

| 2020 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# The Hologic Global Women's Health Index

Pathways to a Healthy  
Future for Women



MEASURED BY GALLUP®

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Critical data for global, regional and national development policymaking is still lacking. Many governments still do not have access to adequate data on their entire populations. This is particularly true for the poorest and most marginalized.

UNITED NATIONS

## FOREWORD:

# A Letter From Hologic's CEO

Healthy women are the cornerstones of healthy economies and societies. But women's health rarely gets the attention that it deserves.

By focusing on women's health and working together to address key issues, we can not only improve women's lives, we can also realize social and economic progress globally.

To accomplish this, we need robust data on women's health, and the ability to benchmark and track it over time on a global level. As a science-based company, Hologic knows that having quality data is important to making good decisions. The challenge is that in most of the world, these data are at best lacking, or at worst, nonexistent.

This is why we are partnering with Gallup to create a data roadmap that helps leaders and policymakers give women's health the priority that it deserves.

The Hologic Global Women's Health Index, which we launched amid the COVID-19 pandemic, is a multiyear, comprehensive global survey about women's health. Through it, we can listen to women and men in their own words, and track progress on key women's health issues globally and by country.

As part of its World Poll, Gallup interviewed more than 120,000 women and men in 116 countries and territories in more than 140 languages. The aggregate results of those discussions are shared in this report, which is also being distributed to global leaders and policymakers around the world.

Our goal is to call to action world leaders — in and out of government — to improve women's health. This, in turn, will change lives, support greater development and address longstanding inequalities.

Hologic's passion is to be a global champion for women's health. Through our Index, our ambition is to work with world leaders to improve women's quality of life, and ultimately life expectancy. Women's health is tied to economic performance, productivity and overall well-being; improving it will benefit all of us, as well as future generations.

We look forward to sharing information with national, corporate and non-profit leaders, working with them to develop tailored solutions that address women's health, and providing them with more data in the future.

Through this report, women are telling us what they need. We all need to listen. Then act, together.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "SP MacMillan". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Stephen P. MacMillan**

*Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Hologic*



# Introduction

Women's health and health equity are arguably in a better place today than they were more than 25 years ago when 189 countries adopted the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, the first global policy framework for achieving gender equality in critical areas including women's health.

However, progress on many of the objectives set for women's health in Beijing has been uneven. For example, while the global maternal mortality rate dropped by 38% between 2000 and 2017, the use of contraceptives has increased slowly and unevenly over that same period, and as recently as 2019, as many as 270 million women of reproductive age had an unmet need for modern contraception.<sup>1</sup>

Today, many women still face these and other fundamental health challenges, including cancer, reproductive health issues, sexually transmitted diseases and violence against them.<sup>2,3</sup> To keep moving forward, and save more women's lives, leaders and policymakers need to understand the realities of these women's healthcare experiences. And to do that, they need access to robust, quality data that disaggregates this information by gender and exposes the inequities and what's driving them.

The Hologic Global Women's Health Index — a multiyear, globally comparative survey of women's health — strives to fill the critical gap in what the world knows about the health and well-being of the world's women and girls. But more than that, it aims to identify the keys to help them live longer, safer and healthier lives.

The findings in this report offer a glimpse into what Hologic learned about women's health from the first year of this survey, which is based on interviews Gallup conducted throughout 2020 with just over 120,000 women and men aged 15 and older in 116 countries and territories.

The results in this report focus primarily on women's answers, and serve as a baseline of their knowledge, attitudes and behaviors regarding their health, specifically in vital areas such as prenatal care and preventive testing. Future administrations of the study will track changes in women's health and safety and monitor whether women's health is improving at the country, regional and global levels.

- 1 Kantorová, V., Wheldon, M. C., Ueffing, P., & Dasgupta, A. N. Z. (2020). Estimating progress towards meeting women's contraceptive needs in 185 countries: A Bayesian hierarchical modelling study. *PLOS Medicine*, 17(2), e1003026. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1003026>
- 2 *Ten top issues for women's health*. (2015, February 20). World Health Organization. <https://www.who.int/news-room/commentaries/detail/ten-top-issues-for-women%27s-health>
- 3 *Women's Issues in Pandemic Times: How COVID-19 Has Exacerbated Gender Inequities for Women in Canada and around the World*. (2020, December 1). PubMed Central (PMC). <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7528830/>

# Key Findings

## Every country or territory has work to do.

- Higher scores on the Hologic Global Women's Health Index mean potentially healthier, safer and longer lives for women, but with a global score of just 54 out of 100, world leaders need to do better on women's health.
- Every country or territory has room to improve. Not one country or territory scores higher than a 69 on the Index.

