



GENERAL INFORMATION

Mauritania is a country with an approximate area of 1030 thousand square kilometers (UNO, 2008). The population is 3,365,675 and the sex ratio (men per hundred women) is 101 (UNO, 2009). The proportion of the population under the age of 18 years is 44% and the proportion above age 60 is 3% (UNO, 2009). The literacy rate is 71% for men and 63% for women (UN Statistics, 2008). The life expectancy at birth is 56 years for males and 59 years for females (UNO, 2005-2010). The healthy life expectancy at birth is 49 years for males and 59 years for females (UNPD, 2010). The country is in the Low income group (based on 2010 World Bank criteria). The total expenditure on health as a percentage of gross domestic product is 2.54% and the per capita government expenditure on health (PPP int. \$) is \$29.0 (WHO, 2006). Suicide rate information is not available. In Mauritania, neuropsychiatric disorders are estimated to contribute to 7.4% of the global burden of disease (WHO, 2008).

GOVERNANCE

An officially approved mental health policy exists and was approved or most recently revised in 2005. Mental health is specifically mentioned in the general health policy.

A mental health plan exists. 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 does not exist. However, Legal provisions concerning mental health are 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 hospital expenditures 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. The department of health does not authorize primary health care nurses to prescribe and/or to continue prescription of psychotherapeutic medicines. Official policy enables primary health care nurses to independently diagnose and treat mental disorders within the primary care system.

The majority of primary health care doctors have received official in-service training on mental health within the last five years. The majority of primary health care 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. Referral procedures from tertiary/secondary care to primary care exist.

Data collected in 2011

UN = information unavailable, NA = item not applicable

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	0.03	0	0.0
Day treatment facilities	5	0.15	UN	UN
Psychiatric beds in general hospitals	UN	UN	UN	UN
Community residential facilities	UN	UN	UN	UN
Beds/places in community residential facilities	UN	UN	UN	UN
Mental hospitals	1	0.03	UN	UN
Beds in mental hospitals	40	1.19	UN	UN

Access to care

	Rates per 100,000 population)	Females (%)	Under age 18 (%)
Persons treated in mental health outpatient facilities	109.93	UN	UN
Persons treated in mental health day treatment facilities	169.36	UN	UN
Admissions to psychiatric beds in general hospitals	UN	UN	UN
Persons staying in community residential facilities at the end of the year	UN	UN	UN
Admissions to mental hospitals	14.11	UN	UN

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

Less than 1 year	99%
More than 1 and less than 5 years	1%
More than 5 years	0%

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	0.09	0.09
Medical doctors, not specialized in psychiatry	0.12	0.12
Nurses	1.34	1.34
Psychologists	0.15	0.09
Social workers	0.3	0.06
Occupational therapists	0.06	UN
Other health workers	1.78	NA

Informal human resources (Family and User Associations)

	User	Family
Present in the country?	Yes	UN
Number of members	3	UN
Participation in the formulation/implementation of policy/plan/legislation?	frequently	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	No	No
Interventions (psychopharmacological and psychosocial) delivered in primary health care for people with mental disorders	Yes	No	No
Persons treated in mental health outpatient facilities	Yes	No	No
Contacts in mental health outpatient facilities	Yes	No	No
Persons treated in mental health day treatment facilities	Yes	No	No
Admissions in general hospitals with psychiatric beds	Yes	No	No
Admissions in mental hospitals	Yes	No	No
Days spent in mental hospitals	Yes	No	No
Admissions in community residential facilities	No	No	No

Data collected in 2011

UN = information unavailable, NA = item not applicable