CHAPTER IV

HEALTH
Chapter IV: Health

This chapter illustrates the health situation in ESCWA member countries, covering health professionals, health resources and major infectious diseases for both public and private sectors. Data were taken from the statistical yearbooks of the national statistical offices for the period 2000-2010. Averages were calculated using population data from the United Nations World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision.

Table IV-1 presents data on health professionals. It includes the number of medical doctors/physicians, dentists, nurses and pharmacists per 100,000 population, and the number of nurses per physician in both public and private sectors in 2000 and 2005-2010. The number of medical doctors/physicians covers both generalist and specialist practitioners. With a few exceptions, the data show a consistent increase in the number of health professionals during the period 2000-2010. The numbers of physicians and nurses per 100,000 population were the highest in Kuwait, whereas the highest numbers of dentists and pharmacists were in Lebanon. On the other hand, the lowest numbers of health professionals were seen in the Sudan and Yemen.

Table IV-2 presents data on health resources. It highlights the number of hospitals and hospital beds per 100,000 population for all types of hospitals: general or specialty medical, surgical, psychiatric and others. It also includes the number of health centres and clinics, maternity and child centres, in addition to pharmacies per 100,000 population in 2000 and the period 2005-2010. The data reveal steady hospital rates in ESCWA member countries. While 46 per cent of countries revealed a decrease in their hospital beds’ rate, an increase was noticed in 39 per cent of the remaining countries. The rates of mother and child care centres and pharmacies in most countries remained unchanged, while 50 per cent of the countries had a decrease in their rates of health centres and clinics.

The chapter illustrates the health situation in ESCWA member countries, covering health professionals, health resources and major infectious diseases for both public and private sectors. Data were taken from the statistical yearbooks of the national statistical offices for the period 2000-2010. Averages were calculated using population data from the United Nations World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision.
Table IV-3 presents data on major infectious diseases including malaria, tuberculosis and hepatitis per 100,000 population in 2000 and during the period 2005-2010. The Sudan and Yemen had the highest prevalence of malaria in the ESCWA region. The prevalence of these infectious diseases generally decreased in almost all countries. However, the prevalence of tuberculosis increased slightly in Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the Sudan over the last few years.

ويتناول الجدول 3-IV الأمراض المعدية الرئيسية. وهو يعرض معدلات انتشار أمراض الملاريا والسل والتهاب الكبد لكل 100 من السكان في عام 2000 والسنة المؤكدة 2005-2010. وتبلغ الإصابة بملاريا في البلدان العربية أعلى معدلاتها في السودان واليمن. وبشكل عام، سجلت هذه الأمراض المعدية تراجعًا في معظم البلدان، في ما عدا مرض السل الذي زاد انتشاره قليلاً في الإمارات العربية المتحدة والسودان وقطر في السنوات الأخيرة.
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