## And there is also extreme inequity in women's health.

- Only a fraction of the world's women have the highest Index scores. Women in high-income economies — which make up just 17% of women surveyed — score a 61 on the Index.
- Scores on the Index drop with each subsequent country-income group level after that, eventually widening to a 12-point gap between women living in high-income economies (61) and low-income economies (49).

## Five dimensions of women's health can change — and lengthen — their lives.

- Together, the five dimensions of the Hologic Global Women's Health Index — Preventive Care, Opinions of Health and Safety, Emotional Health, Individual Health and Basic Needs — explain more than 80% of women's average life expectancy at birth.

## The world is weak on preventive care.

### Sixty-one percent — or more than 1.5 billion women — did not get tested for any of the most damaging diseases for women in the past 12 months.

- On average, one in three women worldwide had their blood pressure tested in the previous 12 months — despite heart disease being the leading cause of death globally for women and men.
- Worldwide, just 12% of women said in 2020 that they have been tested for any type of cancer in the past 12 months.
- Worldwide, about one in five (19%) women reported being tested in the previous 12 months for diabetes, the sixth leading cause of death for women globally.
- Fewer than one in nine women had been tested for sexually transmitted diseases or infections — all of which are risk factors for HIV, cancer and infertility — in the previous 12 months.

### Most women (88%) believe checkups help improve people's health, but many (40%) haven't seen a healthcare professional in the past 12 months.

- Majorities of women in all the countries and territories surveyed believe regular medical checkups help improve people's health. Worldwide, the percentages of women who believe this range from a low of 72% in Hungary to a high of 100% in Tanzania.
- However, in the majority of countries, there were significant gaps between women's perceptions and actions.

## Women are generally satisfied with healthcare quality.

In their communities, most women are satisfied with the quality of their healthcare and prenatal care.

- Most women are satisfied with the availability of quality healthcare where they live (68%) and think most pregnant women in their communities receive high-quality prenatal care (69%).

A women's age at her first pregnancy sharply differentiates her health outcomes.

- In almost every part of the world, women who report first becoming pregnant at an age younger than 19 score worse in every area of their health than those who first became pregnant at a later age.

But well over half a billion women do not feel safe walking alone at night.

- More than 800 million women do not feel safe walking alone. Women are also less likely than men to feel safe.

Most women and men identify domestic violence as a widespread problem where they live.

- Two in three women worldwide — or about 1.7 billion women — say domestic violence is a widespread problem in their country. And nearly six in 10 men agree.

Women's emotional health suffered.

Women in 2020 were more worried and stressed, sad and angry, along with the rest of the world.

- About four in 10 women in 2020 say they experienced worry (40%) and stress (38%) during a lot of the day before the survey, while about one in four say they experienced sadness (26%) and anger (23%).

- Women — along with the world in 2020 — were feeling the worst they had in 15 years. Global experiences of worry, stress, sadness and anger continued to rise in 2020 and set new records.

Women are living with pain.

- Three in 10 (30%) women in 2020 — or more than 750 million worldwide — report experiencing physical pain during a lot of the previous day.
- One in five (20%) women in 2020 — or more than 500 million women — say they have health problems that prevent them from doing things people their age normally do.

Millions struggling with basic needs.

Hundreds of millions of women worldwide cannot afford the food and shelter that they or their families need.

- In 2020, 34% of women — or nearly 900 million women — struggled to afford food in the past year.
- Nearly three in 10 (29%) women — or nearly 700 million — say there had been times in the past year when they were unable to afford adequate shelter.

Money is just part of the solution.

- Countries and territories that spend more per capita on healthcare tend to earn higher scores on the overall Index.
- This is true everywhere except the U.S., which spends the most of any country — \$10,623 per person in 2018 — and scores a 61.



# The Hologic Global Women's Health Index

## What is the Hologic Global Women's Health Index?

Harnessing the statistical power and global reach of Gallup's World Poll, the Hologic Global Women's Health Index is a multiyear, globally comparative survey that tracks multiple health issues essential to improving the health, quality of life and life expectancy of the world's women and girls.

