

Health Statistics for El Salvador**Population**

Total Population- 7,185,218 (July 2009 est.)

Age Structure:

0-14 years- 35.4%

15-64 years- 59.3%

65 years and older- 5.3%

Median Age- 22.5 years

Population growth rate- 1.656%

Birth rate- 25.31 births/1,000 population

Death rate- 5.47/ 1000 population

Urban Population- 61% of population

Sex ratio- .95 male(s)/ females

Infant mortality rate- 21.52 deaths/ 1,000
live births

Life expectancy:

Male- 68.72 years

Females- 76.11 years

HIV/AIDS

Adult prevalence- .8%

People with HIV/AIDS- 35,000

Deaths- 1,700

Public Sector

Population covered by ISSS- 18.4%

Population covered by MSPAS- 79.5%

Hospitals- 44

Beds Available- 6,516

Ambulatory care center- 833

Capacity- .95 bed/1,000 inhabitants

Clinical Laboratories- 2.41/1,000
inhabitants

Blood Banks- 044/1,000 inhabitants

Private Sector

Population covered by private sector- 2.1%

Hospitals- 39

Beds Available- 425

Basic diagnostic imaging Machines-
013/1,000 inhabitants

Clinical Laboratories- 4.22/1,000 inhabitants

Blood banks- .1/1,000 inhabitants

Health System El Salvador

The health-care system in El Salvador is composed of two parts: public sector providers (including MSPAS, ISSS, Military Health, Teachers' Welfare, ISRI, and CSSP) and private sector providers, which include all for-profit and not-for-profit entities. The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare has a network of 30 public hospitals, numerous other primary care facilities that are grouped in 18 regions, and 27 basic health care systems. The public sector's health expenditures are approximately 3.5% of gross domestic product (GDP), while the private sector's expenditures equate to 4.4% of GDP. Only 20% of the population is covered by health insurance, including the 18.4% covered by the public ISSS and 2.1% covered by private insurers. As a result, patients pay most expenditure in the private sector out of pocket. The public health care system in El Salvador has a mandate to provide basic health services for the uninsured. In 2005, however, only 53.7% of Salvadorans with health problems sought medical care, with either a public or private provider, while 46.3% self-medicated or did not consult anyone.

Diseases

El Salvador's epidemiological profile is changing from infectious diseases, mostly of the digestive and respiratory tracts, to diseases such as "chronic, psychosomatic diseases such as gastritis" and hypertension. Additionally, over the last several years, El Salvador has experienced an increase in injuries from external causes due to the rising levels of violence. Furthermore, other diseases are increasingly important for epidemiological surveillance due to their highly contagious nature. These

diseases include dengue fever, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. Dengue fever in El Salvador has become an endemic disease with 3,238 cases that resulted in 26 deaths in 2000 alone. In recent years, the number of cases of dengue has risen, while the number of deaths from the disease has decreased. Additionally, the number of cases of pneumonia has begun to level off, despite an outbreak in 2003. Cases of infectious diarrhea have risen in recent years, while vaccine-preventable diseases have decreased, dropping from 416 cases/100,000 people from 190-1994 to 102/100,000 from 2000-2005.

Public Sector

The public health services provided by the government are broken into several categories: the Salvadoran Institute of Social Security (ISSS), the Ministry of Health (MSPAS), the Military Health, Teacher's Welfare, the Salvadoran Institute for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons and the Higher Council for Public Health. All of these different organizations carry different mandates from the government. The two largest government health-care organizations are the ISSS and the MSPAS.

MSPAS, the larger of the two main health organizations, has a mandate to "determine national health policy and monitor and supervise its application." In order to accomplish its goals MSPAS created the Health Solidarity Fund (FOSALUD) in 2004. Approximately 64% of Salvadorans seeking medical care sought care in MSPAS facilities largely due to the fact that they are mandated to provide health care regardless of ability to pay.

The ISSS provides health services for work-related injuries and occupational hazards to all Salvadorans with an employer, regardless of how they are paid. This system is complicated by the large informal economy in El Salvador. Some reports estimate that 42% of all employment created between 2000 and 2004 was in the informal economy, which accounts for why only 13.6% of Salvadorans who seek care do so within the ISSS.

In addition to hospital services, the government also provides a system of Health Units in every municipality, and in some cantons. While these health units are designed to address preventative care issues, they most often provide primary care services to local communities that are unable to easily access government hospitals, which are located in larger cities. Most health units also manage teams of health promoters, which address public health issues in the rural and urban areas.

Private Sector

Private sector clinics and hospitals are concentrated in the larger cities, and are often for-profit institutions that sell services to the ISSS. The main private, for-profit hospitals are the Diagnostic Hospital, the Women's Hospital, the Pediatric Center, and the Gynecological Center. The private, not-for-profit hospitals are most often located in the rural countryside, and 4.6% of care-seeking Salvadorans use their services. The system of Pro-Family Hospitals is the largest non-profit hospital in El Salvador.