Global Health Expenditure Database, WHO

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Contents

Summary

The Global Health Expenditure Database (GHED), maintained by the World Health Organization (WHO), provides country-level data on health financing, health expenditures, demographics, economic conditions, and health for 194 countries and territories since 2000 with open access to the public.

The data are available here: http://apps.who.int/nha/database

Table In IFs

We pull three preprocessors from this site: HealthExpGov%Tot, HealthExpPriv%Tot, HealthExpTot%GDP. These tables were updated in April of 2025.

Tables	Definition	Unit	Years	Source	Original Source	Preprocessor	Preprocessor Name	Code	Decimal Points
HealthExpTot%GDP	Current health expenditure (CHE) as percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) (%)	Percent	2000-2023	WHO Global Health Expenditure Database	https://apps.who.int/nha/database	1	HEALTH	che_gdp	2
HealthExpPriv%Tot	Domestic private health expenditure (PVT-D) as percentage of current health expenditure (CHE) (%)	Percent	2000-2023	WHO Global Health Expenditure Database	https://apps.who.int/nha/database	1	HEALTH	pvtd_che	2
HealthExpGov%Tot	Domestic General Government Health Expenditure (GGHE-D) as % Current Health Expenditure (CHE)	Percent	2000-2023	WHO Global Health Expenditure Database	https://apps.who.int/nha/database	1	HEALTH	gghed_che	2

November 2024 Update:

Created 9 tables:

1. SeriesHealthExpCurrTot%GDP
2. SeriesHealthExpCurrDomPrivate%GDP
3. SeriesHealthExpCurrDomGenGovt%GDP
4. SeriesHealthExpCurrExt%GDP
5. SeriesHealthExpCapTot%GDP
6. SeriesHealthExpCapDomTot%GDP
7. SeriesHealthExpCapExt%GDP
8. SeriesHealthExpCapDomPublic%GDP
9. SeriesHealthExpCapDomPrivate%GDP

As of right now they are not in IFs. They may need to be updated as codes between these and the three processors may be similar.

Data Pulling Instructions

There are two ways you can pull data. The first way is through the Global Health Expenditure Database bulk data download.

Go to https://apps.who.int/nha/database/Select/Indicators/en

1) Select download all data in XLSX format

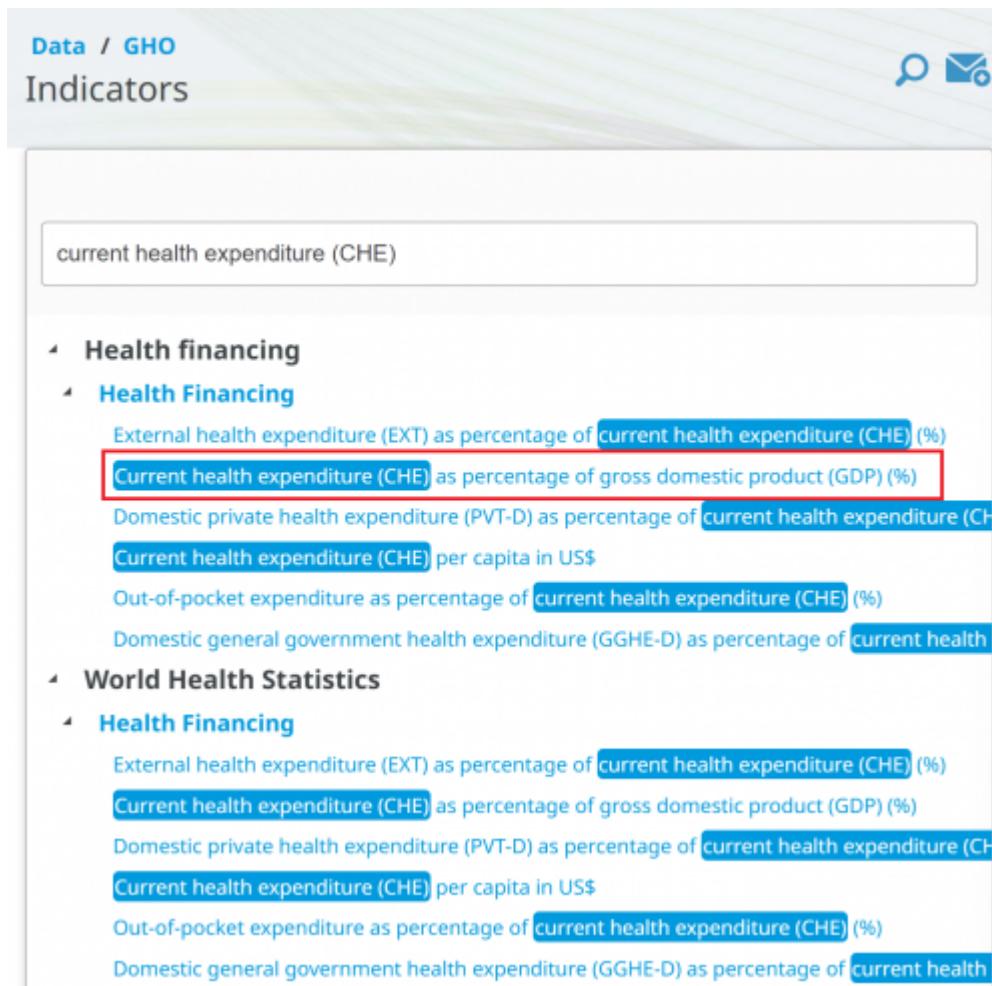2) Search for your indicator in the tab 'Codebook'