Based on women's responses in the first year of this survey, Hologic and Gallup developed the Hologic Global Women's Health Index, an indicator of women's health that country leaders and policymakers can use to help build a healthy and safe future for women.

The Hologic Global Women's Health Index is a single number based only on women's answers that summarizes a host of complex factors that contribute to women's health. A higher score on the overall Index means more women are having positive experiences in five dimensions that explain more than 80% of women's average life expectancy at birth: Preventive Care, Basic Needs, Emotional Health, Opinions of Health and Safety, and Individual Health. Higher scores in these individual dimensions mean more women are having positive experiences in each of these respective areas.

Global, regional and country-level results on the overall Index, as well as the five individual dimensions, are presented and discussed in further detail throughout this report. More technical details about the construction and scoring of the Index and the dimensions are available in the Appendix.

### About Gallup's World Poll:

Since 2005, Gallup has been interviewing nationally representative samples of women and men in more than 160 countries and territories annually on core topics that are important to women's lives, and to the rest of the world. All of Gallup's core question items are disaggregated by gender.



### Preventive Care

High blood pressure\*  
Cancer\*  
Diabetes\*  
STDs/STIs\*



### Emotional Health

Anger  
Stress  
Sadness  
Worry



### Opinions of Health and Safety

High-quality pregnancy care\*  
High-quality healthcare  
Safe walking alone at night



### Basic Needs

Food  
Shelter



### Individual Health

Health problems  
Pain a lot of the day

\*Indicates Hologic additions to the World Poll

## How was the Hologic Global Women’s Health Index developed?

Starting in 2019, in consultation with international public health and medical experts<sup>4</sup> and the Gallup World Poll research team, Hologic developed a set of questions designed to consistently measure women’s experiences with health issues and healthcare. The goal is to track changes on each of these measures over multiple years:

Health/Healthcare Issue	Hologic Question
Value of preventive care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do you think going to a healthcare professional, such as a medical doctor or a nurse, at least once every 12 months for a checkup, can help people improve their health, or not?</li> </ul>
Experience of preventive care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the past 12 months, have you talked to a healthcare professional, such as a medical doctor or nurse, about your own health?</li> <li>To the best of your knowledge, were you tested for any of the following in the past 12 months? [High blood pressure, cancer, diabetes, STDs/STIs?]</li> </ul>
Prenatal care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do you think most pregnant women in the city or area where you live receive high-quality healthcare during their pregnancies, or not?</li> </ul>
Pregnancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How many children do you, personally, have?</li> <li>How old were you the first time you were pregnant?</li> </ul>
Domestic violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Now I would like to ask you a question regarding domestic violence. Domestic violence can be physical, psychological, or involve sexual acts done to someone against their will by a person they live with. In your opinion, is domestic violence a widespread problem in [country name], or not?</li> </ul>

More information about the design and formulation of the Index is in the Appendix.

Throughout 2020, Gallup asked just over 120,000 women and men in 116 countries and territories these questions, along with questions that the World Poll has been asking for almost two decades about general health, opinions of available quality healthcare, safety, food and shelter, and emotional health.

## What does the Index measure?

Using a factor analysis of the responses to these questions from nearly 60,000 women aged 15 and older, the Gallup and Hologic research team identified questions that related to five dimensions of women’s health that together explain more than 80% of women’s average life expectancy at birth: Preventive Care, Emotional Health, Opinions of Health and Safety, Basic Needs, and Individual Health.<sup>5</sup>

While Gallup and Hologic originally hypothesized that 18 of the Hologic or World Poll questions would be factored into the Index, after testing, several were dropped for various reasons (please see the Appendix for more details). For example, while a question about domestic violence asks about an important safety and health issue for women, it was not included in the Index because it was not highly related to any of the five dimensions.

<sup>4</sup> Annastasiah Mhaka, Ph.D., Caroline Popper, M.D., Claire Wagner, M.D, MBA, Karen Drenkard, Ph.D., RN, Mary Catherine Beach, M.D., Robert Bollinger, M.D., Alexandra von Plato, Daniel J. Mollura, M.D., Sezin Palmer

<sup>5</sup> For details on this factor analysis and why Gallup and Hologic included certain questions and not others, please see the full report.

