

Guidance notes on using the Scotland and European Health for All (HfA) Database

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Background

The Scotland and European Health for All (HfA) Database is a powerful and flexible tool to compare a wide range of health and health-related indicators over time, and between Scotland and a range of other countries in Europe. With a little practice, most users seem to find it easy to use. These notes have been written in response to feedback from some occasional users that some features are less intuitive than others. The online and offline tips (pages 7 and 11) are particularly aimed at answering queries which have arisen.

You might find it useful to print out these notes (if possible in colour) and keep them handy.

The database is available (in both an online and downloadable offline format) on the ScotPHO website <u>www.scotpho.org.uk/scotlandhfadb</u>. There is more functionality in the offline version (see page 8), such as the ability to download graphs to Microsoft Word or Powerpoint, and tables to Microsoft Excel, Word or Powerpoint. The online version does not allow graphs or tables to be downloaded, but is slightly simpler to use and may be the place to start if you just want to have an initial quick look to see whether the database is going to provide the information you want. Therefore these notes start with how to use the online version, then progress to the offline version. The notes are based on the 2007 release, but are applicable to all later releases.

1 Using the online version

1.1 On the HfA page of the ScotPHO website www.scotpho.org.uk/scotlandhfadb, click

on On line version	(marked	(1)	in the Figure A screen dump below).
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Figure A

🎒 http://www.scotpho.org.uk - Sco	tland and European Health for All (HfA) Database 2007 - Microsoft Internet Explorer		
	Home Contact Us Register Key Links Site Map A to Z		
	Search		
Public Health Information for Scotland	Scottish Public Health Observatory		
Behaviour Clinical Risk Factor s Circu	Life Population Comparative Population Health, Wellbeing Resources Publications mstances Groups Health Dynamics & Disease		
Health Inequalities International Comparisons Introduction	Home > Comparative health > International comparisons > Scotland and European Text Only Text Size: A A A HFA DB		
 Scotland and European HfA Database 	Scotland and European Health for All (HfA) Database 2007		
International mortality comparisons	Following a demand for Scottish data to be added to the World Health Organization's European Health for All (HFA) Database, the Scotland and European Health for All (HFA) Database 2006 was built by the Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO)		
Profiles			
	 anuary 2007 Precase of the WHO HA database. Data are presented in a diser-intendity, graphical or tabular form, allowing time trend and international comparisons for: 600 health and health-related indicators, with Scottish data gathered for 488 (over 81%) annual data from 1970 to 2005 where available Scotland and the 53 Member States currently in the WHO European Region, including the UK, plus averages such as the European Union. There are two versions of the database available here: Online version. De does not allow graphs or tables to be downloaded, but as it is slightly simpler to use than the offline version you are using a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, version of or higher is recommended. Offline version (to downloading a compressed 3.1MB .zip file). This is recommended for frequent users of the database, as it may operate fastin, and it offers several output options not available online, including the ability to export graphs to Microsoft Excel, Word or Powerpoint. However, you need to be using a PC rather than a Mac. 		
(1)			
2			
these notes Guidance notes 1.6MB) (14 pages) on using both the online and offline version are available, and include instructions on downloading the offline zip file.			
≤ 3	The briefing notes and (548KB) (22 pages) offer interpretation of the key findings for Scotland from the database. Please also the definitions provided within the database, as there are important warrings that data quality,		
	comparability and completeness. For a quick summary of selected findings, please set the short notes (37KB) (3 pages).		
ē)	Internet		

1.2 This will take you straight to the online database's opening page (**Figure B**), which includes clear instructions on how to operate the database, numbered 1. to 6. :

ig	ure B		
The	e Scotland and European Health for All (HfA) Database 2007 br/>(The January 2007 European HfA - Microsoft Internet Explore	r	_ 8 ×
Eile	Edit View Favorites Iools Help		1
G	3ack 👻 📀 🖌 🗾 🐔 🔎 Search 🤺 Favorites 🚱 🖌 چ 🕅 👻		
A <u>d</u> dre:	ss 🗃 http://www.scotpho.org.uk/hfa_2007/	💌 🔁 Go	Links »
			-
	The Scotland and European Health for All (HfA) Database 2007 (The January 2007 European HA Database reproduced with the permission of WHO/Europe, and additional Scottish data collated by ScotPHO)		
Se	elect parameters Maps Graphs Tables Definitions Help Quit		
_			
Fo	illow the below steps		
1.	 Click on "Select parameters" to open dialogue window for selecting indicators, regions and time points Click on a box with sign+ in front of indicator group title to access the list of indicators Select required indicators, regions and years by ticking appropriate boxes in front of their titles and then click on OK 		
2.	Select required graphical or tabular data display option from the menu		
З.	Repeat steps 1-2 to select and display data on other indicators, regions or time points		
4.	Click on Definitions to view definitions and notes on data quality and sources for selected indicators		
5.	Check Help for more detailed instructions. Make sure that your browser allows popup windows from this Web site		
6.	Download and use off-line version of DB for more advanced data display and export options		

