

HEALTH



Introduction

The Ministry of Health is committed to medical excellence, promoting good health and reducing illness.

Through MOH, the Government manages the public healthcare system to ensure that good and affordable basic medical services are available to all Singaporeans. This is achieved through providing subsidized medical services while promoting individual responsibility for the costs of healthcare services. The population is thus encouraged to adopt a healthy lifestyle, taking responsibility for one's own health. Safety nets are provided to ensure that no Singaporean is denied access to healthcare because of lack of money.

Public Healthcare Services

Singapore's public healthcare establishments provide a full range of acute services ranging from primary care at the polyclinics to secondary and tertiary care at the regional and tertiary hospitals and national centres. There are seven hospitals, seven national specialty centres and eighteen polyclinics.

Statutory Boards

Two statutory boards under the Ministry of Health were established on 1 April 2001. The Health Promotion Board (HPB) provides the framework for a greater focus on health promotion issues and further strengthens health education, health promotion and disease prevention in Singapore. It spearheads the national health promotion and disease prevention efforts, and develops and promotes programmes in an environment that supports healthy lifestyles, as well as early detection and management of health problems in children, adults and the elderly.

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) provides a seamless regulatory service to the health care industry and aims to safeguard public confidence in the quality, safety and efficacy of all health care and blood products in Singapore. HSA also provides specialised scientific expertise to support essential statutory functions.

Public Health

Statistics on immunisation are collected from the Polyclinics vaccination records kept by HPB and compulsory notifications of immunisation to the Central Immunisation Registry by private practitioners. Data on patient attendances at primary health care clinics are obtained from the Polyclinic Patient Management System.

Hospital Statistics

Data on government hospital beds, patient admissions and outpatient attendances are obtained from administrative records and the computerised patient registration systems of the hospitals. For the private hospitals, the data are compiled from special returns prescribed by the Ministry of Health and from the MediClaim System.

Medical Personnel

Data on medical personnel refer to the number of doctors, dentists, pharmacists, nurses and midwives registered respectively under the Medical Registration Act, the Dentists Registration Act, the Pharmacists Registration Act, the Nurses and Midwives Act. Separate computer manpower registers for each of these personnel groups are maintained by the professional bodies and the statistics pertaining to these health personnel are derived from the registers.

20.1 HOSPITALS AND PUBLIC SECTOR CLINICS

	Number						
	1998	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Hospitals	23	29	29	29	30	30	29
Public Sector ¹	11	13	13	13	14	14	14
Private Sector ²	12	16	16	16	16	16	15
Hospital Beds	11,389	11,855	11,840	11,848	11,527	11,547	11,457
Acute Care	7,551	8,291	8,279	8,177	8,187	8,235	8,190
Extended Care	3,838	3,564	3,561	3,671	3,340	3,312	3,267
Public Sector ¹	9,277	8,831	8,813	8,617	8,320	8,368	8,319
Acute Care	5,983	6,406	6,388	6,248	6,256	6,304	6,255
Extended Care	3,294	2,425	2,425	2,369	2,064	2,064	2,064
Private Sector ²	2,112	3,024	3,027	3,231	3,207	3,179	3,138
Acute Care	1,568	1,885	1,891	1,929	1,931	1,931	1,935
Extended Care	544	1,139	1,136	1,302	1,276	1,248	1,203
Public Sector Dental Clinics ³	205	230	232	239	241	242	236
Polyclinics	18	17	17	18	18	18	18

Source : Ministry of Health

1 The number of hospitals in public sector includes specialty centres. With effect from 2006, data include Jurong Medical Centre.

