



GENERAL INFORMATION

Fiji is a country with an approximate area of 18 thousand square kilometers (UNO, 2008). The population is 854,098 and the sex ratio (men per hundred women) is 104 (UNO, 2009). The proportion of the population under the age of 18 years is 37% and the proportion above age 60 is 5% (UNO, 2009). The life expectancy at birth is 66 years for males and 72 years for females (UNO, 2005-2010). The healthy life expectancy at birth is 60 years for males and 72 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 3.55% and the per capita government expenditure on health (PPP int. \$) is \$114.0 (WHO, 2006). Suicide rate information is not available. In Fiji, neuropsychiatric disorders are estimated to contribute to 13.7% of the global burden of disease (WHO, 2008).

GOVERNANCE

An officially approved mental health policy doesn't exist. However, mental health is specifically mentioned in the general health policy.

A mental health plan doesn't exist.

Dedicated mental health legislation exists and it was initiated or most recently revised in 1978. Legal provisions concerning mental health are also covered in other laws (e.g., welfare, disability, general health legislation etc.).

Note: Fiji has a new Mental Health Decree. It was endorsed by the Cabinet in October 2010. This new legislation covers a wide range of issues compared to the Mental Treatment Act which focused mostly on treatment.

FINANCING

Mental health expenditures by the government health department/ministry are 1.9% of the total health budget. Mental hospital expenditures are 100.0% of the total mental health budget.

MENTAL HEALTH CARE DELIVERY

Primary Care

Prescription regulations authorize primary health care doctors to prescribe and/or to continue prescription of psychotherapeutic medicines. The department of health does not authorize primary health care nurses to prescribe and/or to continue prescription of psychotherapeutic medicines. 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 not received official in-service training on mental health within the last five years. The majority of primary health care nurses have also not received such training. 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

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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 | 1 | 0.12 | UN | UN |
| Day treatment facilities | 0 | 0.0 | NA | NA |
| Psychiatric beds in general hospitals | 1 | 0.12 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Community residential facilities | 0 | 0.0 | NA | NA |
| Beds/places in community residential facilities | 0 | 0.0 | NA | NA |
| Mental hospitals | 1 | 0.12 | UN | UN |
| Beds in mental hospitals | 136 | 15.92 | UN | UN |

Access to care

| | Rates per 100,000 population) | Females (%) | Under age 18 (%) |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Persons treated in mental health outpatient facilities | 90.27 | UN | UN |
| Persons treated in mental health day treatment facilities | NA | NA | NA |
| Admissions to psychiatric beds in general hospitals | UN | UN | UN |
| Persons staying in community residential facilities at the end of the year | NA | NA | NA |
| Admissions to mental hospitals | 57.14 | 42% | 2% |

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

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Less than 1 year | 48% |
| More than 1 and less than 5 years | 13% |
| More than 5 years | 39% |

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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 | 0.23 | NA |
| Medical doctors, not specialized in psychiatry | 0.47 | 4.33 |
| Nurses | 4.1 | 11.05 |
| Psychologists | 0.0 | NA |
| Social workers | 0.0 | NA |
| Occupational therapists | 0.23 | NA |
| Other health workers | 4.57 | NA |

Informal human resources (Family and User Associations)

| | User | Family |
|---|------------|------------|
| Present in the country? | Yes | Yes |
| Number of members | 38 | 10 |
| Participation in the formulation/implementation of policy/plan/legislation? | Frequently | Frequently |

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 | UN |
| Medicines used for bipolar disorders ² | UN |
| Medicines for psychotic disorders ³ | UN |
| Medicines used for general anxiety ⁴ | UN |
| Medicines used for mood disorders ⁵ | UN |

¹ N03AG01, N05A, N05B, N05C, N06A

² N03AG01, N05A, N05B, N05C, N06A

³ N05A (excluding N05AN)

⁴ N05B & N05C

⁵ N06A

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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 | Yes | Yes |
| Interventions (psychopharmacological and psychosocial) delivered in primary health care for people with mental disorders | No | 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 | No | No | No |
| 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 | NA | NA | NA |

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

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