2 Online example – producing a time trend graph (line chart) for SDR (standardised death rate) for all causes, all ages, Scotland and UK

- a. Click on the Select parameters tab (shown in **Figure B**, on left hand side below the little bar chart icon).
- b. You will then get this window:



Figure C

- c. In the indicators box, click on the plus symbol (+) beside one (or more) of the 8 indicator groups (in this case, **02 Mortality-based indicators**, ringed in red).
- d. This will expand out the indicator group to show the main sub-groups within it, which themselves can be expanded out to all individual indicators. You can scroll down to the one you want, as shown below in **Figure D**:



- e. As shown in Figure D (at the red "e"), click on the check box(es) for the indicator(s) you want: in this case just 1810 SDR all causes, all ages, per 100000. The indicator name then appears in the "Selected indicators" box lower on the screen. (1810 is just one of the codes used for this indicator by the World Health Organization (WHO).)
- f. Next, in a similar manner pick the countries you want from the Countries list on the right hand side. With the exception of Scotland (shown last in the list), the countries are arranged alphabetically, followed by averages such as the EU average. For this example, click on United Kingdom and Scotland, and they will appear in the "Selected countries" box lower on the screen. (Again, you will notice WHO's codes for these countries – 0052 and 0062.)
- g. Next, in the Years section you may want to click on the check box(es) for the year(s) you want (between 1970 and the most recent year). You can select up to 30 years (but for a line chart you can omit this step see the second Online tip on page 7).
- h. Finally, click on OK.

You will now be returned to the window shown above in Figure B.
 Don't worry that your selections do not appear on this window – they will have been saved by the program.

In this example we are producing a time trend graph, so click on the **Graphs** tab then the **Line chart A** option, as shown in **Figure E** below. (Alternatively, other presentation options are available at this stage, eg a **Table** or **Map**, but note that the maps do not display data for Scotland, just the UK as a whole).



j. After selecting Line chart A option, you will get the following graph (Figure F):



k. You can alter the scale of the x-axis or y-axis using the top left hand Scale tab, and you can print out the graph using the adjacent Print tab. However, you can't export the graph to another program – to do this you would need to use the downloadable offline version of the database (see page 8).

- Note that several different windows can be open within the database at the same time. Therefore, if you want to select a different chart type (eg bar chart), you first need to return from the current Figure F window to the Figure B window by doing one of the following:
 - close the current chart window (if you don't want it again) using the Quit tab third from left at top of window, or the X (close) button on top right hand side, or
 - 2) mimimise this chart window by clicking on the _ (minimise) button at top right hand side, or
 - 3) just move this window down on your screen by clicking on the blue bar at the top and dragging it down, so you can see the **Figure B** window underneath, or
 - 4) just click on the tab for the **Figure B** window at the bottom of your computer.

Note that all 4 options retain your parameter selections – you can keep using them when you select another chart type under the Graphs tab (Figure E), or indeed use them to produce a table or map.

You can also change the parameters you have selected in the **Select parameters** window (**Figure C**), but note that the already created graph(s) will not update automatically – you need to request a fresh graph again (as in **Figure E**).

- You can select up to 30 indicators, 30 countries and 30 years at one time.

- If you just want line charts, you can save time by not selecting any years (i.e. omit step 2 g. above). Line chart A (and tables B, C and D) always run from 1970 to the latest year, even if you haven't picked any years, and even if the countries you have selected do not have data for the whole period. However, you do need to pick years for the other types of graphs and tables or you will get the prompt:

! Select required parameters first (indicators, countries, years)

- If you only select years which are more recent than those for which data are available, then ask for a graph other than Line chart A, you will get the prompt:

X Sorry, no data

If, however, your selection included some available years as well as some unavailable years, a graph should appear showing data for the available years.

The tables will all display in these situations, but will have "..." for the years where the data are not available.

- You could get a blank scattergram if the year selected is too recent for one of the 2 indicators chosen.

