
GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ADAPTATION

Any change in true levels of functioning with reference to one or more domains of health. For example: improvement in ambulation following physical therapy. It is one of three phenomena (adaptation, adjustment and coping) describing changes in individual assessments of health levels.

ADJUSTMENT

Any change in the relative importance of different components of health in an individual's overall assessment of a multi-dimensional health state. It is one of three phenomena (adaptation, adjustment and coping) describing changes in individual assessments of health levels.

ADL: ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING

Any of the tasks such as eating, getting in/out of bed, getting around inside, dressing, bathing or using the toilet, used in disability assessment instruments to measure performance.

AIDS: ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME

ALE: ACTIVE LIFE EXPECTANCY

A form of DFLE (q.v.) based on survey questions on limitations in activities of daily living (ADL).

BMI: BODY MASS INDEX

A measure of underweight and overweight calculated as weight (kg) divided by height (m) squared.

CEYLL: COHORT EXPECTED YEARS OF LIFE LOST

A form of health gap (q.v.) that measures mortality gap using the projected cohort life expectancy for the population to specify years lost due to death at each age.

CHD: CORONARY HEART DISEASE

Note: this is synonymous with ischaemic heart disease (q.v.).

CVD: CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASE

CHI: CHINA

Regional grouping used in the Global Burden of Disease study 1990.

COPING

Any change in reported health relating to shifts in norms and expectations that influence the mappings between true health levels and reported levels. It is one of three phenomena (adaptation, adjustment and coping) describing changes in individual assessments of health levels.

CRA: COMPARATIVE RISK ASSESSMENT

A systematic counterfactual approach to estimating health gaps (q.v.) (or changes in health expectancy) causally attributable to a risk factor or a group of risk factors.

DALE: DISABILITY-ADJUSTED LIFE EXPECTANCY

Synonym for HALE (q.v.) or healthy life expectancy.

DALY: DISABILITY-ADJUSTED LIFE YEAR

A health gap (q.v.) measure developed for the GBD (q.v.).

DFLE: DISABILITY-FREE LIFE EXPECTANCY

A form of HSE (q.v.) which gives a weight of 1 to states of health with no disability above an explicit or implicit threshold and a weight of 0 to states of health with any level of disability above that threshold.

DBP: DIASTOLIC BLOOD PRESSURE

EME: ESTABLISHED MARKET ECONOMIES

Regional grouping used in the Global Burden of Disease study 1990. Includes Western Europe, North America, Australia, Japan and New Zealand.

EQ5D: *See:* EUROQOL EQ-5D

EU: EUROPEAN UNION

EUROQOL GROUP

A network of international multidisciplinary researchers originally from Europe, which now includes members from Canada, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa and the United States. Its objective is the development and application of a single, generic index value describing health-related quality of life.

EUROQOL EQ-5D

A standardized instrument for use as a measure of health outcome based on 5 domains: mobility, self-care, usual activity, pain/discomfort, anxiety/depression. It can be used in the clinical and economic evaluation of health care as well as population health surveys.

FSE: FORMER SOCIALIST ECONOMIES

Regional grouping used in the Global Burden of Disease study 1990. Includes former socialist countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

GPE: GLOBAL PROGRAMME FOR EVIDENCE ON HEALTH POLICY

The department within the WHO cluster Evidence and Information for Policy (EIP) responsible for work on summary measures of population health.

GBD: GLOBAL BURDEN OF DISEASE

A project to estimate health gaps (q.v.) for a comprehensive set of disease and injury causes, and for major risk factors, in the populations of the world using all available mortality and health data and methods to ensure internal consistency and comparability of estimates. The original Global Burden of Disease project estimated health gaps using DALYs (q.v.) for eight regions of the world in 1990 (see chapter 5.1). The WHO Global Burden of Disease 2000 project is updating these estimates for 14 subregions of the world for the year 2000 and subsequent years.

HALE: HEALTH-ADJUSTED LIFE EXPECTANCY

Any of a number of summary measures which use explicit weights to combine health expectancies for a set of discrete health states into a single indicator estimating the expectation of equivalent years of good health. Also referred to as “healthy life expectancy”.

HE: HEALTH EXPECTANCY

Generic term for summary measures of population health, which estimate the expectation of years of life lived in various health states.

HEALTHY LIFE EXPECTANCY

Synonym for HALE (q.v.) or health-adjusted life expectancy.

HEALYS: HEALTHY LIFE YEARS

A health gap (q.v.) measure (see chapter 5.2) calculated on the basis of the incidence of pathological processes and the future non-fatal health outcomes and mortality from those processes.

HG: HEALTH GAP

A generic term for summary measures of population health; estimates the gap between the current population health and a normative goal for population health.

HOPIT: HIERARCHICAL ORDERED PROBIT MODEL

A statistical model developed by WHO to estimate response category cut-points for self-reported items on health domains using information from measured tests or anchoring vignettes (see chapter 8.3).

HRQL OR HRQOL: HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE**HSE: HEALTH STATE EXPECTANCY**

A form of HE (q.v.) which gives the expectation of years lived in a specified health state (which is given a weight of 1, while all other health states are given a weight of 0).

HUI: HEALTH UTILITIES INDEX

A standardized system for classification of health states (see chapter 7.2).

IADL: INSTRUMENTAL ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING

Normative roles and activities such as heavy housework, light housework, laundry, shopping for groceries, getting around outside, travelling, managing money, taking medicine, telephoning, etc.

