, Desta, Dinberu, Djalalinia, El Sayed, Endalew, Fentahun, Geta, Gezae, Ghashghaee, S. Hay, Herteliu, Hidru, Hosseinzadeh, Househ, James, Jee, Jenabi, Joo, Karimian, Khalilarjmandi, Khater, Kianipour, A. Kisa, S. Kisa, Lasrado, Leigh, Madadin, Maleki, N. Manafi, Manamo, Mansournia, Maroufizadeh, Mehrotra, Melaku, Menezes, Merat, Mills, Mir, Mohammad Darwesh, Mohammadoo-Khorasani



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*Study supervision:* Abualhasan, Alam, E. Amini, S. Amini, Anbari, Ataeinia, Atalay, Atique, Masoud Behzadifar, Meysam Behzadifar, Berfield, Daryani, Demoz, Dinberu, Drake, Dubljanin, El Sayed, El Sayed Zaki, Fadhil, Fukumoto, Gayesa, Gebremeskel, Ghafourifard, Gizaw, Guimaraes, Hadkhale, Irvani, Iseh, James, Jee, Karch, Khader, Khater, Kianipour, Koyanagi, Krohn, N. Manafi, Merat, B. Miazgowski, T. Miazgowski, Mills, Moazen, M. Mohammadi, A. Mohammed, Mokdad, Nabhan, Nagel, Nazari, Nixon, Obsa, Ota, Pakpour, Pana, Park, Piccinelli, Postma, Pourshams, D. Rawaf, Rezaei, H. Salem, Salomon, Sarveazad, Satpathy, Sepehrimanesh, Silveira, Soriano, Tabuchi, B. Tesfay, Ullah, Vidale, Vos, Vujcic, Zabeh, Zandian, Murray.

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