3) The variable code is the first column, use this code to found your data in the tab 'Data'. For example the code 'che_gdp' refers to Current Health Expenditure (CHE) as % Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

Please do not pull the data through their interface as that data is not accurate. The bulk data will be the most accurate data.
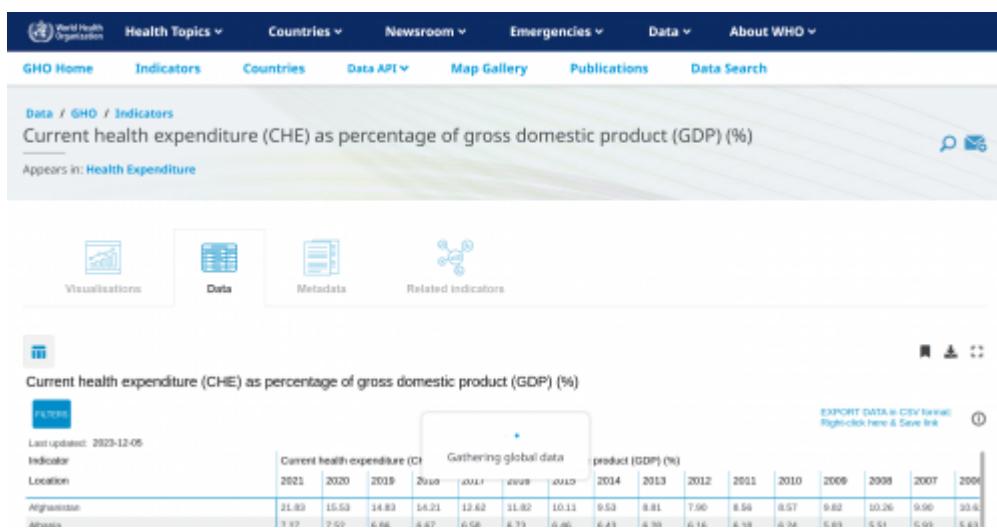
The second way is to use GHO indicators page

Go to: https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators

1) Search your indicator. It is very case sensitive.

2) The excel file you need will be in the tab Data

3) On the right side there will be the link that states EXPORT DATA in CSV. Right click on that link and save the link. You will get the csv excel file doing this.
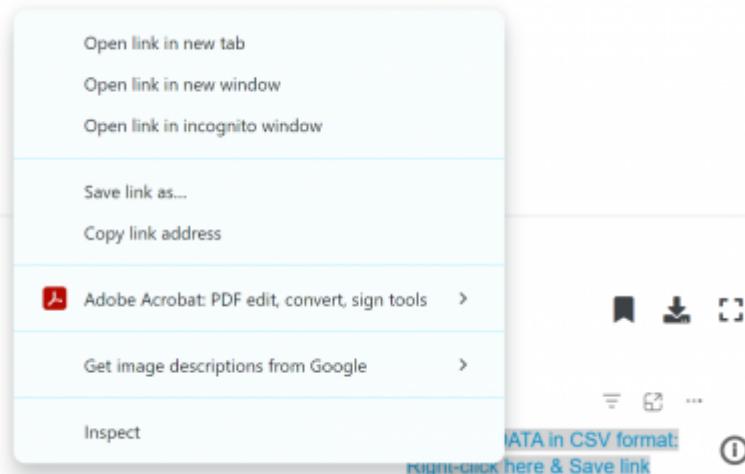
Data Notes

- WDI Revision states that indicators SH.XPD.TOTL.ZS Health expenditure, total (% of GDP) and SH.XPD.PRIV.ZS Health expenditure, private (% of GDP) have been deleted in April of 2018.
- To replace these we pulled Current health expenditure (CHE) as percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) (%) for HealthExpTot%GDP and Domestic private health expenditure (PVT-D) as percentage of current health expenditure (CHE) (%) for HealthExpPriv%Tot
- *The aggregation rule for these three series is set to "none" which creates issues when viewing historical data.*

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