2 With effect from 1 April 2002, the Management of Ang Mo Kio - Thye Hua Kwan Hospital

(Formerly known as Ang Mo Kio Community Hospital) has been handed over to Thye Hua Kwan, a voluntary welfare organisation

3 Excludes National Dental Centre (reflected as a specialty centre) and include dental clinics in schools.

20.2 HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS AND PUBLIC SECTOR OUTPATIENT ATTENDANCES

	Number						
	1998	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Hospital Admissions ¹	369,530	356,535	405,354	414,367	415,833	429,744	435,750
Public Sector Hospitals ²	283,953	270,691	311,129	315,149	316,261	325,772	330,071
Private Sector Hospitals	85,577	85,844	94,225	99,218	99,572	103,972	105,679
Public Sector Outpatient Attendances							
Specialist Outpatient Clinics ³	2,413,906	2,806,501	3,333,550	3,452,571	3,624,976	3,687,910	3,827,275
Accident & Emergency							
Departments	518,814	552,233	618,490	658,311	676,763	752,122	788,539
Polyclinics	2,933,348	3,337,277	3,791,670	3,913,380	3,769,989	3,797,953	3,971,589
Dental Clinics ⁴	1,083,261	887,904	1,045,775	1,006,634	838,466	889,210	883,216
Day Surgeries	78,264	141,279	181,888	184,364	196,619	203,639	208,688

Source : Ministry of Health

Note : Data excludes Jurong Medical Centre.

1 Refers to inpatient discharges for all hospitals. Prior to 2002, data on public sector hospitals refer to admissions.

2 Includes specialty centres.

3 Excludes staff attendances.

4 Includes dental services in hospitals, polyclinics, school dental clinics and National Dental Centre.

With effect from 30 June 1999, dental clinics at SGH and IMH were closed.

With effect from January 2006, data include Changi General Hospital dental clinic.

With effect from January 2007, data include dental clinics at Alexandra Hospital and Tan Tock Seng Hospital.

20.3 HOSPITAL ADMISSION¹ RATE BY SEX AND AGE

	Per 1,000 resident population					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Public Sector Hospitals						
Male	71.5	79.9	80.5	81.5	77.8	78.9
Age Group (Years)						
0 - 14	53.7	59.0	59.5	59.3	57.1	64.2
15 - 64	56.2	62.7	63.0	62.7	59.5	59.3
65 & Above	298.1	323.9	317.6	324.1	305.7	300.0
Female	68.4	77.6	77.2	77.3	73.9	74.6
Age Group (Years)						
0 - 14	44.5	48.6	49.7	50.5	48.9	55.1
15 - 64	54.4	61.9	60.1	58.2	55.0	54.4
65 & Above	250.0	274.9	274.3	280.9	266.8	263.8
Private Sector Hospitals						
Male	12.8	13.7	14.0	13.2	12.8	13.0
Age Group (Years)						
0 - 14	31.2	34.1	35.0	33.1	31.0	33.2
15 - 64	5.3	5.8	6.2	5.8	6.0	6.1
65 & Above	32.3	32.7	30.8	31.2	31.3	28.9
Female	23.8	24.9	25.3	24.7	23.4	24.2
Age Group (Years)						
0 - 14	30.0	31.4	32.5	30.8	28.1	30.1
15 - 64	21.0	21.9	22.2	21.9	20.9	21.6
65 & Above	33.5	35.3	34.6	34.4	33.6	33.3

Source : Ministry of Health

¹ Excludes admission for normal deliveries and legalised abortions.

20.4 REGISTERED HEALTH PERSONNEL

	Number						
	1998	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Doctors	5,148	6,292	6,492	6,748	6,931	7,384	7,841
Public	2,416	3,044	3,142	3,265	3,505	3,911	4,297
Private	2,489	2,863	2,845	2,961	2,966	3,004	3,051
Not in active practice	243	385	505	522	460	469	493
Dentists ¹	914	1,183	1,227	1,277	1,323	1,354	1,414
Public	180	263	282	278	293	287	310
Private	696	798	802	846	833	881	932
Not in active practice	38	122	143	153	197	186	172
Pharmacists	998	1,236	1,288	1,330	1,421	1,483	1,546
Public	204	377	376	400	449	484	555
Private	610	659	719	754	832	865	858
Not in active practice	184	200	193	176	140	134	133
Registered Nurses	11,491	13,740	14,171	14,831	15,452	16,504	17,881
Public	6,441	7,533	7,763	8,165	8,495	9,068	10,113
Private	2,936	3,349	3,568	3,869	4,566	4,477	4,656
Not in active practice	2,114	2,858	2,840	2,797	2,391	2,959	3,112
Enrolled Nurses	3,621	4,652	4,793	4,989	5,163	5,604	6,006
Public	2,028	2,605	2,665	2,823	2,956	3,110	3,488
Private	800	1,058	1,112	1,219	1,484	1,559	1,488
Not in active practice	793	989	1,016	947	723	935	1,030
Registered Midwives	456	371	365	347	312	224	322
Public	212	176	157	136	123	116	110
Private	91	73	69	71	59	76	80
Not in active practice	153	122	139	140	130	32	132

Source : Ministry of Health

Note : Registered health personnel in the public sector refer to Government, Government Restructured Hospitals, Statutory Boards and University personnel.

