# Article information:

Can epidemiology inform global health and development targets? | International Journal of Epidemiology | Oxford Academic
<https://academic.oup.com/ije/article/44/1/9/658874>

# Article summary:

1. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have been criticized for their focus on specific targets, which may be too ambitious and lead to a singular focus on achieving those targets rather than other important measures of progress.

2. The MDGs also fail to explicitly address the need to reduce health inequalities and do not include non-communicable diseases or leading causes of injury as targets.

3. To improve future global health goals, epidemiological evidence should be used to set realistic targets based on observed rates of change in relevant epidemiological parameters, with a focus on measuring health loss in populations and improving health information systems. Targets should also reflect the moral obligation to improve health among the less well off as a priority.

# Article rating:

May be slightly imbalanced: The article presents the information in a generally reliable way, but there are minor points of consideration that could be explored further or claims that are not fully backed by appropriate evidence. Some perspectives may also be omitted, and you are encouraged to use the research topics section to explore the topic further.

# Article analysis:

The article discusses the limitations of using specific targets to measure progress towards global health and development goals, such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The author argues that the focus on achieving these targets has led to a narrow view of progress and a lack of attention to other important measures. For example, while progress has been made in reducing child mortality rates in many countries, this success is often overlooked because it may not lead to achieving the global target for MDG4.

The author also criticizes the arbitrary nature of some of these targets, which may be too ambitious or unrealistic for many countries. Additionally, the MDGs do not explicitly address health inequalities or non-communicable diseases (NCDs), which are major causes of death and disability worldwide. The author suggests that future health goals and targets should be based on epidemiological evidence and take into account factors such as exposure to health hazards and access to essential services.

Overall, the article provides a thoughtful critique of the limitations of using specific targets to measure progress towards global health goals. However, it could benefit from more discussion about potential solutions or alternative approaches. Additionally, while the author acknowledges that human development is multifactorial, there is still a strong emphasis on epidemiological evidence as the basis for setting goals and targets. This may overlook other important factors that contribute to health outcomes, such as social determinants of health.

There are no obvious biases or sources of one-sided reporting in this article. The claims made are supported by references to relevant research studies and data sources. However, there is limited discussion about potential counterarguments or alternative perspectives on this issue. Overall, this article provides a valuable contribution to ongoing discussions about how best to measure progress towards global health and development goals.

# Topics for further research:

* Alternative approaches to measuring progress towards global health goals
* Social determinants of health and their impact on health outcomes
* Critiques of epidemiological evidence as the sole basis for setting health goals and targets
* The role of political and economic factors in achieving global health and development goals
* Strategies for addressing health inequalities and non-communicable diseases in global health initiatives
* The impact of COVID-19 on progress towards global health and development goals.

# Report location:

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