<b>Dimension of Women's Health</b>	<b>Survey Item</b>
<b>Preventive Care</b>	<p><i>To the best of your knowledge, were you tested for any of the following in the past 12 months?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>High blood pressure</i></li> <li>• <i>Cancer</i></li> <li>• <i>Diabetes</i></li> <li>• <i>Sexually transmitted diseases/infections</i></li> </ul>
<b>Emotional Health</b>	<p><i>Did you experience the following feelings during a lot of the day yesterday?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>How about worry?</i></li> <li>• <i>How about sadness?</i></li> <li>• <i>How about stress?</i></li> <li>• <i>How about anger?</i></li> </ul>
<b>Opinions of Health and Safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>In the city or area where you live, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the availability of quality healthcare?</i></li> <li>• <i>Do you think most pregnant women in the city or area where you live receive high-quality healthcare during their pregnancies, or not?</i></li> <li>• <i>Do you feel safe walking alone at night in the city or area where you live?</i></li> </ul>
<b>Basic Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Have there been times in the past 12 months when you did not have enough money to buy food that you or your family needed?</i></li> <li>• <i>Have there been times in the past 12 months when you did not have enough money to provide adequate shelter or housing for you and your family?</i></li> </ul>
<b>Individual Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Do you have any health problems that prevent you from doing any of the things people your age normally can do?</i></li> <li>• <i>Did you experience the following feelings during a lot of the day yesterday?</i></li> <li>• <i>How about physical pain?</i></li> </ul>

Gallup calculated individual Index scores, first creating a simple average of the responses to the questions included in each dimension and then a weighted average of all dimension scores.<sup>6</sup>

This provides the foundation for the calculation of country averages and allows for a granular understanding of how different groups of women score differently based on health determinants — such as age, education, income, urban or rural status and women's age of first pregnancy.

<sup>6</sup> For more information on the scoring of the Index, please see the full report.

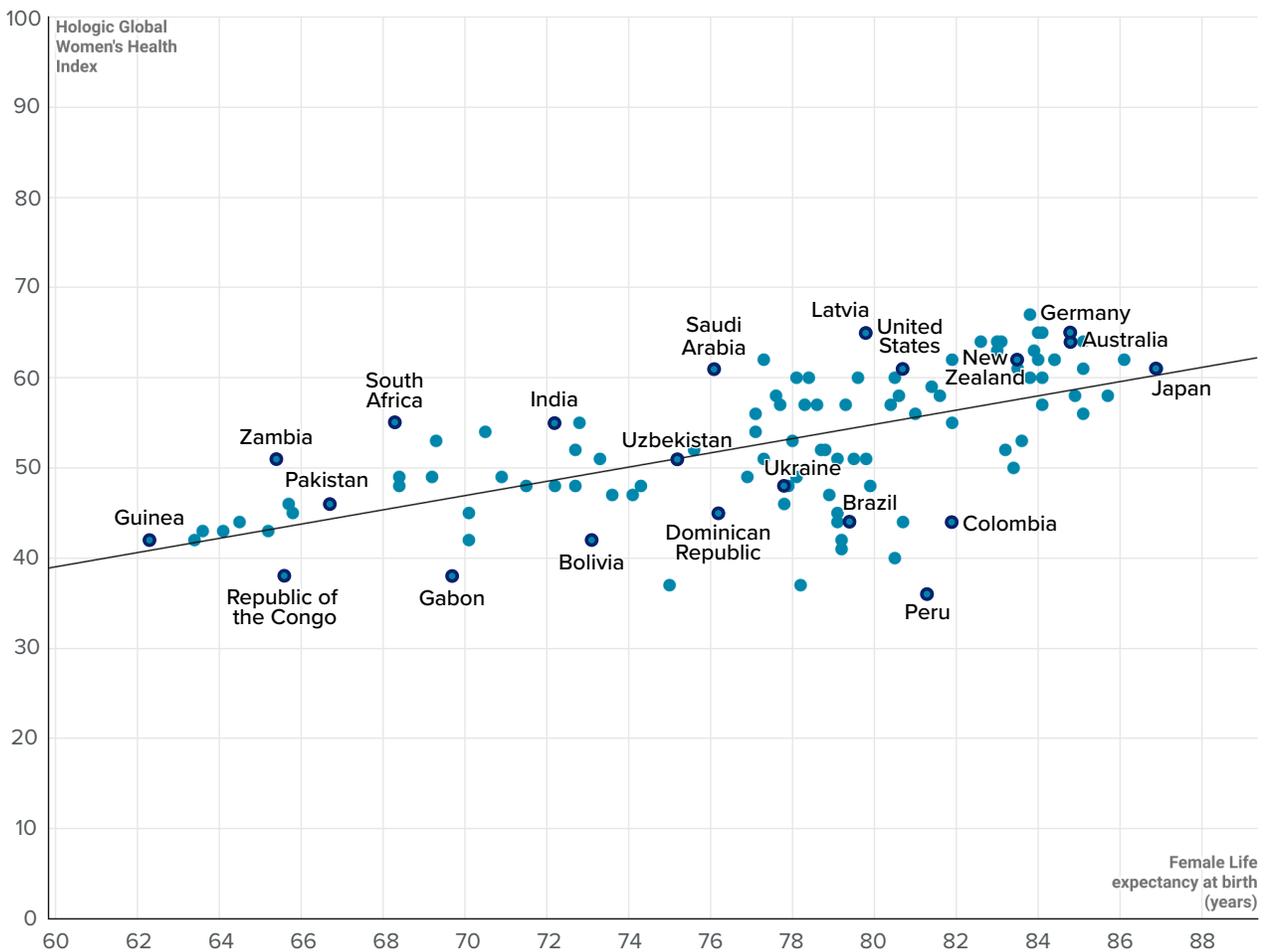
## Why is the Index important?

