



Republic of Korea

GENERAL INFORMATION

Korea is a country with an approximate area of 99 thousand square kilometers (UNO, 2008). The population is 48,500,717 and the sex ratio (men per hundred women) is . (UNO, 2009). The proportion of the population under the age of 18 years is 21% and the proportion above age 60 is 10% (UNO, 2009). The literacy rate is % for men and % for women (UN Statistics, 2008). The life expectancy at birth is 76 years for males and 83 years for females (UNO, 2005-2010). The healthy life expectancy at birth is 68 years for males and 83 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 6.49% and the per capita government expenditure on health (PPP int. \$) is \$ (WHO, 2006). The suicide rate for males is 29.6 per 100, 000 population and for females is 14.1 per 100, 000 population. In Korea, neuropsychiatric disorders are estimated to contribute to 27.2% 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 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 it was initiated or most recently revised in 2009. Legal provisions concerning mental health are also covered in other laws (e.g., welfare, disability, general health legislation etc.).

FINANCING

Mental health 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. 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 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

Data collected in 2011

UN = information unavailable, NA = item not applicable

procedures for referring persons from primary care to secondary/tertiary care do not exist, nor 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	1138	2.35	UN	UN
Day treatment facilities	55	0.11	UN	UN
Psychiatric beds in general hospitals	20004	41.24	UN	UN
Community residential facilities	127	0.26	UN	UN
Beds/places in community residential facilities	1770	3.65	UN	UN
Mental hospitals	1232	2.54	UN	UN
Beds in mental hospitals	72378	149.23	UN	UN

Access to care

	Rates per 100,000 population)	Females (%)	Under age 18 (%)
Persons treated in mental health outpatient facilities	UN	UN	UN
Persons treated in mental health day treatment facilities	UN	UN	UN
Admissions to psychiatric beds in general hospitals	UN	UN	UN
Persons staying in community residential facilities at the end of the year	2.89	UN	UN
Admissions to mental hospitals	122.04	UN	UN

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

Less than 1 year	67%
More than 1 and less than 5 years	25%
More than 5 years	8%

Data collected in 2011

UN = information unavailable, NA = item not applicable

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	5.12	0.3
Medical doctors, not specialized in psychiatry	2.21	6.65
Nurses	21.61	24.16
Psychologists	1.12	UN
Social workers	6.01	UN
Occupational therapists	UN	1.86
Other health workers	UN	NA

Informal human resources (Family and User Associations)

	User	Family
Present in the country?	Yes	Yes
Number of members	20	50
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

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	No	No
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	Yes	Yes	Yes
Admissions in community residential facilities	Yes	Yes	Yes

Data collected in 2011

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