- Your parameters selection can be altered at any time – just go to the open window shown in Figure B, click on Select parameters, and add, remove or change your indicators/countries/years selections then "OK" it. You will need to then click on the display option you want (a graph, table or map) in order to get the updated data selection displayed.

- Remember that you cannot export a graph (or table) to another program from the online version. If you want to do this, use the offline version.

4 Using the offline version

Note that in order to use the offline version you need a PC rather than a Mac computer.

4.1 On the Health for All page of the website (**Figure A**), click on **Offline version** (marked 2) and follow the instructions to download the Winzip folder with the database files.

Under Winzip version 9.0, this will involve the following steps:

- You will be prompted "Do you want to open or save this file?" and you should click on the Save option.

- Under the "Save as" screen, select the location you want, eg your desktop, and click on the Save button. You will then see the message "Saving", possibly followed by "Download complete".

- Next, open the downloaded folder and click on Actions – Extract (or hit the Extract icon) and leave the destination as the location you have already selected; hit the Extract button and the extraction will take place immediately (with no comfort message on completion).

- If you are working on the 2007 version of the database, you will now have:
 - a) a set of extracted database files within the new folder
 - Offline Jan 2007 DB incl Scot
 - b) the Winzip folder **HFA_Download_2007**, which you can delete provided you have the above folder and extracted files.
- 4.2 To run the database, you need to click on the application file **HFA.exe** within the new folder.
- 4.3 This will give you the following opening screen (which appears for only a short time) (**Figure G**):

Figure G



4.4 This will be followed by the screen shown in Figure H.

Figure H

Select parameters	×
Indicators Indicators I OL DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS OL 20 MORTALITY-BASED INDICATORS OL 30 MORBIDITY, DISABILITY AND HOSPITAL DISCHARGES OL 4 LIFE STYLES OL 5 ENVIRONMENT OL 6 HEALTH CARE RESOURCES OL 7 HEALTH CARE UTILIZATION AND EXPENDITURE OL 80 MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH OL 0 I 11 Temporary indicators Selected indicators	Countries Countries Countries Clear Clear Clear Clear Clear Clear Clear Save Selected countries Clear Clear
Load Clear Save	Years 2003 2004 2005 2006 Last available
ОК	Cancel

- 5 Offline example producing a time trend graph (line chart) for SDR (standardised death rate) for all causes, all ages, Scotland and UK
 - a. The offline database is operated in a similar way to the online version, but it has no upfront instructions. You can select parameters as described above in section 2c to h. You will then be returned to Figure I screen below:
- Figure I



b. As when using the online version, don't worry that your selections do not appear on this screen – they will have been saved by the program.

c. Now you need to select Graphs – Line charts – Line chart A, as shown in Figure J.

Figure J	
s. European health for all database (IIFA-DB), WHO/Europe	
Paramotors Maus Graphie Tablos Definitions Help Quit	(-int
125" 200 Inc. Barkbar bar bart BD ISCI BUC KEI KEI	9
tions charts tions chart A	a de la companya de l
Scattergram Line chart D	
Histogram	
Country profile	
Availability	
	020
	5
	10 Million and 10 Million
	soft
To view Line Chart A	
🌁 Start 👩 🚱 🕞 😥 Inbox - Microsoft Cuti] 🏙 Drief guidance - obtain] 🖓 Scotland and Europea] 😂 C:\Documents and Set]	👬 European health for 📧 📧 🖂 🚮 15:00

d. The resulting graph should be as in Figure K:



It will have additional functions at the top of the page compared to the online graph:

Options – lets you fit a 3-year moving average at the click of a button.

Highlight – lets you highlight one or more countries (show the data in colour with the country name), or leave them all greyed out and anonymised.

Scale – as in online version, allows you to alter the x or y axis scales.

Indicators – this will be shown if you have selected more than 1 indicator. It allows you to switch between indicators.

Print – as in online version, allows you to print your graph.

Export – lets you export the graph to Microsoft Word or Powerpoint (but not Excel – for some reason the text appears back to front in Excel!). After clicking the Export tab, you will get a new screen where you choose **Clipboard** under **Destination** (probably the default option) and then click on the **Export** box below. You then have the graph on your clipboard, and you can open a file in either Word or Powerpoint and paste it in (**Edit – Paste**, or **Ctrl-V**).

Quit – as in online version, clears the graph (but retains your parameter selections – you can keep using them).

