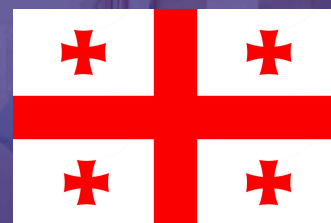


Health Systems in Action

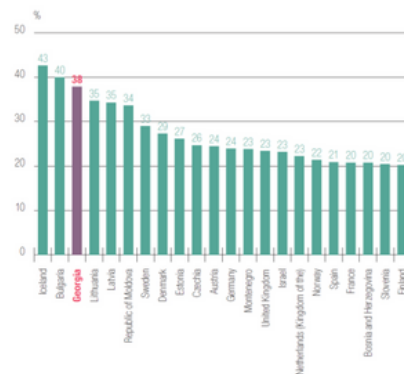
GEORGIA



- Georgia has been expanding the package of publicly funded benefits and increasing public spending on health since 2013 in an effort to provide universal health coverage (UHC), although public spending on health is still low in international terms (3.1% of GDP in 2022).
- The share of health spending paid for out-of-pocket fell dramatically, from over 80% in 2011 to 31% in 2021, but coverage policy is complex and there are substantial co-payments.
- Recent reforms have set co-payment limits or thresholds for inpatient care for specific groups, improving financial protection and offering clarity on what patients should pay.
- The high cost of outpatient medicines has been the main barrier to access for those on low-incomes. This was a target for policy action and the cost of over 7000 medicines has been capped.
- Most health care providers are private-for-profit, accounting for around 80% of all hospital beds and most urban primary care provision. Effective regulation and strong stewardship are key for aligning them to government goals. Rural areas rely on small under-resourced primary care providers funded by the state.

- There are high rates of doctors per capita, who are concentrated in the capital Tbilisi, with shortages in rural and mountainous areas. In contrast, the country has an acute shortage of nurses, creating increasing barriers to access (Fig. 1).
- Excess mortality due to COVID-19 far exceeded the regional average.
- Access to care for noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) has not improved, despite them accounting for most of the country's morbidity and mortality. NCDs, particularly cancer, are now a focus for policy efforts.
- Male smoking prevalence (estimated at 54.6% in 2023) is the highest in Europe. Tobacco control is a public health priority and indoor smoking and tobacco advertising bans have been robust, but tobacco control still needs strengthening.

Fig 1. A high proportion of Georgia's nurses are aged 55 years or over



	Georgia	WHO European Region	European Region
Population in millions (2022)	3.7	929.1	512.7
GDP per capita PPP\$ (2021)	16 997	38 936	48 615
Life expectancy at birth	73.7 (2022)	78.2	79.9
Maternal mortality per 100,000 live births (2020)	27.6	12.6	6.4
Infant mortality per 1000 live births (2021)	8.4	6.3	3.2
Poverty rate (% of population)	15.6 (2022)	14.9 (2018)	17.0 (2018)

Sources are given in full in the Insight and include WHO, Eurostat and the World Bank

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