

Preface

Health in the Americas is the Pan American Health Organization's flagship publication. Published every five years, it reports on the Region of the Americas' health conditions and their determinants and trends. The publication analyzes the health situation regionwide and in each of the countries and territories of the Americas, reporting on both progress made and challenges to be faced. The 2012 edition is the 15th since the publication was launched in 1954; it will be presented to the 28th Pan American Sanitary Conference, which coincides with the 110th anniversary of the founding of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). This edition mainly focuses on the 2006–2010 period.

As did previous ones, this edition—whose full text will be published electronically*—seeks to provide useful information to a broad and diverse audience that includes health authorities, academics, professionals, students, health workers and others in the health field, as well as technical and financial cooperation agencies and other international entities.

This printed version of the 2012 edition summarizes the leading health achievements and challenges in each of the 48 countries and territories that are members of PAHO. An additional chapter, which also is part of the electronic version, analyzes health conditions in the Region as a whole.

In preparing this report, the research team drew on data from a wide range of official sources, both national and international, as well as from unofficial sources, in an effort to identify and resolve possible data discrepancies. We are confident that the increased utilization of this important information will encourage the further production, processing, and analysis of data that are increasingly relevant, valid, and timely for improving health in the Americas.

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* Available at <http://www.paho.org/healthintheamericas>.