



Good Health and Well-Being pp 225–236

Global and Planetary Health

[Jack Parsons](#) 

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Definition

Global health describes human population health on a global scale and focuses particularly on health improvement internationally. The World Health Organization (WHO) is the main international agency linked to global health.

Global health is measured in relation to global disease burden, the reduction in health from all causes of death or illness globally. Disability-Adjusted Life Years and Quality-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs/QALYs) are commonly used metrics in measuring global health.

Planetary health describes the health of humanity globally and the health of the natural planetary systems on which it depends. Holistic planetary health has been defined as the “achievement of the highest attainable standard of health, wellbeing, and equity worldwide through judicious attention to the human systems ...that shape the future of humanity and the Earth’s natural systems that define the safe environmental limits within which humanity can flourish” (Whitmee et al. [2015](#)). Global and...

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