**Hologic and Gallup discovered that the Hologic Global Women’s Health Index is strongly related to women’s average life expectancy at birth — one of the most frequently used health status indicators.<sup>7</sup>**

The current data suggest positive improvements on any one of the five dimensions could potentially help women live healthier, longer lives. As it stands, these dimensions account for more than 80% of why some women live longer than others do — and provide insights with the power to change countries and territories.<sup>8</sup>

CHART 1:

### Women’s Health Index and Life Expectancy



<sup>7</sup> Health status - Life expectancy at birth - OECD Data. (n.d.). The OECD. Retrieved August 10, 2021, from <https://data.oecd.org/healthstat/life-expectancy-at-birth.htm>

<sup>8</sup> Please see the regression analysis on life expectancy and the Index in the full report.

## What are the goals for the Index?

**The Index aims to provide country leaders and policymakers with an indicator that will help them improve the current lives of women and increase their longevity and quality of life in the future.**

By using a global ranking of countries and territories and pinpointing what contributes to the greatest differences in women's health scores, leaders can see where they stand relative to the rest of the world, identify their areas of strength and opportunities for improvement, and use those insights to direct their policies more effectively.



# Global Results

## All countries and territories have room to improve on women’s health.

Higher scores on the overall Hologic Global Women’s Health Index mean more women in a country are having positive health and healthcare experiences. The world’s score of 54 out of 100 signals global leaders have significant work to do to improve women’s health.

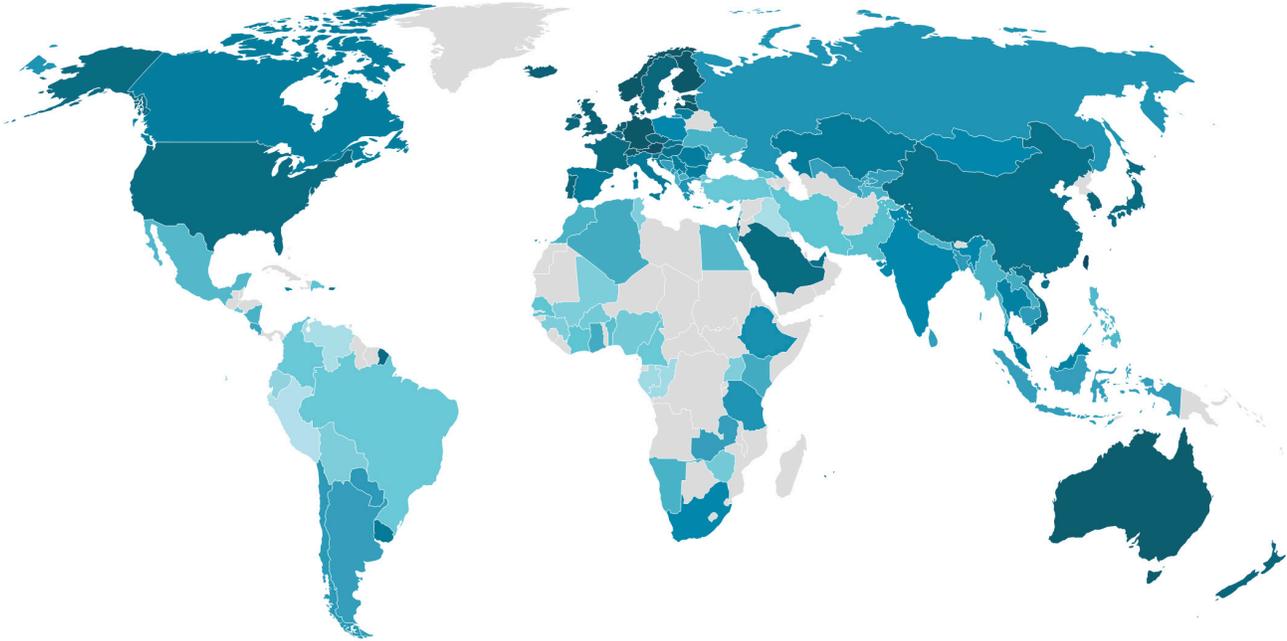
In fact, leaders in all countries and territories do. No one country or territory scores higher than 69 out of 100 on the Index. But results also reveal extreme inequality across the globe.<sup>9</sup>

