It's arrived: a thing of beauty.
One of the most important innovations in this year’s GBD is its redefinition of demographic transition, taking account of migration. Instead of viewing migration as a threat or a problem, we should welcome migration as an example of human agency for sustainability.
Although disease burden among us is falling (blue line, measured as disability-adjusted life years), population growth and ageing mean that the total world burden of poor health is about the same (red line). One fact from 3.5 billion units of data in the Global Burden of Disease.

![Figure 1: Global DALYs and age-standardised DALY rates, 1990-2019](image)

Shaded sections indicate 95% uncertainty intervals. DALY = disability-adjusted life-year.
We rightly spend a lot of time talking about the growing importance of non-communicable diseases, but we should still be shocked at the massive neglect of disease among newborn children. Top cause of disease burden in 1990. And still so in 2019. A matter for global shame.
We like to think we have turned the tide on HIV. Wrong. In the 25-49 year age group, HIV remains the number 2 cause of disease burden. Yes, let’s fix the ongoing syndemic of COVID-19. But please let’s not forget the global epidemic of HIV.
And when you look at health risks, it's still high blood pressure for women and tobacco use for men that take the biggest tolls overall.
If you cut the data a slightly different way, you see the continuing importance of child and maternal malnutrition. How is it that in our so-called civilised world we allow anyone to go hungry or live with malnutrition? Obscene.
Finally, if you look at trends, you see explosive importance of metabolic risks to our health—look at the increases since 1990 for high fasting plasma glucose (diabetes) and high body mass index (overweight and obesity). Metabolic risks are a time bomb for humanity.

One more thing. At a time when much is made of disagreement among scientists about how to manage this syndemic, the Global Burden of Disease represents a collaboration and consensus between 5000 scientists and the World Health Organisation. The world can be united after all.