



World Health
Organization

Marshall Islands

GENERAL INFORMATION

Marshall Islands is a country with an approximate area of 0.18 thousand square kilometers (UNO, 2008). The population is 63,398 and the sex ratio (men per hundred women) is unknown. (UNO, 2009). The proportion of the population under the age of 18 years is 43% and the proportion above age 60 is unknown (UNO, 2009). The healthy life expectancy at birth is 52 years for males and unknown 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 16.44% and the per capita government expenditure on health (PPP int. \$) is \$506.0 (WHO, 2006). Suicide rate information is not available. In Marshall Islands, neuropsychiatric disorders are estimated to contribute to 9.6% of the global burden of disease (WHO, 2008).

GOVERNANCE

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

A mental health plan doesn't exist.

Dedicated mental health legislation does not exist. Legal provisions concerning mental health are not covered in other laws (e.g., welfare, disability, general health legislation etc.).

Note:

A draft of a Mental Health Policy was completed in 2009. The policy's objectives are to:

- Protect the people living with mental disabilities from public discrimination and stigmatization
- Protect the human rights of people living with mental disorders
- Ensure people with mental disabilities are treated with dignity and care
- Promote the perception that people with mental disabilities will recover through proper treatment and support from families
- Strengthen the mental health and substance abuse services currently integrated in the Marshall Islands health care services
- Ensure necessary resources are channeled to mental health services.

FINANCING

The proportion of health budget to GDP is 9.8% (2006, WHO). A total of 0.4% of the health budget is spent on mental health (World Bank 2006).

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

Data collected in 2011

UN = information unavailable, NA = item not applicable

prescribe and/or to continue prescription of psychotherapeutic medicines but with restrictions. 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 procedures for referring persons from primary care to secondary/tertiary care exist. It is not known whether referral procedures from tertiary/secondary care to primary care exist.

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	2	3.15	UN	UN
Day treatment facilities	0	0.0	NA	NA
Psychiatric beds in general hospitals	0	0.0	NA	NA
Community residential facilities	0	0.0	NA	NA
Beds/places in community residential facilities	0	0.0	NA	NA
Mental hospitals	0	0.0	NA	NA
Beds in mental hospitals	0	0.0	NA	NA

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	NA	NA	NA
Admissions to psychiatric beds in general hospitals	NA	NA	NA
Persons staying in community residential facilities at the end of the year	NA	NA	NA
Admissions to mental hospitals	NA	NA	NA

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

Less than 1 year	NA
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Data collected in 2011

UN = information unavailable, NA = item not applicable

More than 1 and less than 5 years	NA
More than 5 years	NA

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	1.58	UN
Medical doctors, not specialized in psychiatry	0.0	UN
Nurses	18.93	UN
Psychologists	0.0	UN
Social workers	0.0	UN
Occupational therapists	0.0	UN
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

¹ N03AG01, N05A, N05B, N05C, N06A

² N03AG01, N05A, N05B, N05C, N06A

³ N05A (excluding N05AN)

⁴ N05B & N05C

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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	UN	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	UN	UN	UN
Contacts in mental health outpatient facilities	NA	NA	NA
Persons treated in mental health day treatment facilities	NA	NA	NA
Admissions in general hospitals with psychiatric beds	NA	NA	NA
Admissions in mental hospitals	NA	NA	NA
Days spent in mental hospitals	NA	NA	NA
Admissions in community residential facilities	NA	NA	NA

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

⁵ N06A

Data collected in 2011

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