



Iraq

GENERAL INFORMATION

Iraq is a country with an approximate area of 437 thousand square kilometers (UNO, 2008). The population is 31,466,698 and the sex ratio (men per hundred women) is 101 (UNO, 2009). The proportion of the population under the age of 18 years is 46% and the proportion above age 60 is 3% (UNO, 2009). The literacy rate is 85% for men and 80% for women (UN Statistics, 2008). The life expectancy at birth is 63 years for males and 72 years for females (UNO, 2005-2010). The healthy life expectancy at birth is 50 years for males and 72 years for females (UNPD, 2010). The country is in the lower middle income group (based on 2010 World Bank criteria). The total expenditure on health as a percentage of gross domestic product is 3.94% and the per capita government expenditure on health (PPP int. \$) is \$114.0 (WHO, 2006). Suicide rate information is not available. In Iraq, neuropsychiatric disorders are estimated to contribute to 6.1% of the global burden of disease (WHO, 2008).

GOVERNANCE

An officially approved mental health policy does not exist, and mental health is not specifically mentioned in the general health policy.

A mental health plan exists and was approved, or most recently revised, in 2008. 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 2004. Legal provisions concerning mental health are also covered in other laws (e.g., welfare, disability, general health legislation etc.).

FINANCING

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

Note: Mental health expenditures are part of the general state public health expenditures.

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.

Data collected in 2011

UN = information unavailable, NA = item not applicable

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 available in the majority of primary health care clinics. Official referral procedures for referring persons from primary care to secondary/tertiary care exist. It is unknown whether referral procedures from tertiary/secondary to primary care exist.

Note: 40-50 % of PHC doctors and nurses received some sort training.

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	34	0.108	5	0.016
Day treatment facilities	1	0.003	UN	UN
Psychiatric beds in general hospitals	350	1.112	10	0.031
Community residential facilities	0	0.0	NA	NA
Beds/places in community residential facilities	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mental hospitals	3	0.010	0	0.000
Beds in mental hospitals	1340	4.258	0	0.000

Access to care

	Rates per 100,000 population)	Females (%)	Under age 18 (%)
Persons treated in mental health outpatient facilities	223.54	25%	17%
Persons treated in mental health day treatment facilities	UN	UN	UN
Admissions to psychiatric beds in general hospitals	4.93	37%	36%
Persons staying in community residential facilities at the end of the year	NA	NA	NA
Admissions to mental hospitals	12.71	33%	6%

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

Less than 1 year	UN
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Data collected in 2011

UN = information unavailable, NA = item not applicable

More than 1 and less than 5 years	UN
More than 5 years	UN

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	0.27	0.02
Medical doctors, not specialized in psychiatry	UN	0.07
Nurses	0.89	0.44
Psychologists	0.15	0.15
Social workers	0.10	UN
Occupational therapists	UN	UN
Other health workers	UN	NA

Informal human resources (Family and User Associations)

	User	Family
Present in the country?	UN	UN
Number of members	UN	UN
Participation in the formulation/implementation of policy/plan/legislation?	UN	UN

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

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 mood disorders ⁵	UN
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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	Yes	Yes	Yes
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	No	No	No
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.

⁴ N05B & N05C

⁵ N06A

Data collected in 2011

UN = information unavailable, NA = item not applicable