

# Kuwait: Health Systems Profile

## Health status (2013)

Life expectancy at birth in years	total	78.0
	males	78.0
	females	79.0
Maternal mortality ratio per 100 000 live births	total	14.0

## Communicable diseases (2014)

Tuberculosis notification rate per 100 000 population	20.0
Incidence rate of malaria per 100 000 population	...
Number of newly reported HIV cases	22.0

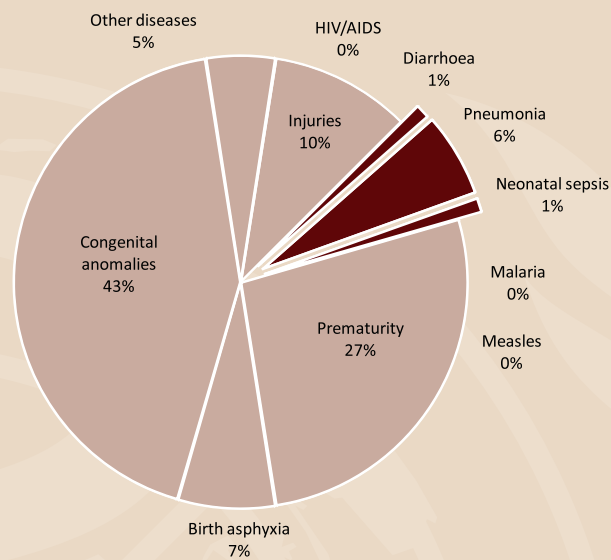
## Behavioural risk factors

Prevalence (%)	males	females	total
Current tobacco smoking (2011)*	...	...	...
Insufficient physical activity (2008-)	...	...	56.6

## Metabolic risk factors

2014 estimated prevalence (%)	males	females	total
Raised blood pressure	...	...	19.9
Raised blood glucose	...	...	20.1
Overweight	...	...	75.4
Obesity	...	...	39.7

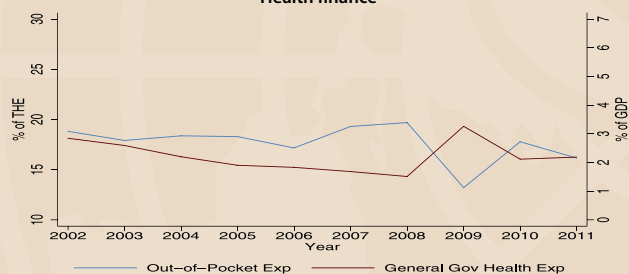
## Distribution of causes of death among children aged <5 years (%)



Communicable diseases are estimated to account for 49% of all deaths among children aged <5 years

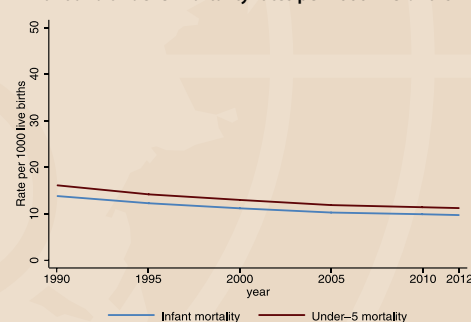
## Expenditure and mortality trends

### Health finance



\*GGHE%GDP is the general government expenditure on health as % of gross domestic product  
\*\*OOP%THE is the out-of-pocket expenditure as % of total health expenditure

### Infant and under 5 mortality rates per 1000 live births



## Health system: selected coverage interventions

Antenatal care visits (4+ visits) (2013)	59.8
Measles immunization coverage among 1-year-olds (2014)	94
Treatment success rate of new bacteriologically confirmed TB cases (2014)	84
DPT3-containing vaccine / Pentavalent coverage group among children under 1 year of age group (2014)	95

## Health system: finance (2013)

General government expenditure on health as % of general government expenditure	5.8
Out-of-pocket expenditure as % of total health expenditure	15.7
Per capita total health expenditure at exchange rate (US\$)	1507

## Health system: workforce (2014)

Health workforce per 10 000 population	
Physicians	24.2
Nurses/midwives	58.7
Dentists	7.4
Pharmacists	6

## Health system: information

Percentage of births registered	1
Percentage of causes of death recorded	1

## Health system: medicines and medical devices (2013)

Availability of selected essential medicines and medical products in health facilities (%)	public	100
	private	100
Number of scanners (in public facilities) per million population <sup>c</sup>	CT	...
	MRI	...