**Scores worldwide range from a high of 69 in Taiwan to a low of 36 in Peru.**

CHART 2:

### Women’s Health Around the World

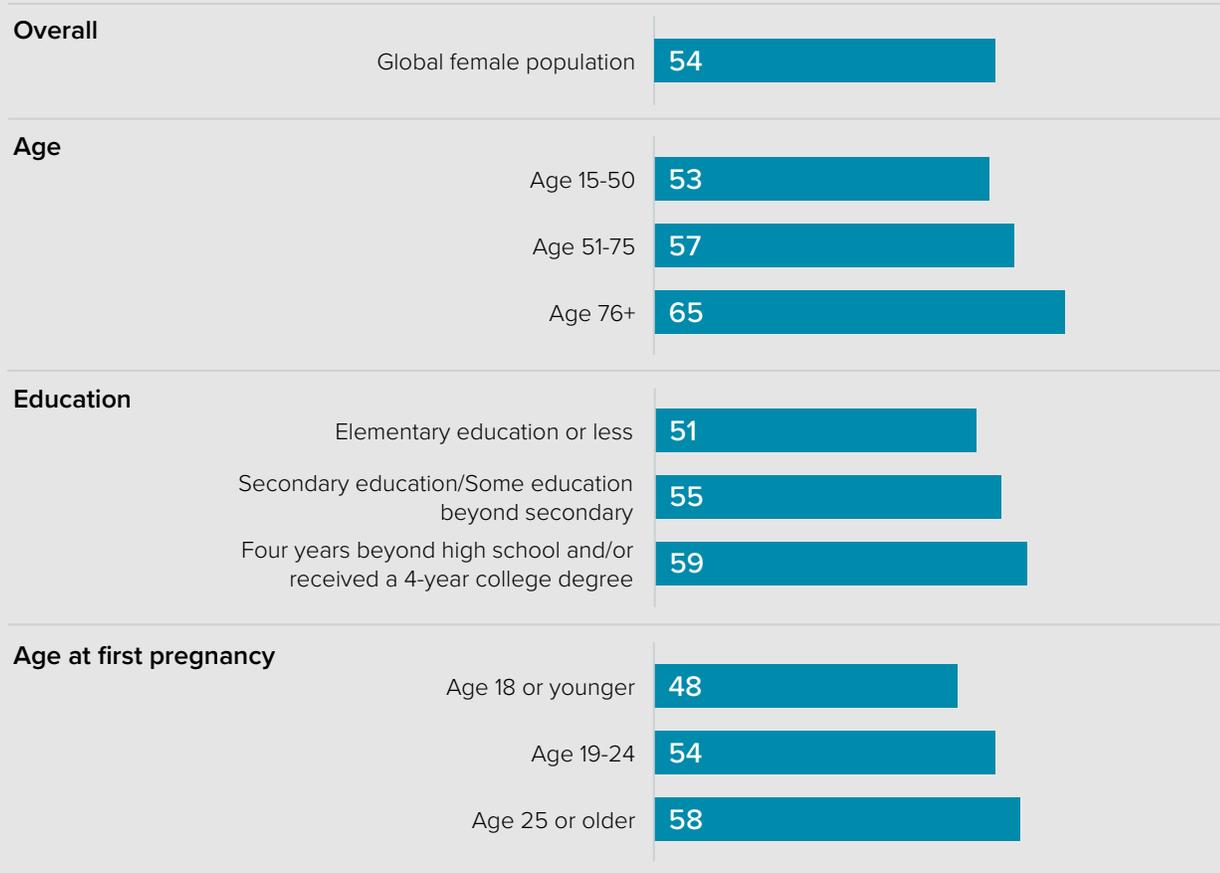
*Hologic Global Women’s Health Index*



<sup>9</sup> Please see [page 17](#) for Index scores by country and territory.

CHART 3:

### Hologic Global Women’s Health Index by Demographic



Index scores range from 0 to 100. For more information on how these scores are calculated, please see the full report.

## Most countries and territories with the highest scores on the Index have higher-than-average preventive care.

All the countries and territories with the highest scores on the overall Index are high-income economies.<sup>10</sup>

Women in these countries almost universally have their basic needs met, with scores in the Basic Needs dimension in the 90s in most countries except for Latvia and Estonia. And except for Switzerland, all of them also post Preventive Care dimension scores that are well above the global average of 19.

TABLE 1:

### Top Countries/Territories on the Hologic Global Women's Health Index

	Hologic Women's Health Index	5 DIMENSIONS OF WOMEN'S HEALTH				
		1 Preventive Care	2 Emotional Health	3 Opinions of Health and Safety	4 Basic Needs	5 Individual Health
<b>GLOBAL AVERAGE</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>75</b>
Taiwan, Province of China	<b>69</b>	24	89	85	93	85
Austria	<b>67</b>	29	78	89	93	76
Finland	<b>65</b>	23	75	88	95	79
Latvia	<b>65</b>	44	76	64	84	72
Norway	<b>65</b>	23	74	93	93	74
Germany	<b>65</b>	29	75	81	93	72
Netherlands	<b>64</b>	23	73	87	96	74
Denmark	<b>64</b>	24	77	86	94	67
Australia	<b>64</b>	32	72	76	92	75
Estonia	<b>64</b>	26	77	78	89	78
