



MINISTRY OF LABOUR HEALTH AND
SOCIAL AFFAIRS OF GEORGIA

National Health Report of population of Georgia 2014-2015

Summary

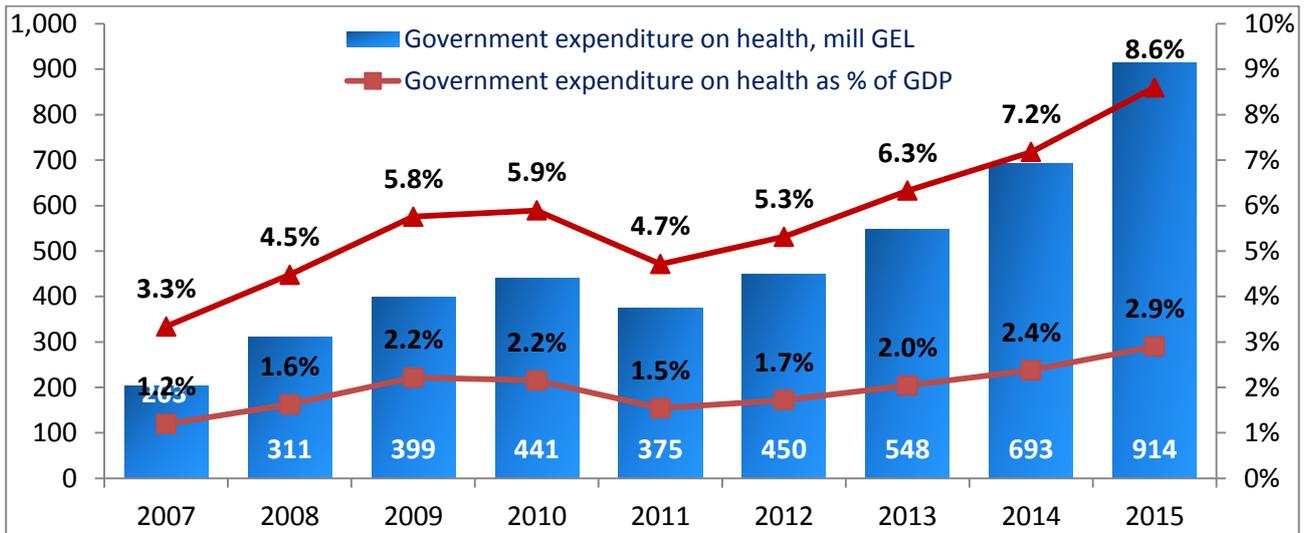
Introduction: The national health report of Georgian population has been developed since 1997 and includes important aspects of health care such as major health problems, behavioral determinants, healthcare system (service delivery, human resources, pharmaceutical market, health care system financing, etc.). The legal basis for its preparation is the Decree of the Government of Georgia 229 of 22 August, 2010.

Overview: Population health care, equal distribution of financial burden and protection of population from financial risks, ensuring access to high quality and safe medical services are the national priority and responsibility of the Government in each country.

Since 2013, the government of Georgia has laid the foundation for health policy oriented towards the health and well-being of the population, and the volume of budget allocations to the health sector in recent years (amount in 2015 - 900 million GEL) increased unprecedentedly. According to the National Health Accounts data of 2015, the total expenditure on healthcare in Georgia reached 2519 million GEL (2014 - 2460 million GEL), which equals 8.5% of GDP. Out of this, government expenditure was 36.3% (2014 - 28.2%), international aid 1.8% (2014 - 1.9%) and the rest were private expenses. The government spending on healthcare amounted to 8.6% (2014 - 7.2%) of consolidated budget and 2,9% of Gross Domestic Product (2014 - 2.4%).

The unprecedented decline in the share of out-of-pocket payments has been observed in 2013-2015 (2012 - 73% - 2014 - 57%). This is conditioned by the increased accessibility of medical services in the country as well as the significant growth of outpatient and inpatient service utilization.

Figure 1: Public expenditure on health

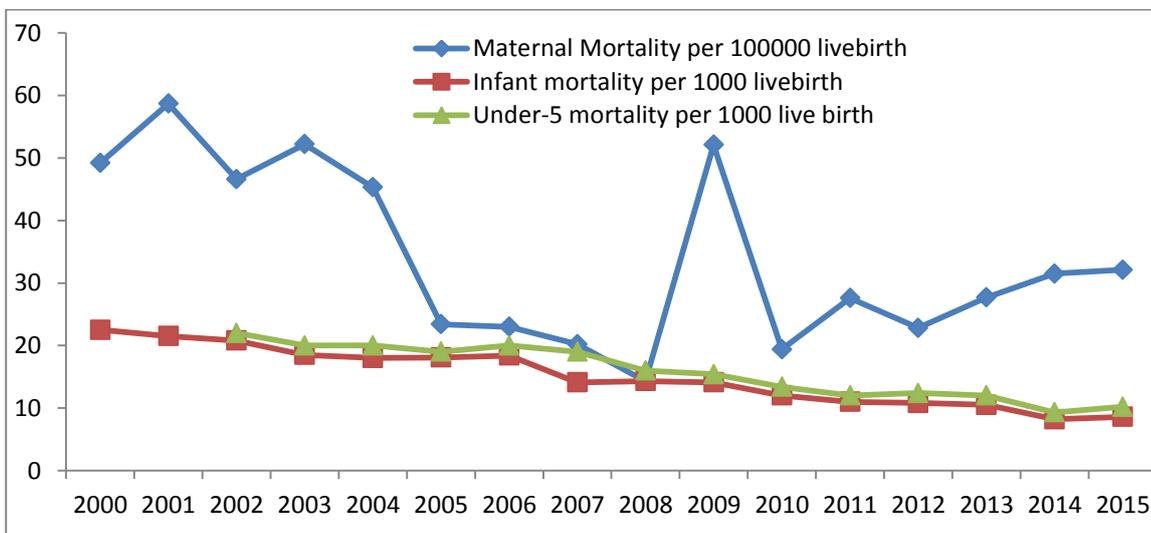


According to the Census data, the average number of population in 2014 was 3727000 people (760000 people less than the previous year). Age structure of Georgian population is as follows: children under 15 represent 18.9%, and the percentage of population aged 65 and older is 14.3% of the total population (2015). The average life expectancy at birth in Georgia in 2015 is 72.9 years (77.2 in females and 68.6 in males).

