

Health Systems in Action

KYRGYZSTAN



- Kyrgyzstan's health system provides a state-guaranteed package of services but the scope of publicly funded care is limited, with gaps in mandatory health insurance coverage.
- Spending on health per capita was the lowest in WHO's European Region in 2021. It has also declined as a share of total government spending.
- Most patients make co-payments for inpatient care and for outpatient medicines, with the state covering only 50% of the price of a limited list of (some 70) medicines.
- 40.7% of health spending in 2021 was out-of-pocket (OOP). This reliance on OOP payments can lead to catastrophic spending.
- Despite efforts to ensure access to health services, there are still marked disparities between urban and rural/mountainous areas and barriers linked to cost and gaps in public coverage.
- There have been extensive hospital closures and reductions in hospital beds since 1997.
- Longstanding reforms have boosted primary care, but it is underfunded, bypassed too often and prevention is not a strong focus.

- Much of the role of the Mandatory Health Insurance Fund in pooling funds and structuring health service provision is now being taken over by the Ministry of Health.
- Rates of doctors and nurses are low (Fig. 1) and falling. Workforce ageing and migration are major concerns.
- Life expectancy has increased and maternal and infant mortality are falling (although still relatively high). The COVID-19 pandemic did lead to excess mortality, but less so than in many European countries.
- Rates of effective tuberculosis (TB) treatment coverage are high, but concerns related to access to diagnosis and treatment for TB and HIV/AIDS remain.
- Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) are the main cause of mortality and morbidity. Main risk factors include high blood pressure, unhealthy diet, air pollution and smoking.

Fig 1. The density of doctors and nurses is among the lowest in the WHO European Region



Source: WHO, 2024c.

	Kyrgyzstan	Central Asian Republics	WHO European Region	European Region
Population in millions (2022)	6.9	77.1	929.1	512.7
GDP per capita PPP\$ (2021)	5 287	13 327	38 936	48 615
Life expectancy at birth	73 (2016)	72.5	78.2	79.9
Maternal mortality per 100,000 live births (2020)	50.4	24.3	12.6	6.4
Infant mortality per 1000 live births (2021)	15.6	15.5	6.3	3.2
Poverty rate (% of population)	33.3 (2021)	14.1 (2017)	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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