



## GENERAL INFORMATION

Algeria is a country with an approximate area of 2382 thousand square kilometers (UNO, 2008). The population is 35,422,589 and the sex ratio (men per hundred women) is 102 (UNO, 2009). The proportion of the population under the age of 18 years is 33% and the proportion above age 60 is 5% (UNO, 2009). The literacy rate is 94% for men and 89% for women (UN Statistics, 2008). The life expectancy at birth is 71 years for males and 74 years for females (UNO, 2005-2010). The healthy life expectancy at birth is 62 years for males and 74 years for females (UNPD, 2010). The country is in the upper middle income group (based on 2010 World Bank criteria). The total expenditure on health as a percentage of gross domestic product is 4.13% and the per capita government expenditure on health (PPP int. \$) is \$255.0 (WHO, 2006). Suicide rate information is not available. In Algeria, neuropsychiatric disorders are estimated to contribute to 13.1% of the global burden of disease (WHO, 2008).

## GOVERNANCE

An officially approved mental health policy exists and was approved, or most recently revised, in 2009. Mental health is also specifically mentioned in the general health policy.

A mental health plan exists and was approved, or most recently revised, in 2009. 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.
- Shift of services and resources from mental hospitals to community mental health facilities.
- Integration of mental health services into primary care.

Dedicated mental health legislation exists and was initiated, or most recently revised, in 1985. Legal provisions concerning mental health are also covered in other laws (e.g. welfare, disability, general health legislation etc.).

Note: A revision of the Health Act is planned, in which the section on mental health will be enhanced in order to improve the mental health resources available to patients in an attempt to increase prevention of mental health disorders, and to improve patient rights.

## FINANCING

Mental health expenditures by the government health department/ministry are 7.37% of the total health budget. Mental hospital expenditures are 81.44% of the total mental health budget.

Note: Spending on mental hospitals is divided into the annual operating budget of 3,501,104,000 Algerian Dinar (DA) and the capital budget of 7,900,000,000 DA which will be invested in the development of 17 new psychiatric hospitals, over the next 5 years.

## MENTAL HEALTH CARE DELIVERY

### Primary Care

Prescription regulations authorize primary health care doctors to prescribe and/or to continue prescription of psychotherapeutic medicines without 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 have received official in-service training on mental health within the last five years, whereas the majority of primary health care nurses have not. 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	428	1.21	UN	UN
Day treatment facilities	16	0.05	15	0.04
Psychiatric beds in general hospitals	826	2.33	12	0.03
Community residential facilities	NA	NA	NA	NA
Beds/places in community residential facilities	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mental hospitals	15	0.04	UN	UN
Beds in mental hospitals	4023	11.36	160	0.45

#### Access to care

	Rates per 100,000 population)	Females (%)	Under age 18 (%)
Persons treated in mental health outpatient facilities	705.76	UN	5%
Persons treated in mental health day treatment facilities	28.23	UN	100
Admissions to psychiatric beds in general hospitals	14.12	UN	UN
Persons staying in community residential facilities at the end of the year	NA	NA	NA

Data collected in 2011

UN = information unavailable, NA = item not applicable

Admissions to mental hospitals	1.91	UN	UN
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Long term care in mental hospitals (% of persons staying):

Less than 1 year	100%
More than 1 and less than 5 years	0%
More than 5 years	0%

## 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	1.55	0.28
Medical doctors, not specialized in psychiatry	0.42	2.26
Nurses	6.01	0.75
Psychologists	4.26	2.82
Social workers	UN	0.3
Occupational therapists	UN	0.14
Other health workers	UN	NA

Note: Given the strong need for qualified human resources in the mental health sector, new institutes have been formed to increase the training of mental health professionals (psychiatrists, nurses, psychologists) and to increase the number of mental-health job opportunities.

### Informal human resources (Family and User Associations)

	User	Family
Present in the country?	Yes	No
Number of members	UN	NA
Participation in the formulation/implementation of policy/plan/legislation?	not routinely	NA

## 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)
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Data collected in 2011

UN = information unavailable, NA = item not applicable

All the psychotherapeutic medicines <sup>1</sup>	197,527
Medicines used for bipolar disorders <sup>2</sup>	51,357
Medicines for psychotic disorders <sup>3</sup>	67,159
Medicines used for general anxiety <sup>4</sup>	19,753
Medicines used for mood disorders <sup>5</sup>	59,258

## 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	No	No
Contacts in mental health outpatient facilities	UN	UN	UN
Persons treated in mental health day treatment facilities	Yes	UN	No
Admissions in general hospitals with psychiatric beds	Yes	No	No
Admissions in mental hospitals	Yes	No	No
Days spent in mental hospitals	Yes	No	No
Admissions in community residential facilities	NA	NA	NA

Note: A specific report focusing mental health activities strictly in the public sector has been published by the Health Department or any other responsible government unit in the last three years.

## OTHER INFORMATION

Mental health remains a public health priority in Algeria, with various organizations and resources devoted to improve mental health coverage.

The statistics presented are representative of resources strictly in the public sector, including primary care facilities such as health centers with intermediate mental health capacities as well as secondary and tertiary facilities such as general and specialized hospitals.

<sup>1</sup> N03AG01, N05A, N05B, N05C, N06A

<sup>2</sup> N03AG01, N05A, N05B, N05C, N06A

<sup>3</sup> N05A (excluding N05AN)

<sup>4</sup> N05B & N05C

<sup>5</sup> N06A

Data collected in 2011

UN = information unavailable, NA = item not applicable

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