

GLOBAL REPORT

Global expenditure on health: Public spending on the rise?

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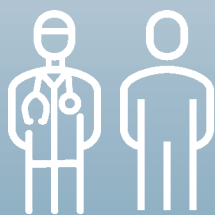
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Abbreviations

DIS	Classification of diseases and conditions
FP	Classification of factors of provision
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HC	Classification of health care functions
HC.COV	Special reporting items to track COVID-19 spending within current health expenditure
HF	Classification of financing schemes
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
HP	Classification of health care providers
IMF	International Monetary Fund
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development
OOPS	Out-of-pocket spending
PHC	Primary health care
SHA 2011	System of Health Accounts 2011
WHO	World Health Organization

Key messages

Global spending on health from 2000 to 2019

- Global spending on health more than doubled in real terms over the past two decades, reaching US\$ 8.5 trillion in 2019, or 9.8% of global GDP. But it was unequally distributed, with high income countries accounting for approximately 80%.
- Health spending in low income countries was financed primarily by out-of-pocket spending (OOPS; 44%) and external aid (29%), while government spending dominated in high income countries (70%).
- The share of health in government spending increased over the past two decades in upper-middle and high income countries, stagnated in lower-middle income countries and declined in low income countries between 2000 and 2011, before partially rebounding and stabilizing in recent years.
- Over the past two decades, OOPS rose across all income groups on a per capita basis but fell as a share of total health spending.
- External aid rose considerably over the past two decades. In countries that are highly dependent on external aid, health priority in government spending fell in line with the increased aid.
- The share of global health aid that went to low income countries was smaller than the share of the global extreme poor population living in those countries.
- In low and middle income countries, an average of two-thirds of external aid for health went

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