



Health statistics and information systems

Health statistics and information systems

Topics

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Reference Group on Health Statistics (RGHS)

Publications

WHOQOL: Measuring Quality of Life

Introducing the WHOQOL instruments

The Constitution of the World Health Organization (WHO) defines health as "A state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being not merely the absence of disease . . .". It follows that the measurement of health and the effects of health care must include not only an indication of changes in the frequency and severity of diseases but also an estimation of well being and this can be assessed by measuring the improvement in the quality of life related to health care. Although there are generally satisfactory ways of measuring the frequency and severity of diseases this is not the case in so far as the measurement of well being and quality of life are concerned. WHO, with the aid of 15 collaborating centres around the world, has therefore developed two instruments for measuring quality of life (the WHOQOL-100 and the WHOQOL-BREF), that can be used in a variety of cultural settings whilst allowing the results from different populations and countries to be compared. These instruments have many uses, including use in medical practice, research, audit, and in policy making.

WHO defines Quality of Life as an individual's perception of their position in life in the context of the culture and value systems in which they live and in relation to their goals, expectations, standards and concerns. It is a broad ranging concept affected in a complex way by the person's physical health, psychological state, personal beliefs, social relationships and their relationship to salient features of their environment.

- 1. Introducing the WHOQOL instruments
- 2. Strengths of the WHOQOL instruments
- 3. Administration of the WHOQOL instruments
- 4. The uses of the WHOQOL instruments
- 5. The Structure of the WHOQOL-100
- 6. Structure of the WHOQOL-BREF
- 7. The Development of the WHOQOL Instruments
- 8. Future Developments
- 9. Principal Investigators and Field Sites Involved in the Development of the WHOQOL Instruments
- 10. Publications to date
- 11. Further information

Related links

- WHOQOL-BREF pdf, 50kb
- WHOQOL-100 pdf, 79kb
- Bibliography pdf, 182kb

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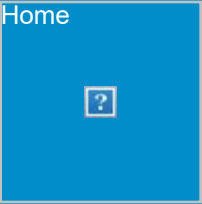
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