## Health system: service delivery (infrastructure) (2014)

Primary health care facilities per 10 000 population	0.3
Hospital beds per 10 000 population	20.4

... No data available

<sup>a</sup> International Classification of Diseases

<sup>b</sup> Gross domestic product

<sup>c</sup> Computed tomography (CT) and Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)

\* Age-standardized estimated

Please note the data sources are in the attachment

## Health System Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Challenges, and Priorities – Kuwait 2015

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decentralized health system with considerable autonomy in administration and financing, training and health care management</li> <li>Well established primary health care network with access for all citizens to a comprehensive package of health services</li> <li>Family practice approach is the main strategy for service provision</li> <li>National system of continuing professional development for all categories of the health workforce has a positive impact on quality of care</li> <li>Ratios of health professionals to population higher than the Regional average in all categories except for pharmacists</li> <li>Well established quality and accreditation and patients safety programmes</li> <li>Computerized information system in all primary health care centres that will be soon connected to the secondary and tertiary hospitals networks</li> <li>Founded new department for Geriatric care, and Provision of services for elderly through PHC</li> <li>Integration of mental and physical health in primary health care</li> <li>Developed national health accounts</li> <li>Presence of reliable registration, licensing and quality assurance programme for medicine and health technology</li> <li>Blood transfusion and medical laboratory services have capacity to train people from outside Kuwait</li> <li>Intersectoral collaboration under umbrella of healthy city program is well established as pilot</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health system relies heavily on expatriate health workforce (less than 54% of the health workforce are not Kuwaiti)</li> <li>Low capacity of institutes to train required health workforce</li> <li>High burden of noncommunicable diseases and their risk factors, yet the health system is not configured to adequately tackle them</li> <li>Lack of policy and planning dialogue between health members of National High Council for Planning and Development and the Ministry of Health</li> <li>The limited contribution of the private health sector in promotive and preventive care</li> <li>Health system is hospital-based giving lower priority on preventive and promotive health</li> <li>Lack of adequate communication and clear authorized connection between existing information systems</li> </ul>
Opportunities	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High priority accorded to health at the highest level of policy-makers and genuine national desire to achieve a very high standard of health</li> <li>Establishment of a regional centre of excellence will have positive impact on improving levels of quality and safety</li> <li>High level of literacy and education in Kuwait</li> <li>Sufficient allocation of resources to the health sector</li> <li>Kuwait has a Gender Inequality Index value of 0.288 in 2013, ranking for human development index 46 out of 146 countries in the 2013</li> <li>Availability of good quality data on morbidity, mortality and vital health statistics</li> <li>Mixed health economy of 80:20 public/private partnerships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Putting in place regular assessment of quality of services delivered by the primary health care centres and hospitals and specialized clinics</li> <li>Improving the referral system and establish a follow up mechanism</li> <li>Community awareness building specially related to the risk factors of noncommunicable diseases</li> <li>Unifying the data collection and reporting mechanism for primary health care, secondary and tertiary levels</li> <li>Cost reduction and containment, without curtailing quality and availability of first class health care to all people</li> <li>Sustained stability of top management in the Ministry of Health</li> <li>Establishing a flexible computerized information system with sufficient connectivity between different modular sub-systems to allow retrieval and input at all levels through an authorization procedure</li> </ul>

### Priorities

- Reorganize the Ministry of Health's structure to reflect priorities and to streamline certain functions such as health information collection and analysis
- Plan for long and medium term Human Resource development, particularly to replace expatriates with Kuwaiti health workforce
- Expand the health insurance coverage for 100% of citizens and residents in State of Kuwait
- Expand primary health care services through family practice approach to cover all PHC facilities
- Ensuring patient safety and monitoring of patient satisfaction as well as quality assurance and accreditation system
- Inclusion of dental services as integral part of service delivery in all PHC facilities
- Strengthening health information system and applied research
- Strengthen medicine, medical supplies and equipment, medical laboratories and the blood bank and develop national norms and criteria for use of advanced health technology
- Enhance community health awareness particularly the risk factors of noncommunicable disease