



Palau

GENERAL INFORMATION

Palau is a country with an approximate area of 0.46 thousand square kilometers (UNO, 2008) and a population of 20,531 (UNO, 2009). The proportion of the population under the age of 18 years is 34% and the proportion above age 60 is % (UNO, 2009). The literacy rates and life expectancies for men and women are unavailable. The only statistic that is known is the healthy life expectancy at birth for males, which is 62 years (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 9.87% and the per capita government expenditure on health (PPP int. \$) is \$1133.0 (WHO, 2006). Suicide rate information is not available. In Palau, neuropsychiatric disorders are estimated to contribute to 12.4% of the global burden of disease (WHO, 2008).

GOVERNANCE

An officially approved mental health policy doesn't 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 2005.

Dedicated mental health legislation does not exist.

Note: The finalization of a mental health policy and implementation of the Human Resource Training Plan are currently underway. Additionally, Palau is in the process of implementing mental health legislation which ensures the rights of people with mental illness are upheld. Finally, the Palau Public Health Strategic Plan identifies eight priority areas for action, three of which are related to mental health – depression and substance abuse (alcohol and tobacco).

FINANCING

Mental health expenditures by the government health department/ministry are 0.82% of the total health budget. Mental hospital expenditures are not available.

MENTAL HEALTH CARE DELIVERY

Primary Care

Prescription regulations do not authorize primary doctors to prescribe psychotherapeutic medicines. Similarly, the department of health does not authorize primary health care nurses to prescribe and/or to continue prescription of psychotherapeutic medicines. Official policy also 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 do not exist. Referral procedures from tertiary/secondary to primary care also do not 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	4	19.48	UN	UN
Day treatment facilities	8	38.97	UN	UN
Psychiatric beds in general hospitals	8	38.97	UN	UN
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	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	NA	NA	NA
Admissions to mental hospitals	NA	NA	NA

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

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

HUMAN RESOURCES

Workforce and training

Data collected in 2011

UN = information unavailable, NA = item not applicable

	Health professionals working in the mental health sector Rate per 100,000	Training of health professions in educational institutions Rate per 100,000
Psychiatrists	4.87	UN
Medical doctors, not specialized in psychiatry	14.61	UN
Nurses	68.19	UN
Psychologists	0.00	UN
Social workers	68.19	UN
Occupational therapists	0.00	UN
Other health workers	24.35	NA

Informal human resources (Family and User Associations)

	User	Family
Present in the country?	No	No
Number of members	NA	NA
Participation in the formulation/implementation of policy/plan/legislation?	NA	NA

Note: There are no mental health user or family associations involved in the provision of mental health services in Palau, although family members are involved in the Palau Mental Health Advisory Council. The Council's members are appointed by the President of the Republic and includes adult users (persons with serious mental illness), parents of children with serious emotional disturbance (SED) and representatives from many other agencies including mental health treatment services, public safety, and education.

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	No	No	No
Interventions (psychopharmacological and psychosocial) delivered in primary health care for people with mental disorders	No	No	No
Persons treated in mental health outpatient facilities	No	No	No
Contacts in mental health outpatient facilities	No	No	No
Persons treated in mental health day treatment facilities	No	No	No
Admissions in general hospitals with psychiatric beds	No	No	No
Admissions in mental hospitals	NA	NA	NA
Days spent in mental hospitals	NA	NA	NA
Admissions in community residential facilities	NA	NA	NA

Note: The 2009 Data Project Mindset was launched to migrate of all health database information onto a single platform. This is a database development project initiated to improve the National Outcome Measures which are required by SAMHSA/US Federal Funds. The goal of the project was to enhance the electronic information system and to simplify the reporting process of health information.