Switzerland	<b>64</b>	19	76	90	93	78

Note: Higher scores indicate more women are having positive health and healthcare experiences.

Source: Hologic Global Women's Health Index, 2020

<sup>10</sup> According to World Bank country-income classifications

**The countries and territories with the lowest scores on the Index all share high income inequality and weak or destabilized infrastructure for healthcare.**

**The countries and territories with the lowest scores on the Index are a mix of mostly low and lower middle-income economies and some upper middle-income economies.**

Few countries and territories in this group score well in meeting women’s basic needs, with no country scoring above the global average of 68 in this dimension. Only Lebanon and Tunisia — whose healthcare systems were on the verge of collapse in 2021 — come close.<sup>11,12</sup> Most countries and territories in this group also score below the global average of 19 on the Preventive Care dimension.

TABLE 2:

**Bottom Countries/Territories on the Hologic Global Women’s Health Index**

	Hologic Women’s Health Index	5 DIMENSIONS OF WOMEN’S HEALTH				
		1 Preventive Care	2 Emotional Health	3 Opinions of Health and Safety	4 Basic Needs	5 Individual Health
<b>GLOBAL AVERAGE</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>75</b>
Mali	42	10	56	51	54	62
Bolivia	42	21	55	35	47	72
Tunisia	42	16	48	44	65	58
Lebanon	41	16	45	48	67	54
Ecuador	40	20	49	43	40	70
Republic of the Congo	38	13	55	44	42	55
Gabon	38	14	58	33	33	68
Iraq	37	18	39	51	46	53
Venezuela	37	16	54	27	37	72
Peru	36	18	41	32	44	62

Note: Higher scores indicate more women are having positive health and healthcare experiences.  
Source: Hologic Global Women’s Health Index, 2020

