

A journey to social cohesion and prosperity

EPW core priorities and flagships

Moving towards universal health coverage

WHO collaboration

Health research and data provision
Partnership with the Regional Office

Italy

Equity is a core principle of Italy's National Health Service, alongside universal coverage and solidarity in financing. However, health disparities continue to pose a challenge to upholding the national value of social cohesion. In response, Italy launched the Health Equity Status Report initiative to pinpoint cross-sectoral solutions to increase equity in health and ensure all citizens can live healthy lives.

National and international partners, including the Regional Office, supported Italy by developing, analysing and visualizing disaggregated health indicators. They sorted data into subgroups such as socioeconomic status, education level, region and gender, showing how different populations are affected. Now in the form of an interactive online platform hosted by the Regional Office, it helps the Government find actionable solutions to disparities. This collaboration culminated in the presentation of the Italian Health Equity Report to the Italian Senate's Health and Social Affairs Committee in 2022.

The impact

Working with the Regional Office and partners has enabled Italy to take evidence-based actions to reduce health inequities. Policy-makers now have the tools and data required to implement targeted interventions that address the root causes of these gaps. This collaboration laid the groundwork for sustained progress in promoting equitable health outcomes across all regions of Italy.

Lessons learned

- Reliable data and localized indicators are essential for understanding and addressing health inequities effectively.
- Early engagement with policy-makers ensures that findings are translated into actionable policies.
- Ongoing collaboration between international organizations and national governments is key to maintaining progress in health equity efforts.

Donors and partners

Ministry of Health; Italian National Institute of Health; National Institute of Statistics; National Agency for Regional Health Services; National Institute for Health, Migration and Poverty; Ca' Foscari University of Venice



The Regional Office worked with multiple stakeholders to develop and visualize health indicators.
© WHO/Catharina de Kat-Reynen

What's next?

Italy plans to expand the use of the interactive tool across all regions, enhancing its capacity to monitor and address health disparities. A new National Plan for Health is also incorporating the data and evidence from the survey as part of national consultations and policy development.