

Tunisia: Health Systems Profile

Health status (2016)

Life expectancy at birth in years	<i>total</i>	76.0
	<i>males</i>	74.1
	<i>females</i>	78.1
Maternal mortality ratio per 100 000 live births	<i>total</i>	62

Communicable diseases (2017)

Tuberculosis notification rate per 100 000 population	26.0
Incidence rate of malaria per 1 000 population	...
Number of newly reported HIV cases	...

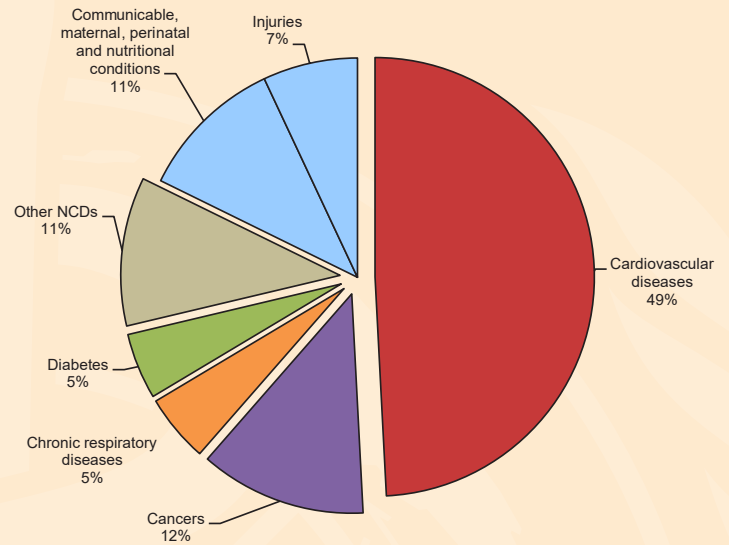
Behavioural risk factors

Estimated prevalence (%)	<i>males</i>	<i>females</i>	<i>total</i>
Current tobacco smoking (2015)*	...	...	...
Insufficient physical activity (2016)*	...	...	30.4

Metabolic risk factors

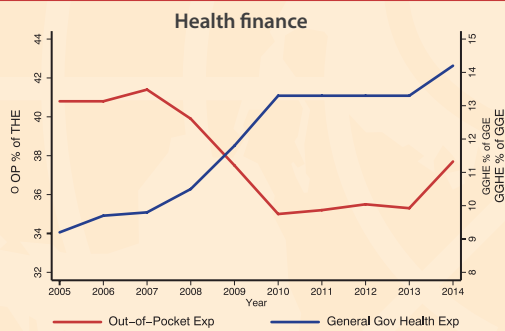
Estimated prevalence (%)	<i>males</i>	<i>females</i>	<i>total</i>
Raised blood pressure (2015)	...	...	23.2
Raised blood glucose (2014)	...	...	12.5
Overweight (2016)	...	...	61.6
Obesity (2016)	...	...	26.9

Proportional mortality (% of total deaths, all ages, both sexes)



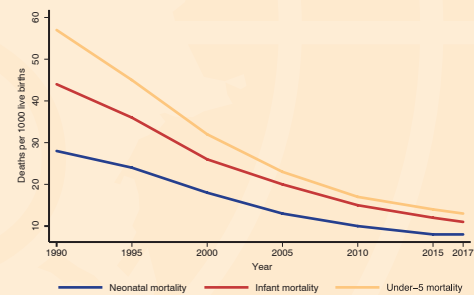
Total deaths: 60,000
NCDs are estimated to account for 82% of total deaths.

Expenditure and mortality trends



*GGHE % GGE is the general government health expenditure as % of general government expenditure
 **OOP % THE is the out-of-pocket expenditure as % of total health expenditure

Neonatal, infant and under 5 mortality rates per 1000 live births



Source: UN-HGME 2018

Health system: selected coverage interventions

Antenatal care visits (4+ visits) (2016)	86.4
Measles immunization coverage among 1-year-olds (2017)	98.0
Treatment success rate of new bacteriologically confirmed TB cases (2017)	88.0
DTP3-containing vaccine / Pentavalent coverage group among children under 1 year of age group (2017)	98.0

Health system: finance (2014)

General government expenditure on health as % of general government expenditure	14.2
Out-of-pocket expenditure as % of total health expenditure	37.7
Per capita total health expenditure at exchange rate (US\$)	305

Health system: workforce (2015)

