



# Disability rankings

These figures draw from a study by Salomon JA et al.: Disability weights for the Global Burden of Disease 2013.

In this research, the authors asked 60,890 participants from around the world which diseases, injuries and disorders they considered to be the most disabling. They then analysed the data to create a 'disability weight' for each condition. A disability weight is a number ranging from 0.0 to 1.0 which represents the severity of a disease, with larger numbers representing increasing severity/disability. The paper ranks 185 physical and mental health conditions from least to most disabling, including:

- HIV/AIDS in treatment = 0.08
- **Mild depression = 0.15**
- Moderate epilepsy = 0.26
- Moderate dementia = 0.38
- **Moderate depression = 0.40**
- Severe motor impairment = 0.40
- **Severe anxiety = 0.52**
- Severe stroke with long-term consequences = 0.55
- **Severe depression = 0.66**
- Untreated spinal cord lesion/injury = 0.73
- **Schizophrenia (acute) = 0.78**

These types of studies help to determine how illness affects wellbeing and quality of life, particularly for conditions which are chronic and non-fatal.

This study is part of a wider programme of research by the World Health Organization (2). You can find the most up to date version at [who.int](http://who.int).

## References

1. Salomon JA, Haagsma JA, Davis A, de Noordhout CM, Polinder S, Havelaar AH, et al. Disability weights for the Global Burden of Disease 2013 study. *Lancet Glob Heal* [Internet]. 2015 Nov [cited 2016 Dec 2];3(11):e712–23. Available from: [ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](http://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)
2. World Health Organization. WHO methods and data sources for global burden of disease estimates, 2000–2011 [Internet]. 2013. Available from: [who.int](http://who.int)