



Jamaica

GENERAL INFORMATION

Jamaica is a country with an approximate area of 11 thousand square kilometers (UNO, 2008). The population is 2,729,909 and the sex ratio (men per hundred women) is 97 (UNO, 2009). The proportion of the population under the age of 18 years is 35% and the proportion above age 60 is 8% (UNO, 2009). The literacy rate is 92% for men and 98% for women (UN Statistics, 2008). The life expectancy at birth is 70 years for males and 75 years for females (UNO, 2005-2010). The healthy life expectancy at birth is 62 years for males and 75 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 5.06% and the per capita government expenditure on health (PPP int. \$) is \$163.0 (WHO, 2006). The suicide rate for males is 0.3 per 100, 000 population and for females is 0.0 per 100, 000 population. In Jamaica, neuropsychiatric disorders are estimated to contribute to 20.3% of the global burden of disease (WHO, 2008).

GOVERNANCE

An officially approved mental health policy exists and was approved or most recently revised in 2004. Mental health is 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:

- 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 it was initiated or most recently revised in 1997. Legal provisions concerning mental health are not covered in other laws (e.g., welfare, disability, general health legislation etc.).

FINANCING

Mental health expenditures by the government health department/ministry are 6.04% of the total health budget. Precise mental hospital expenditures are not available. However, data from 2006/2007 estimate mental hospital expenditures to be approximately 80% of the 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 authorizes primary health care nurses to prescribe and/or to continue prescription of psychotherapeutic medicines, but with restrictions. Likewise, 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 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, 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	139	5.09	20	0.73
Day treatment facilities	9	0.33	UN	UN
Psychiatric beds in general hospitals	80	2.93	UN	UN
Community residential facilities	13	0.48	UN	UN
Beds/places in community residential facilities	440	16.12	UN	UN
Mental hospitals	8	0.29	UN	UN
Beds in mental hospitals	400	14.65	UN	UN

Access to care

	Rates per 100,000 population)	Females (%)	Under age 18 (%)
Persons treated in mental health outpatient facilities	1162.13	36%	17%
Persons treated in mental health day treatment facilities	16.45	24%	0%
Admissions to psychiatric beds in general hospitals	15.75	70%	7%
Persons staying in community residential facilities at the end of the year	17.22	31%	18%
Admissions to mental hospitals	35.61	37%	0%

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

Less than 1 year	14%
More than 1 and less than 5 years	12%
More than 5 years	74%

Data collected in 2011

UN = information unavailable, NA = item not applicable

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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	1.1	0.07
Medical doctors, not specialized in psychiatry	0.55	6.48
Nurses	5.71	95.24
Psychologists	0.33	0.29
Social workers	0.59	0.0
Occupational therapists	0.22	0.22
Other health workers	0.0	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
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

Data collected in 2011

UN = information unavailable, NA = item not applicable

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	UN	UN
Interventions (psychopharmacological and psychosocial) delivered in primary health care for people with mental disorders	UN	UN	UN
Persons treated in mental health outpatient facilities	Yes	UN	UN
Contacts in mental health outpatient facilities	Yes	UN	
Persons treated in mental health day treatment facilities	Yes	UN	UN
Admissions in general hospitals with psychiatric beds	Yes	UN	UN
Admissions in mental hospitals	Yes	UN	UN
Days spent in mental hospitals	Yes	UN	UN
Admissions in community residential facilities	Yes	UN	UN

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

Data collected in 2011

UN = information unavailable, NA = item not applicable