



## Papua New Guinea

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Papua New Guinea is a country with an approximate area of 463 thousand square kilometers (UNO, 2008). The population is 6,888,387 and the sex ratio (men per hundred women) is 104 (UNO, 2009). The proportion of the population under the age of 18 years is 45% and the proportion above age 60 is 3% (UNO, 2009). The literacy rate is 65% for men and 69% for women (UN Statistics, 2008). The life expectancy at birth is 59 years for males and 64 years for females (UNO, 2005-2010). The healthy life expectancy at birth is 55 years for males and 64 years 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 3.54% and the per capita government expenditure on health (PPP int. \$) is \$51.0 (WHO, 2006). Suicide rate information is not available. In Papua New Guinea, neuropsychiatric disorders are estimated to contribute to 9.4% of the global burden of disease (WHO, 2008).

### GOVERNANCE

An officially approved mental health policy exists and was approved, or most recently revised, in 2010. Mental health is not 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.
- 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. Legal provisions concerning mental health are not covered in other laws (e.g., welfare, disability, general health legislation etc.).

Note: The Mental Health Act 2010 has been submitted for approval at the Legislative Council.

### FINANCING

Mental health expenditures by the government health department/ministry are 0.1% of the total health budget. 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 but with restrictions. Similarly, the department of health authorizes primary health care nurses to prescribe and/or to continue prescription of psychotherapeutic medicines, with restrictions. In contrast, 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 not 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 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	20	0.29	1	0.01
Day treatment facilities	20	0.29	UN	UN
Psychiatric beds in general hospitals	20	0.29	UN	UN
Community residential facilities	0	0.00	NA	NA
Beds/places in community residential facilities	0	0.00	NA	NA
Mental hospitals	1	0.01	UN	UN
Beds in mental hospitals	80	1.16	UN	UN

### Access to care

	Rates per 100,000 population)	Females (%)	Under age 18 (%)
Persons treated in mental health outpatient facilities	15.10	UN	UN
Persons treated in mental health day treatment facilities	15.10	UN	UN
Admissions to psychiatric beds in general hospitals	11.32	UN	UN
Persons staying in community residential facilities at the end of the year	NA	NA	NA
Admissions to mental hospitals	2.64	UN	UN

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

Less than 1 year	85.5%
More than 1 and less than 5 years	6.4%
More than 5 years	8.1%

Note: The Directorate of Mental Health & Social Change has been established to promote the humane approach to mental health service delivery.

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	0.10
Medical doctors, not specialized in psychiatry	0.32	6.53
Nurses	2.90	3.63
Psychologists	0.02	0.02
Social workers	0.07	0.03
Occupational therapists	UN	UN
Other health workers	0.29	NA

### Informal human resources (Family and User Associations)

	User	Family
Present in the country?	No	Yes
Number of members	NA	1
Participation in the formulation/implementation of policy/plan/legislation?	NA	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 <sup>1</sup>	6,384.0
Medicines used for bipolar disorders <sup>2</sup>	NA
Medicines for psychotic disorders <sup>3</sup>	5598.6
Medicines used for general anxiety <sup>4</sup>	6.0
Medicines used for mood disorders <sup>5</sup>	779.4

<sup>1</sup> N03AG01, N05A, N05B, N05C, N06A

<sup>2</sup> N03AG01, N05A, N05B, N05C, N06A

<sup>3</sup> N05A (excluding N05AN)

<sup>4</sup> N05B & N05C

<sup>5</sup> N06A

Data collected in 2011

UN = information unavailable, NA = item not applicable

**INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

	<b>Data on number of people/ activities are collected and reported</b>	<b>Data on age and gender are collected and reported</b>	<b>Data on patient's diagnosis are collected and reported</b>
Persons with mental disorders treated in primary health care	Yes	Yes	Yes
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	NA	NA	NA

Note: There is no formal mental health records or information system.