¹ Refers to those with professional degrees only.

20.5 VISITS TO PUBLIC SECTOR DENTAL CLINICS

	Number						
	1998	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Dental Clinics	1,083,261	887,904	1,045,775	1,006,634	838,466	889,210	883,216
School	788,556	605,303	729,152	692,792	521,637	526,758	505,309
Hospital ¹	71,825	45,352	50,319	50,935	57,536	108,747	117,780
Polyclinic Dental Services	89,063	97,081	108,138	98,335	93,910	88,310	94,161
National Dental Centre	133,817	140,168	158,166	164,572	165,383	165,395	165,966

Source : Ministry of Health

¹ Hospital Dental Clinics at SGH and IMH closed with effect from 30 June 1999.

With effect from January 2006, data include Changi General Hospital dental clinic.

With effect from January 2007, data include dental clinics at Alexandra Hospital and Tan Tock Seng Hospital.

20.6 NOTIFICATIONS OF SPECIFIC NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

	Number						
	1998	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Dengue/DHF	5,258	4,788	9,459	14,209	3,127	8,826	7,031
Malaria	405	118	152	166	181	154	152
Enteric fever ¹	80	41	84	95	83	100	113
Viral Hepatitis	367	131	192	250	308	219	261
Cholera	31	2	11	1	-	7	1
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chickenpox ²	27,183	15,265	20,083	24,189	24,024	30,548	na
Viral Encephalitis	1	12	16	36	42	61	40
Legionellosis ³	-	46	17	22	19	16	25
Hand, Foot & Mouth Disease ³	-	5,603	6,411	15,246	15,282	20,004	29,686
Nipah Virus Infection ³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SARS ⁴	-	239	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis	2,747	1,997	1,916	1,936	1,972	2,014	2,475
Leprosy	19	11	14	13	12	12	10

Source : Ministry of Health

Note : No cases of plague, smallpox and yellow fever were reported during the period.

¹ Refers to typhoid and paratyphoid.

² Chickenpox is not notifiable with effect from 2008.

³ The three diseases were only made notifiable in October 2000.

⁴ SARS was only made notifiable on 17 March 2003.

20.7 IMMUNISATION ¹ BY PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS

	No of Doses Given						
	1998	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
BCG							
National	46,485	38,054	37,884	38,505	38,161	37,400	39,542
Public	20,300	17,073	17,138	16,557	16,039	16,604	16,657
Private	26,185	20,981	20,746	21,948	22,122	20,796	22,885
Diphtheria							
National	48,173	37,469	36,393	37,267	35,680	36,227	37,136
Public	28,870	21,191	21,113	20,867	19,595	20,862	19,578
Private	19,303	16,278	15,280	16,400	16,085	15,365	17,558
Poliomyelitis							
National	48,160	37,520	36,491	37,247	35,657	36,198	37,191
Public	28,907	21,243	21,178	20,788	19,515	20,790	19,544
Private	19,253	16,277	15,313	16,459	16,142	15,408	17,647
Measles							
National	49,120	38,773	40,714	38,570	35,741	37,758	37,425
Public	30,054	23,208	24,092	22,368	20,913	22,350	20,113
Private	19,066	15,565	16,622	16,202	14,828	15,408	17,312

Source : Health Promotion Board

¹ Data refer to immunisations given to all Singaporean and non-Singaporean children who were residing in Singapore during the time of the period reported.