In addition, the offline database allows you to fit simple linear trend lines (least squares method) to the data lines. All you need to do is point to where you want the regression line to start (eg at earliest point on x axis, or a later point) and click. This is only a rough estimate of the trend and, as a projection, it should be treated with caution. To clear it, point to the right of the last available year and click.

e. As in the online database, you can alter your parameter selections at any time and request a fresh graph (or table). However, the Select parameters screen (Figure H) does not remain as an open window from start-up – you need to open it again via the main screen (Figure I above). Just click on Parameters (top left) to make a drop-down list appear, in which you should then click on the Select parameters option (see Figure L).

Figure L



6 Offline tips:

- You can select up to 30 indicators, 30 countries and 30 years at one time.

- You can save time by not selecting any years (i.e. omit step **g**. above) if you just want Line chart A or B, the "Availablility" chart or Tables B, C or D. These run from 1970 to the latest year, and will work regardless of whether you select a year and whether the countries you select have data for the whole period. However, if you omit to select year(s) for other chart types or table types you will get the prompt:

! Select required parameters first (indicators, countries, years)

- If you select only more recent year(s) for the data than are available:

- line charts A and B and the "Availablility" chart will work (although no data will be shown for the unavailable years)
- the boxplot will display with no data
- the country profile and all Tables (A, B, C, D and E)will display, but with "..." for the unavailable data
- for other chart types, you could get the prompt:

X Sorry, no data

- If, however, your selection included some available years as well as some unavailable years, you should be able to display each chart type (showing data for the available years). The exception might be the scattergram – you would need to ensure you selected indicators with data available for each axis.

Again, the tables will all work, but will have "..." for the years where the data are not available.

- Your parameters selection can be altered at any time. However, the Select parameters screen does not remain as an open window from start-up; you need to open it again via the main screen (as described in section 5e). Click on Select parameters, and add, remove or change your indicators/countries/ years selections. You will then need to click on the display option you want (Graphs, Tables or Maps) in order to get the updated data selection displayed.

7 Definitions

Both the online and offline version of the database have definitions for every indicator, including sources and other key information for the Scotland data. You are advised to read this before interpreting and drawing conclusions about the indicators you have examined.

The **Definitions** tab is the fifth tab on the opening screen (see **Figure B**). After clicking on the tab, you will get a window with the selected indicators on the left hand side. Click on the one you want, and its definition will appear in the box on the right, eg for the example used in sections 2 and 5 (SDR (standardised death rate) for all causes, all ages):

Figure M

http://www.scotpho.org.uk - Indicator definitions - Microsoft Internet Explorer				
Quit				
Selected indicators 1810 SDR all causes, all ages, per 100000	990102 SDR, all causes, all ages, per 100000 World Health Organization ICD-10 code: All causes. Scotland Source: General Register Office for Scotland, with SDRs calculated by ISD. Note that SDRs for both sexes are age-standardised but not sex-standardised. ICD9 codes: all causes. In Scotland, ICD9 was used from 1979 to 1999, then ICD10 from 2000. Note also that deaths to non-residents of Scotland which occurred in Scotland are included in the data, and therefore the Lockerbie bombing in December 1988 will inflate the data for 1988 and 1989.			
e Done		Internet		

8 Help (online and offline)

Both versions of the database include an extensive **Help** facility (sixth tab from top left hand side on the opening screen; see **Figures B and I**). Click on **Help** then **Contents**, then the section for which you want more information. The offline **Help** contents (slightly fuller than online) are:

Introduction Indicators (includes abbreviations used and a full list of indicators available) Countries (for details of the country groups for which averages are available) Years Data sources Notes on data availability and quality Technical notes Main Menu Parameters menu (for further details on selecting parameters) Maps Graphical data presentation options: Maps, Bar chart, Ranked bar chart (vertical), Ranked bar chart (horizontal), Line chart A, Line chart B, Line chart C, Scattergram, Boxplot - by value, Boxplot - by rank, Histogram, Country profile, Availability

Tabular data presentation options: Table A, B C, D, E

9 Interpretation of trends for Scotland compared with 7 selected countries

From the ScotPHO website page for Health for All (**Figure A**), you can access comprehensive briefing notes 3 and short summary notes 4 which offer interpretation of trends for Scotland compared with 7 selected countries (Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Portugal, UK, and the average of the 27 European Union countries ("EU")).

10 Further help

For further guidance on using the database, or to offer feedback on these guidance notes, please telephone or e-mail us using the contact details below.

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