As a result of the effective initiatives and significant efforts made by the Government of Georgia in the area of maternal and child health, Georgia has achieved the Millennium Development Goal 4 and has reduced the mortality of children under five from 48 (in 1990) - to 12 (2015) instead of the target - 16.

In 2015, maternal mortality rate was 32 on 100,000 livebirths. It should be noted that tangible result of perinatal service regionalization has been observed - the lowest rate of maternal mortality in recent years was registered in 2016 - 22.9 per 100 000 livebirths.

Figure 2. Trends of Maternal, Infant and under-5 mortality rate



In 2015, compared to previous year, mortality rate did not change and was 13.2 per 1000 people. In 2014, the sharp increase in the mortality rate was conditioned by the decrease in the number of population identified by the census. In Georgia, as well as in majority of countries in the world, the burden of mortality mainly comes from non-communicable diseases.

Diseases of the respiratory organs, digestive system and circulation system are leading causes of morbidity. In recent years, raise in new cases of infectious and parasitic diseases has been observed in Georgia. Traditionally upper respiratory tract infections, flu and presumptive infectious diarrhea were characterized by high incidence rates.

In recent years, tuberculosis incidence and prevalence declined in Georgia. In 2015 the number of notified cases was 97.1 per 100,000 population (2104 - 103.4), including 74.7 (2014 - 75.4) new cases per 100,000 population. Treatment success rate among new smear positive pulmonary TB cases in Georgia in 2005 was only 64.1%, while in 2014 and 2015 the indicator reached 81%.

In Georgia, 717 cases of HIV infection have been identified for the first time in life (incidence rate - 19.3) (2014 - 564 - incidence - 15,1). 94 cases of HIV/AIDS deaths were reported in 2015 (84 - 2014). Until 2011, injection drug use remained the leading way of HIV transmission in Georgia, and from 2011, the share of transmission through heterosexual contacts has moved to the first place.

Based on international assessments, Georgia belongs to high hepatitis C prevalence countries. In April 2015, Georgia launched an unprecedented program aimed at hepatitis C elimination in the country. In 2015, survey of Hep B and C seroprevalence was conducted in Georgia. According to it, 7.7% of adult population (12.1% in males - 3.8% in females) have positive Hep C antibody tests (Anti HCV+). The active form of Hepatitis (RNA-positive - HCV RNA +) was found in 5.4% of the adult population (8.9% in men, and 2.1% in women). The use of injection drugs and blood transfusion were the most important risk factor for hepatitis C. 38.2% of seropositive participants indicate drug injections and 19.7% - blood transfusions.

Figure 3. National Population-based seroprevalence survey 2015

Characteristic	n	%	Estimated # nationwide ≥18 years
Anti-HCV+	425	7.7%	208,800
HCV RNA+	311	5.4%	150,300

According to WHO data of 2008, mortality caused by non-communicable diseases in Georgia was 91% and exceeded the world (63%) and European (87%) indicators. In 2000-2015 the prevalence of CVDs has been growing. The share of CVDs accounts for 15.5% of all diseases registered in the country and 8.6% of new cases.

Since 2015, Georgia has established a population-based cancer registry and the data collected by it significantly changed the previous perception of cancer morbidity. The new population-based register revealed 9598 new cases in 2015, which exceeds almost twice the number of cases registered in previous years. In 2015, the share of the cases diagnosed at the 1st stage increased.

The electronic system of epidemiological supervision is functioning in the country, which combines the electronic integrated system of disease supervision, the laboratory information management system and the e-health system already implemented in the country. Through the Public health surveillance system Georgia has a real time surveillance system which makes it capable to effectively address disease preparedness.

Health personnel that occupies central position in any health system play a major role in healthcare. The health system of Georgia is distinguished by the abundance of doctors and lack of nurses (1: 0.7). In 2015, there were 12830 hospital beds (2014 - 11675) in the country. The number of beds per 100,000 population was 345.1 (2014 - 313.3), occupancy rate - 193.1 (2014 - 188.3), ALOS - 5.3 (2014 - 5.2), turnover rate - 36.4 (2014 - 36.3).

Following the introduction of the universal health care program, the rapid growth of the admissions was observed in both outpatient and inpatient institutions. Compared to 2012, the hospital service provision for 100,000 population increased by 50%. 20% of hospitalizations were related to respiratory system disorders, 17% - to CVDs and 15% - to pregnancy, childbearing and postpartum care. In 2015, the number of visits for outpatient services reached 4.0 per capita.

According to the World Health Organization, Georgia has one of the highest tobacco consumption rates in the European region as well as in the whole world (55% of men and 5% of women are smokers), while alcohol consumption levels are not considered problematic.

According to survey of psychoactive substance use in general population in 2015, almost every tenth adult in Georgia has at least once received psychotropic medications without a doctor's prescription.

According to the United Nations Human Development Index (HDI), Georgia occupied 70th place in 2015 due to the long average life expectancy and 100% of literacy in adults.

In recent years, despite the difficulties of the transition period, the population's health status and access to health care indicators reflect the positive changes in the situation, based on which the population health in Georgia can be described as somewhat better compared to the post-Soviet countries.