20.8 IMMUNISATION ¹ COVERAGE FOR CHILDREN AT 2 YEARS OF AGE

	Per Cent						
	1998	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
BCG	99	99	99	98	98	99	99
Diphtheria	97	96	95	96	95	97	96
Poliomyelitis	97	96	94	96	95	97	96
Hepatitis B	96	95	93	96	95	96	97
Measles	97	93	95	96	95	95	94

Source : Health Promotion Board

1 Refers to immunisation given to children who are Singapore citizens and permanent residents.

20.9 VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

	Thousand Doses						
	1998	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Diphtheria Tetanus ¹	82.9	97.7	97.7	96.3	96.2	99.0	101.9
Poliomyelitis Immunisation ²	82.7	97.4	97.7	96.3	95.6	98.8	143.8
BCG Vaccination ³	33.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
MMR ⁴	38.2	49.5	50.7	53.6	50.0	49.5	139.9

Source : Health Promotion Board

1 Prior to 2008, booster doses were given to Primary 1 and Primary 6 students. With effect from 2008, booster doses were given to Primary 5 students instead. However, students who were in Primary 6 in 2008 were also vaccinated/immunised as they had not received the booster dose when they were in Primary 5.

2 Prior to 2008, vaccinations/immunisations were given to Primary 1 and Primary 6 students. With effect from 2008, booster doses were given to Primary 1 and Primary 5 students. However, students who were in Primary 6 in 2008 were also vaccinated/immunised as they had not received the booster dose when they were in Primary 5.

3 Discontinued with effect from 1 July 2001.

4 MMR refers to Measles, Mumps and Rubella.

Prior to 2008, vaccinations/immunisations were given to Primary 6 students. With effect from 2008, vaccinations/immunisations were given to Primary 1 students instead. Primary 5 and Primary 6 students in 2008 were also given the vaccinations/immunisations as they were not vaccinated/immunised in Primary 1. Primary 2 to Primary 4 students in 2008 who have not received the vaccinations/immunisations will receive it when they reach Primary 5.

20.10 STUDENT MEDICAL CHECK-UP

	1998	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
							Thousand
Total	464.1	395.8	501.0	505.3	456.1	458.7	451.9
Primary 1 and equivalent age groups	48.7	49.2	46.8	43.8	44.2	47.5	42.2
Primary 5 and equivalent age groups ¹	na	na	na	na	na	na	48.5
Primary 6 and equivalent age groups	40.0	51.6	51.3	51.9	51.1	50.3	50.7
Screening of other educational levels ²	373.4	294.4 ⁴	402.2	408.9	359.8	360.2	306.5
Others ³	2.0	0.6	0.7	0.7	1.0	0.7	4.0

Source : Health Promotion Board

- 1 Due to change in immunisation schedule, medical examination by doctor is also conducted for Primary 5 students.
- 2 Educational levels other than Primary 1 and Primary 6.
Discontinued screening for Secondary 5 students and only examined Secondary 3 students with health problems wef 1 January 2006.
- 3 Refers to general medical examination done for students excluding Primary 1 and Primary 6.
- 4 Due to SARS outbreak, 85 secondary schools were not covered.

20.11 COMMON HEALTH PROBLEMS OF STUDENTS EXAMINED

	1998	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Per 10,000 Males Examined						
Incidence of :							
Defective Vision ¹	5,107	5,344	5,590	5,562	5,388	5,363	5,380
Obesity							
Primary 1 and equivalent age groups	1,131	1,144	1,171	1,231	1,310	1,282	1,283
Primary 5 and equivalent age groups ²	na	na	na	na	na	na	1,833
Primary 6 and equivalent age groups	1,547	1,624	1,587	1,658	1,833	1,828	1,772
	Per 10,000 Females Examined						
Incidence of :							
Defective Vision ¹	5,395	5,765	6,118	6,065	5,849	5,779	5,817
Obesity							
Primary 1 and equivalent age groups	1,038	1,072	1,077	1,121	1,230	1,149	1,111
Primary 5 and equivalent age groups ²	na	na	na	na	na	na	1,284
Primary 6 and equivalent age groups	1,202	1,268	1,205	1,236	1,325	1,309	1,286

Source : Health Promotion Board

- 1 Discontinued screening for Secondary 3 & Secondary 5 students with effect from 1 January 2006.
- 2 Due to change in immunisation schedule, medical examination by doctor is also conducted for Primary 5 students.