11 Associated Press. (2021, June 10). *No more kidney dialysis? Lebanese hospitals issue warning.* <https://apnews.com/article/beirut-middle-east-lebanon-business-health-7ff67b0bc6154b0fcteaca63c04baa21>  
12 Reuters. (2021, July 8). *Tunisia says health care system collapsing due to COVID-19.* <https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/tunisia-says-health-care-system-collapsing-due-covid-19-2021-07-08/>

# Index Scores by Country and Territory

Rank	Country/Territory	Hologic Global Women's Health Index
1	Taiwan, Province of China	69
2	Austria	67
3	Finland	65
4	Latvia	65
5	Norway	65
6	Germany	65
7	Netherlands	64
8	Denmark	64
9	Australia	64
10	Switzerland	64
11	Estonia	64
12	United Kingdom	63
13	Iceland	63
14	New Zealand	62
15	Sweden	62
16	Portugal	62
17	Mauritius	62
18	Israel	62
19	Czech Republic	62
20	Ireland	62
21	South Korea	62
22	Saudi Arabia	61
23	France	61
24	Japan	61
25	Belgium	61
26	United States	61
27	Vietnam	60
28	Hungary	60
29	China	60
30	Slovenia	60

## Index Scores by Country and Territory

(CONTINUED)

Rank	Country/Territory	Hologic Global Women's Health Index
31	Malta	60
32	Hong Kong, S.A.R. of China	60
33	United Arab Emirates	60
34	Slovakia	59
35	Croatia	58
36	Italy	58
37	Kazakhstan	58
38	Spain	58
39	Uruguay	58
40	Lithuania	57
41	Serbia	57
42	Jamaica	57
43	Canada	57
44	Romania	57
45	Bulgaria	57
46	Thailand	56
47	Malaysia	56
48	Cyprus	56
49	Mongolia	55
50	South Africa	55
51	Kosovo	55
52	Poland	55
53	India	55
54	Ethiopia	54
55	Moldova	54
56	Tanzania	53
57	Greece	53
58	Russia	53
59	Chile	52
60	Montenegro	52

## Index Scores by Country and Territory

(CONTINUED)

Rank	Country/Territory	Hologic Global Women's Health Index
61	Bangladesh	52
62	Paraguay	52
63	Cambodia	52
64	Uzbekistan	51
65	Argentina	51
66	Sri Lanka	51
67	Kyrgyzstan	51
68	Zambia	51
69	Bosnia and Herzegovina	51
70	Indonesia	51
71	Costa Rica	50
72	Algeria	49
73	Laos	49
74	Kenya	49
75	North Macedonia	49
76	Ghana	49
77	Myanmar	48
78	Nicaragua	48
79	Namibia	48
80	Tajikistan	48
81	Ukraine	48
82	Albania	48
83	Morocco	48
84	Nepal	48
85	Egypt	47
86	Philippines	47
87	Mexico	47
88	Georgia	46
89	Benin	46
90	Pakistan	46

## Index Scores by Country and Territory

(CONTINUED)

Rank	Country/Territory	Hologic Global Women's Health Index
91	Iran	45
92	Senegal	45
93	Dominican Republic	45
94	Ivory Coast	45
95	Colombia	44
96	El Salvador	44
97	Brazil	44
98	Cameroon	44
99	Turkey	44
100	Burkina Faso	43
101	Zimbabwe	43
102	Nigeria	43
103	Uganda	42
104	Guinea	42
105	Mali	42
106	Bolivia	42
107	Tunisia	42
108	Lebanon	41
109	Ecuador	40
110	Republic of the Congo	38
111	Gabon	38
112	Iraq	37
113	Venezuela	37
114	Peru	36

Two countries, Bahrain and Jordan, do not have overall Hologic Global Women's Index scores because some component questions were not fielded in these countries.

**Our purpose** — to enable healthier lives everywhere, every day — is driven by a **passion** to become global champions for women’s health.

We succeed by fulfilling **our promise** to bring *The Science of Sure*<sup>®</sup> alive through product quality, clinical differentiation, customer relationships and our team’s talent and engagement.

Hologic intends to conduct the Hologic Global Women’s Health Index in partnership with Gallup for years into the future.



**HOLOGIC**<sup>®</sup>

Global Headquarters | 250 Campus Drive | Marlborough, MA 01752

For more information about this research, please visit

[hologic.womenshealthindex.com](http://hologic.womenshealthindex.com) or contact [womenshealthindex@hologic.com](mailto:womenshealthindex@hologic.com)

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