

# Health Care in Saudi Arabia

Amal Abdulraheem Nemaegani, Saudi Students House in Pittsburgh

## Health Care in Saudi Arabia Facts

- Ministry of Health (MOH) was founded in the early 1950s
- Healthcare is the responsibility of the Ministry of Health
- The aim is the provision of free health services for the benefit of citizens of Saudi Arabia.
- provides both general and specialized hospital services
- responsible for the supervision of healthcare and hospitals in both the public and private sectors of the Kingdom



## Health Care in Saudi Arabia Facts

- The need to travel abroad to obtain sophisticated medical treatment has been substantially reduced as open-heart surgery and organ transplants are performed routinely in different hospitals throughout the country and to the highest international standards.
- Infant mortality was reduced from 68/1000 to about 30/1000 over a period of 20 years, and it stand at 19.1/1000 currently.
- The Expanded Program of Immunization (EPI), which was initiated by WHO in the 1980s to combat major childhood diseases worldwide, has been very successful in Saudi Arabia, extending coverage to more than 90% of infants (MOH, 2001).

## Health Care in Saudi Arabia Facts

- The increased social and economic development of the country has been accompanied by an increase in other types of public health problems, such as cancer, hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and mental disorder
- The most pressing issue the country faces, however, is the maldistribution of healthcare services, which results in health status disparities between residents of urban and non-urban areas.
- On 2004 The life expectancy at birth is currently 71.4 years (69.9 years for males and 73.4 for females), up by almost 62% from the 1960 estimate of 44 years.
- Saudi Arabia was recently ranked by WHO as the 26th out of 179 countries in providing the best health care for its population

## Ministry of Health Personnel in Saudi Arabia in 1996

Category	Saudi	Non-Saudi	Total
Pharmacists	261	399	660
Physicians	1,790	12,764	14,554
Allied Health	7,875	9,993	12,868
Nurses	5,373	28,100	33,373

## Reported Cases of Certain Notifiable Diseases MOH Statistics Book

Disease	Years					
	1977	1981	1986	1991	1996	2000
* Diphtheria	90	117	33	2	0	0
* Whooping Cough	4,795	3,897	246	41	56	21
* Tetanus Neonatorum	135	120	54	28	28	13
* Poliomyelities	479	169	12	1	0	0
* Measles	24,407	35,790	22,830	6,368	2,407	613
* Mumps	6,554	14,906	21,722	5,020	2,256	1,388
* Rubella	NA	NA	1,080	2,165	447	202
* HIB	NA	NA	NA	NA	3,076	3,361
TB	31,117	7,959	3,696	2,221	2,128	2,322
Chickenpox	4,799	10,350	19,045	72,487	43,463	20,076
Burcellosis	NA	NA	2,301	7,335	5,933	5,320
Maningococ meningitis	216	146	59	74	38	336
Other meningitis	NA	NA	NA	416	756	716
Other Hepatitis	2,172	4,015	5,991	8,866	6,569	5,425
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	193	490	703	1,055	461	420
Shigellosis	NA	NA	505	1,587	925	501
Salmonellosis	NA	NA	225	973	2,349	2,045
Amoebic dysentery	171,319	65,251	20,084	4,475	8,184	3,244
Rabies	40	35	11	0	3	0

## Total Number of Nurses Working in Saudi Arabia (2000)

Percentage of Saudis	Number	Sector
28.3%	36495	Ministry of Health
14.6%	17664	Other public sectors
0.8%	13262	Private sector
19.3%	67421	Total nursing workforce

## Nursing in Saudi Arabia

Of 70,000 nurses currently employed in Saudi Arabia approximately only 22% are Saudi. Saudi Arabia is in dire need of nurses.

Of those nurses 67% are diploma holders, 30% associate degree holders, and 3% BSN graduates.

In addition there are 28 graduates with masters degrees and only 6 graduates with Ph.D.



## Foreign Nursing Recruitment

Many overseas nurses and Health care Professionals to seek employment Opportunities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are the benefits.

- Salaries are tax free\*
- Ability to save the majority of salary due to low cost of living
- Generous Annual leave up to 54 days
- Yearly service award
- Provision of free furnished accommodation
- Yearly round trip ticket to point of hire
- Free Medical coverage
- Opportunity to travel
- Working in a multinational environment
- World class tertiary referral centers

