

## **WEEK 14 – STATISTICS AND EPIDEMIOLOGY**

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The world health organization, or WHO, estimates that nearly 35 percent of the global burden of disease has roots in adolescence. Globally, the leading causes of death among adolescents include road injuries, HIV, suicide, and interpersonal violence.

The major causes of disability-adjusted life years lost in 10 to 19-year-olds are depression, road injuries, HIV and suicide.

As you can see on the chart, the statistics on disability-adjusted life years, or DALYS, are 1,000 adolescents-- per 1,000 adolescents tell us an interesting story. Many of the health problems seen in childhood and adolescence start during the first decade of life. This statistic emphasizes the need for early screening, assessment and treatment across the life course.

All the measures of death, disability and disease tell a consistent story about adolescent health across age, gender and regions, as well as among low and middle income countries and high income countries.

The statistics also illustrate the magnitude of mental health illnesses, suicide, alcohol use, road injuries, and other unintentional injuries, interpersonal violence and the effects of war on adolescents.