

ABOUT NATIONAL HEALTHCARE ESTABLISHMENTS AND WORKFORCE STATISTICS (HOSPITAL)

Background

National Healthcare Establishment and Workforce Statistics (NHEWS) Hospital is an initiative that gathers information on hospitals in the country concerning their services- with emphasis on specialised clinical services, facilities, medical devices, and health workforce. The NHEWS survey covers all acute curative hospitals and related specialty services for both public and private sectors. (The definition of acute curative care is provided in Appendix 1).

However, unlike the NHEWS (Hospital) surveys of previous years (2008/09, 2010, 2011), the current survey reports only acute curative hospitals without distinguishing the specialty services, except when reporting the public hospital specialist clinic visits. Further, only one medical device is reported here compared to several devices in the previous reports.

Besides that, the hospital population frame also has differed between the current and the past NHEWS (Hospital) surveys. Revision of inclusion criteria has led to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) hospitals being included in the 2012-2013 survey compared to the previous surveys.

Objectives

General Objective

To document the availability and distribution of hospitals/facilities, services, medical devices, and health workforce in the country.

Specific Objectives

- To estimate the number and density (number per population) of hospitals/facilities, services, and health workforce in Malaysia by geographical areas.
- To map out trends in the number and density of hospitals/facilities, services, and health workforce through consistent and reliable data collection.

Structure of Report

This fourth NHEWS (Hospital) report provides overall statistics on the acute curative hospitals in Malaysia during 2012-2013. It consists of four chapters:

- Chapter 1: Hospital Facilities
- Chapter 2: Hospital Medical Device (Mammogram Machine)
- Chapter 3: Hospital Activities
- Chapter 4: Hospital Health Workforce

Data prepared for this report has been reviewed by an expert panel of hospital services. This review process is identical to that of the previous NHEWS (Hospital) reports. Previously, each chapter within the report was written by an expert panel of the respective service. Meanwhile for the current report, all chapters were written by members of the NHEWS (Hospital) project team.

Data will first feature the national picture, and then followed by a drill-down report of sectors within states. We have also included data from the 2010/2011 survey in this report; to serve in presenting patterns/ trends within the datasets across multiple time points, wherever the data is available.

However, data from the 2010/2011 survey that appears in this report may be dissimilar to data found in the NHEWS (Hospital) 2010 and NHEWS (Hospital) 2011 reports. Several reasons contribute to this:

- The data may have been corrected following information that we received from the data source providers.
- Revision of “acute curative care” definition for this current report has led us to reclassify two hospitals that were labelled as “chronic curative care” in the 2011 report as “acute curative care” in the 2012-2013 report. These two hospitals were included in all re-analyses of the 2011 survey data presented in this report. We did so in order to minimise disharmony among these datasets, and therefore facilitate the three-year comparison.
- Rerun of non-response analysis of the 2011 survey data to standardise the statistical method to that of the NHEWS (Hospital) 2012-2013.
- Revision of calculation method of mean average length of stay (ALOS), mean bed occupancy rate (BOR), and mean turnover interval (TOI). Please refer to study methodology for further details (page xi).
- Referring specifically to the doctor workforce data:
 - Continuing and periodic data cleaning based on updated sources of data verification e.g. from the MMC, NSR, and Medical Development Division MOH.
 - The current NHEWS (Hospital) 2012-2013 features only acute curative services, whereas the previous NHEWS (Hospital) featured selected specialty services, which took into account long term care hospitals, therefore included the workforce within these hospitals as well for the count of doctor workforce. Thus in this report we present current (2013) and past (2010 & 2011) workforce data that have been standardised to include only doctors working in acute curative hospitals.

A specific example pertaining to this is the psychiatrist workforce. For the NHEWS (Hospital) 2010 & 2011 survey, data included psychiatrists who were working in the psychiatric institutions. However in this report we only highlight the 2010 & 2011 data on psychiatrists working in acute curative hospitals.

The scenario above would have applied to the rehabilitation medicine specialist workforce as well, except that in 2010 & 2011, there were no rehabilitation medicine specialists working in the long term care hospitals being surveyed.

The NHEWS (Hospital) data was collected based on the needs of our stakeholders. Other data users are advised that the inclusion and exclusion criteria, and data definitions used in this report may differ from other sources. Any interpretation or comparison should be made with caution. The Health Informatics Centre, Ministry of Health Malaysia is the official source of health data in the country. Harmonisation of health data for the purpose of international comparisons should preferably be obtained from this official source.