



Health statistics - Key data on health 2002 (Data 1970-2001) Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 2002

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Since 1990s, the European institutions have been discussing on the importance to establish a Health Indicators Monitoring System. This system would: undertake a “critical review of existing health data and indicators; develop appropriate methods for the collection of the progressively comparable health data needed to establish these indicators; develop a reliable system for the transfer and sharing of health data and indicators, essentially by means of the telematic interchange of data; identify methods and tools required for conducting analyses and producing reports on state of health, trends and determinants, and the impact of health-related policies” (according to the speech made by the European Commission representative, Mr. Frédéric Sicard, during the former EUPHA Conference held in Rome, last November).

These are the outcomes of the *Health statistics — Key data on health 2002*, issued on March 8th 2004 and prepared by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), United Kingdom, and the sector ‘Health and safety’, of Unit E.3 (Education, health and culture) of Eurostat, on behalf of the European Commission.

This Report wish to contribute, according to its Editors, to the aims of the new programme of Community action in the field of public health (2003-08), adopted by the Decision 1786/2002/EC, of 23 September 2002, of the European Parliament and of the Council, by providing a “comprehensive, consistent and internationally comparable set of health data and indicators mentioning, where appropriate, the EC Health Monitoring Program activities useful for public health statistical purposes. For this report that Eurostat has brought together information on a wide range of health topics from the most relevant data sources available worldwide: the NewCronos database from Eurostat, ‘Health data’ database from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and ‘Health for All’ database from the World Health Organisation (WHO), as well as data from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations, International Agency for Research in Cancer, European Centre for the Epidemiological Monitoring of AIDS (EuroHIV), specific epidemiological studies, and others” from the Introduction of the Report.

The need to ensure such an appropriate and sustainable Monitoring System has to face the growing complexity of the whole area of health indicators, the different demands from different groups of users (health managers, researchers, public audience,...), the level of specificity of indicators, their harmonisation and the macro-areas (international, national, local) of analysis.

The Report is made up by six sections, as it follows: **1.** Population and Socio-economic background; **2.** Lifestyles (Nutrition, Daily intakes, Physical activity, Smoking, Drug use,...); **3.** Risks associated with the environment, working conditions, leisure and traffic; **4.** Health status (Self-reported health, Self-rated health, Health interview surveys,...); **5.** Mortality; **6.** Health Care (Human resources, Hospital beds and stay, Hospital discharges and average length of stay, Ambulatory care, Home care, Consumption of pharmaceuticals, Satisfaction with health systems, Immunisation coverage as a result of vaccination, Economic dimensions of health care, Health expenditure, costs and financing,...).

Last, but not least, this Report is freely available on the Internet and can be accessed through the Europa server (<http://www.europa.eu.int>).

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