ICD: INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL CLASSIFICATION OF DISEASES AND RELATED HEALTH PROBLEMS

A classification of diseases and other causes of mortality that was entrusted to the World Health Organization in 1948, along with the constitutional mandate to have it periodically revised as necessary. The current tenth revision was issued in 1992 to come into effect on 1 January 1993. The ICD is a member of the WHO family of international classifications.

ICF: INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF FUNCTIONING, DISABILITY AND HEALTH

An international classification published by WHO in 2001 as endorsed by the 54th World Health Assembly in resolution 54.21. As a revision of the ICIDH (q.v.), the ICF is a member of the WHO family of international classifications (see chapter 8.3).

ICIDH: INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF IMPAIRMENT, DISABILITIES AND HANDICAPS

A classification published by WHO for trial purposes in 1980 in accordance with the 1975 International Revision Conference and World Health Assembly resolution WHA29.35 of 1976. It has now been superseded by the ICF (q.v.).

IHD: ISCHAEMIC HEART DISEASE

Any of a number of heart conditions associated with deficiencies of the coronary arteries. Note: this is synonymous with coronary heart disease.

IND: INDIA

Regional grouping used in the Global Burden of Disease study 1990.

IRT: ITEM RESPONSE THEORY

Psychometric approach that uses statistical models to establish response category cut-points for different items in a survey instrument by comparing each response category to the underlying factor in the data.

LAC: LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Regional grouping used in the Global Burden of Disease study 1990.

LE: LIFE EXPECTANCY

Generic term for summary measures of population mortality that estimate the expectation of years of life lived. See also: period life expectancy.

LED: LIFE EXPECTANCY WITH DISABILITY

A form of HSE (q.v.) which gives a weight of 0 to states of health with no disability above an explicit or implicit threshold and a weight of 1 to states of health with any level of disability above that threshold.

LHE: LOST HEALTH EXPECTANCY

Expected lost years of equivalent full health, defined as the gap between total life expectancy and healthy life expectancy ($LHE = LE - HALE$).

LIFE EXPECTANCY: *see:* LE

MEC: MIDDLE EASTERN CRESCENT

Regional grouping used in the Global Burden of Disease study 1990. Includes countries of North Africa, Middle East and West Asia.

NHIS: NATIONAL HEALTH INTERVIEW SURVEY (US)**OAI: OTHER ASIA AND ISLANDS**

Regional grouping used in the Global Burden of Disease study 1990. Includes countries in South Asia, South East Asia, North Asia and the Pa-

cific region apart from Australia, China, India, Japan and New Zealand.

OECD: ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

PERIOD LIFE EXPECTANCY

A summary measure of population mortality that calculates the expectation of years of life lived in a fictitious birth cohort assuming that at each age the cohort experiences the age-specific mortality rates observed in the real population during a specified time period (such as a given calendar year). See also: life expectancy.

PEYLL: PERIOD EXPECTED YEARS OF LIFE LOST

A form of health gap (q.v.) that measures mortality gap using current period life expectancy for the population to specify years lost due to death at each age.

PTO: PERSON TRADE-OFF

A method for valuation of health states that asks respondents to choose between hypothetical interventions that offer health benefits to groups of individuals in different health states.

PYLL: POTENTIAL YEARS OF LIFE LOST

A form of health gap (q.v.) that measures mortality gap using an arbitrary normative age (e.g. 70 years).

QALE: QUALITY-ADJUSTED LIFE EXPECTANCY

A form of HALE (q.v.) based on a question on activity restriction in the Canada Health Survey.

REVES: RÉSEAU DE L'ESPÉRANCE DE VIE EN SANTÉ

International network on healthy life expectancy.

SD: STANDARD DEVIATION

SEYLL: STANDARD EXPECTED YEARS OF LIFE LOST

A form of health gap (q.v.) that measures mortality gap using a standard life table to specify years lost due to death at each age.

SF-36: SHORT-FORM 36 HEALTH SURVEY

STANDARD GAMBLE (SG)

A method for valuation of health states based on the axioms of expected utility theory. The standard gamble asks respondents to make choices that weigh improvements in health against mortality risks.

SMPH: SUMMARY MEASURES OF POPULATION HEALTH

Indicators that summarize the health of a population into a single number. SMPH combine information about mortality and population health states. They may summarize either average health level or inequality for a population.

SSA: SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Regional grouping used in the Global Burden of Disease study 1990.

STD: SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE**SULLIVAN'S METHOD**

A method of calculating health expectancies using data on current prevalence of health states in a population (see chapter 4.1).

TTO: TIME TRADE-OFF

A method for valuation of health states that asks respondents to make hypothetical choices that weigh improvements in health against reduced longevity.

VAS: VISUAL ANALOGUE SCALE

A method for valuation of health states that asks respondents to assess the health levels associated with different states by locating them on a scale representing a continuum of health levels between endpoints referring to good and bad states of health.

WHO: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**WHODAS-II: WHO DISABILITY ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE-II****WHOQOL: WHO QUALITY OF LIFE ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT****USBODI: UNITED STATES BURDEN OF DISEASE AND INJURY STUDY****YHL: YEARS OF HEALTHY LIFE**

A form of DFLE (q.v.) based on two questions collected in the United States National Health Interview Survey, which are concerned with activity limitations and perceived general health.

YLD: YEARS LIVED WITH DISABILITY

The component of the DALY (q.v.) that measures the lost years of healthy life through living in states of less than full health.

YLL: YEARS OF LIFE LOST

The component of the DALY (q.v.) that measures the years lost through premature mortality.