Health workforce per 10 000 population	
Physicians	13.0
Nurses/midwives	40.9
Dentists	3.1
Pharmacists	2.3

Health system: information (2007-2016)

Percentage of births registered	...
Percentage of deaths registered	29.0
Universal Health Coverage	
UHC index (2017)	65.0

Health system: medicines and medical devices (2013)

Availability of selected essential medicines and medical products in health facilities (%)	public	70.0
	private (2012)	80.0
Number of scanners (in public facilities) per million population ^a	CT	8.9
	MRI	2.0

Health system: service delivery (infrastructure) (2013)

Primary health care facilities per 10 000 population	1.9
Hospital beds per 10 000 population	21.8

... No data available

^a 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 - Tunisia 2018

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 80% of the Tunisian population is covered by an explicit mechanism, based either on mandatory individual contributions (CNAM) or by a non-contributive program to cover poor households (AMG). • There are extra provisions for coverage of certain illnesses for all patients, alleviating potential financial hardship. • Established National Health programmes for Maternal Mortality, Immunization, IMCI and others. • Presence of strong local pharmaceutical industry with important production of generic and bio equivalent drugs. • Good medical infrastructure in both public and private sector and a large number of qualified health professionals. • The “INAsante” (National Agency for accreditation in health care), established in 2012, continues to grow in capacity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out-of-pocket payments on health care still represent a large share of total health expenditure (36.6%) despite the existence of CNAM and the government budget for health. • Geographic inequality in the distribution of health care providers and in accessibility to specialized services in remote areas. • Largely centralized management of public health facilities impedes responsiveness. • Fragmented health information system; available data are not well used for informed decision making. • Shortages in public sector for some specialties (radiology, gynecology, ICU) • Significant increase in use of emergency services in recent years at public hospitals • Weak regulation and control, and limited engagement and partnership with the private sector (despite the fact that the private sector represents 50% of practitioners and 25% of hospital beds). • Limited availability of staff at lowest level government health facilities, restricting hours of operation. • Primary care not well coordinated with higher levels and does not always respond to the community health needs. Lack of well-defined care pathways and ineffective gate keeping send many patients to higher level facilities. • Additionally, low bed occupancy rates particularly in regional hospitals due to the absence of specialists
Opportunities	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong engagement for Universal health Coverage and health in all policies (article 38 of the 2014 Constitution, “White Book” of 2014) • Phase 2 of the ‘Dialogue societal’ to reform health system has been resumed since mid-2017. This large participatory process will develop in early 2019 a national health policy until 2030 • Diverse and dynamic civil society organizations exist with strong interest in health issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epidemiological, demographic and life style transition have resulted in rapid increase in the burden of non-communicable diseases. • Frequent changes in the government in the past few years has created difficulties in consistent implementation of national health strategies • High unemployment for newly graduated health professionals and brain drain towards private sector and foreign countries • Need to promote trust among citizens, health professionals and administrative staff, especially in a context of growing expectations of the population. • Economic and social difficulties facing the country pose a challenge in implementing reforms

Priorities

- Reform health financing strategy to reduce household direct payment and increase the effectiveness, quality and efficiency through strategic purchasing. Create innovative approaches to mobilize additional resources, as well as optimize the use of existing fiscal space.
- Ensure equitable access to health care services with focus on populations living in remote areas that is socioeconomically vulnerable and reorganize health care services to improve continuity of care and coordination among the different levels. Bridge the gap in availability and quality of care between the Eastern and Western/southern regions of the country.
- Reinforce the function of strategic purchaser and accelerate accreditation and use of best practice programs.
- Reinforce health promotion and prevention programs; introduce family medicine to reinforce the role of primary care and ensure better access to health care services for priority health conditions and establish effective care pathway.
- Revise the national pharmaceutical policy particularly for the rational use of drugs and support the national pharmaceutical industry in relation to the production of generic and bioequivalent drugs and promote their export.
- Implement health care quality program based on the use of national norms and protocols and introduce quality indicators to monitor the performance of the health programs.
- Reinforce governance through increasing the participation of citizens, improve transparency and accountability and regulate the private sector and develop public private partnerships.
- Develop policies that attract health care providers to Western and Southern regions of the country.
- Establish a system of “health networks” (pôles de santé) involving the three levels of the system in line with the reinforcement of local capacities and networking systems.
- Implement a continuous professional development program for all the categories of health professionals.
- Implement an integrated health Information system.