



Denmark

GENERAL INFORMATION

Denmark is a country with an approximate area of 43 thousand square kilometers (UNO, 2008). The population is 5,481,283 and the sex ratio (men per hundred women) is 98 (UNO, 2009). The proportion of the population under the age of 18 years is 22% and the proportion above age 60 is 17% (UNO, 2009). The life expectancy at birth is 76 years for males and 81 years for females (UNO, 2005-2010). The healthy life expectancy at birth is 70 years for males and 81 years for females (UNPD, 2010). The country is in the high income group (based on 2010 World Bank criteria). The total expenditure on health as a percentage of gross domestic product is 11.19% and the per capita government expenditure on health (PPP int. \$) is \$3239.0 (WHO, 2006). The suicide rate for males is 17.5 per 100,000 population and for females is 6.4 per 100,000 population. In Denmark, neuropsychiatric disorders are estimated to contribute to 28.8% of the global burden of disease (WHO, 2008).

GOVERNANCE

An officially approved mental health policy exists and was approved, or most recently revised, in 2010. Mental health is specifically mentioned in the general health policy.

A mental health plan exists and was approved or most recently revised in 2010. The mental health plan components include:

- Timelines for the implementation of the mental health plan.
- Funding allocation for the implementation of half or more of the items in the mental health plan.
- Integration of mental health services into primary care.

Dedicated mental health legislation exists and was initiated, or most recently revised, in 2010. Legal provisions concerning mental health are also covered in other laws (e.g., welfare, disability, general health legislation etc.).

Note: Mental health policies in Denmark are not reported in a single document that stipulates the overall policy but rather in several different documents, including "The National board of Health: National strategy for psychiatry/ mental health."

The Health Act (Sundhedsloven) encompasses all legislation on benefits pertaining to public health care, including mental health care and patient's rights. Additionally The Psychiatric Act regulates the use of involuntary admissions and treatment and other restraints in psychiatry.

FINANCING

Mental health and mental hospital expenditures by the government health department/ministry are not available.

MENTAL HEALTH CARE DELIVERY

Primary Care

Prescription regulations authorize primary health care doctors to prescribe and/or to continue prescription of psychotherapeutic medicines but with restrictions. In contrast, the department of health does not authorize primary health care nurses to prescribe and/or to continue prescription of psychotherapeutic medicines. Similarly, official policy does not permit primary health care nurses to independently diagnose and treat mental disorders within the primary care system.

The majority of primary health care doctors and nurses have not received official in-service training on mental health within the last five years. Officially approved manuals on the management and treatment of mental disorders are not available in the majority of primary health care clinics. Official referral procedures for referring persons from primary care to secondary/tertiary care exist, as do referral procedures from tertiary/secondary care to primary care.

Mental Health Services

Availability of mental health facilities

	Total number of facilities/beds	Rate per 100,000 Population	Number of facilities/beds reserved for children and adolescents only	Rate per 100,000 population
Mental health outpatient facilities	UN	UN	UN	UN
Day treatment facilities	UN	UN	UN	UN
Psychiatric beds in general and mental hospitals	2955	53.91	UN	UN
Community residential facilities	UN	UN	UN	UN
Beds/places in community residential facilities	UN	UN	UN	UN

Access to care

	Rates per 100,000 population)	Females (%)	Under age 18 (%)
Persons treated in mental health outpatient facilities	1683.84	54%	17%
Persons treated in mental health day treatment facilities	UN	UN	UN
Admissions to psychiatric beds in general and mental hospitals	836.36	51%	3%
Persons staying in community residential facilities at the end of the year	UN	UN	UN

Data collected in 2011

UN = information unavailable, NA = item not applicable

Long term care in mental hospitals (% of persons staying):

Less than 1 year	90.0%
More than 1 and less than 5 years	9.7%
More than 5 years	0.3%

HUMAN RESOURCES

Workforce and training

	Health professionals working in the mental health sector Rate per 100,000	Training of health professions in educational institutions Rate per 100,000
Psychiatrists	14.12	0.60
Medical doctors, not specialized in psychiatry	UN	15.42
Nurses	UN	41.01
Psychologists	UN	UN
Social workers	UN	UN
Occupational therapists	UN	6.86
Other health workers	UN	NA

Informal human resources (Family and User Associations)

	User	Family
Present in the country?	Yes	Yes
Number of members	UN	UN
Participation in the formulation/implementation of policy/plan/legislation?	not routinely	not routinely

MEDICINES

Expenditures for medicines for mental and behavioral disorders at country level

Type of Medicines	Expenditures at country level per year and per 100,000 population (in USD)
All the psychotherapeutic medicines ¹	5,527,773
Medicines used for bipolar disorders ²	116,619
Medicines for psychotic disorders ³	3,367,652

¹ N03AG01, N05A, N05B, N05C, N06A

² N03AG01, N05A, N05B, N05C, N06A

³ N05A (excluding N05AN)

Data collected in 2011

UN = information unavailable, NA = item not applicable

Medicines used for general anxiety ⁴	NA
Medicines used for mood disorders ⁵	NA

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

	Data on number of people/ activities are collected and reported	Data on age and gender are collected and reported	Data on patient's diagnosis are collected and reported
Persons with mental disorders treated in primary health care	Yes	No	No
Interventions (psychopharmacological and psychosocial) delivered in primary health care for people with mental disorders	Yes	No	No
Persons treated in mental health outpatient facilities	Yes	Yes	Yes
Contacts in mental health outpatient facilities	Yes	Yes	Yes
Persons treated in mental health day treatment facilities	Yes	Yes	Yes
Admissions in general hospitals with psychiatric beds	Yes	Yes	Yes
Admissions in mental hospitals	Yes	Yes	Yes
Days spent in mental hospitals	Yes	Yes	Yes
Admissions in community residential facilities	No	No	No

Note: Mental health data (either on the public system, private system, or both) have been compiled for general health statistics in the last three years, but not in a specific mental health report.

⁴ N05B & N05C

⁵ N06A

Data collected in 2011

UN = information unavailable, NA = item not applicable