Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation
University of Washington
http://www.healthmetricsandevaluation.org/

Section I: Summary

The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) is funded in part by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the State of Washington. IHME monitors global health conditions and health systems, as well as evaluates interventions, initiatives, and reforms. IHME provides high quality and timely information on health so policymakers, researchers, donors, practitioners, local decision-makers, and others can better allocate limited resources to achieve optimal results. The Institute uses quantitative analysis and other analysis techniques to investigate: Health Outcomes; Health Services; Resource Inputs; Decision Analytics; and Evaluations.

Section II: Statement of Purpose

The Institute aims to put as much information as possible about health in the public domain in a way that is useful, understandable and credible to enable policy-makers and decision-makers to craft the best policies with the highest benefit for their own context.

Through quantitative analysis and development of techniques to glean information from multiple and varied sources we add value by focusing on five areas: Health Outcomes; Health Services; Resource Inputs; Decision Analytics; and Evaluations.

IHME will also develop an on-line global data bank, intended to be a repository for health information that is easy to use and access. It will include all results generated by the Institute and the data from which they came. It will also serve to attract other researchers and institutions in global health to post their data in a way that expands the potential audience of users. The Institute stands by the principle that information should be freely available to all who wish to use it. By expressly developing the global data bank, the Institute hopes to promote these principles not just in its own work and collaborations, but on a global scale as well.

Section III: Outcomes

Health Outcomes: They study what makes people sick, what they die from and which risk factors contribute to these outcomes. Ongoing research projects are the:

- Estimation of child mortality levels for each country since 1970 forecasted 10 years into the future and updated every six months
- Development and testing of new methods for adult mortality and estimation of levels for each country
- Assessment of major causes of death for each country every three years
- Development of cross-country comparable methods for the estimation of healthy life expectancy
- Estimation of the global burden of disease for 1990 and 2005, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, the University of Queensland, Johns Hopkins University, Harvard University, and over 800 researchers throughout the world.

Health Services: IHME studies how health systems contribute to improving health outcomes by measuring the delivery of specific interventions and the quality of services. Research in this area currently focuses on two sub-fields:

- Measuring the coverage of the twenty most important health-improving technologies (including personal and non-personal interventions) by country every year. The selection of priority interventions will vary by region on the basis of epidemiology.

- Estimating the quality of inpatient and outpatient care, including the development and refinement of standardized methods for undertaking risk-adjusted outcomes measurement.

Resource Inputs: IHME tracks measure and estimate inputs to global health, such as money, people, facilities, medications, and technology. IHME currently focuses on four areas:

- Annual assessment from 1990 to 2006 of resource flows for global health, including an estimation of the gap between commitment and disbursement.
- Systematic review of the quality of available data on public expenditures on health.
- Estimation of household expenditure and catastrophic payments.
- Landscape analysis of sources of data and methods for tracking human resources.

Decision Analytics: IHME is creating tools and evidence to help decision-makers weigh different options and make meaningful comparisons. For

example, how do we characterize inequalities? How do we predict what might happen in the future? Currently, they are engaged in the:

- Development of statistical models for missing data, internally consistent epidemiological parameter estimation, and forecasting.

- Measurement of within and across country inequalities in coverage, health outcomes, and health expenditures.

- Development and dissemination in collaboration with the Health Metrics network, of methods for local area estimation of health outcomes and coverage.

- Priority setting – major effort to combine burden of disease, intervention coverage, cost-effectiveness, and resource information to identify policy options for interventions and service delivery platforms for different countries and regions.

Evaluations: Our goal is to provide methods, tools and answers to the question: how do we measure the impact of what is being done, whether it is a specific policy, a specific intervention or a health system reform. IHME's researchers are working to:

- Assess the performance of statistical methods for analyzing program effectiveness in non-randomized settings.

- Develop guidelines for prospective impact evaluation.

- Impact evaluation of global health initiatives and strategies.

- Assess the performance of national health systems for countries with sufficient data.

- Evaluate, based on demand, specific national health system reforms.

Section IV: Additional resources

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