The Israeli Health Care System - Overview
Legal Basis

- National Health Insurance Act (1995)
- Patient’s Right Act (1996)
- Public Health Ordinance (mandate)
National Health Insurance

• Universal coverage for all residents
• Defined basket of benefits, guaranteed by the government
• Collection of premiums by National Insurance Institute

Dead Sea
National Health Insurance

• Health Maintenance Organizations obligated to accept all applicants
• Voluntary choice of HMO (transfer possible 4 times a year)
• HMOs committed to supply high quality care, including availability of services

- Right to medical care
- Protection of dignity and privacy
- Access to medical information
- Informed consent to medical care
- Confidentiality of medical records and data
- Special committees to oversee quality of care and ethics
There are also hundreds of private geriatric and psychiatric hospitals.
Primary Care

- High accessibility
  - Consultation with family physicians – full coverage
  - Co-payments for specialists only
  - Waiting time for primary care – 0-3 days
  - High satisfaction reported with professionalism & interpersonal skills
- High rate of visits to physicians (# 7.1 per year)
## Insured Population
### By Sick Funds (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1995</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CLALIT HEALTH SERVICES</strong></td>
<td>63.5</td>
<td>54.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LEUMIT</strong></td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>9.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maccabi</strong></td>
<td>18.8</td>
<td>23.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>מְדַלְּעַת</strong></td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>12.1</td>
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Secondary & Tertiary Care

- 27 general hospitals: ~ 14,200 beds
- 21 psychiatric hospitals: ~ 5,500 beds
- 272 chronic disease hospitals: ~ 18,200 beds

Tel Aviv Medical Center
Fig. 5.1  Beds in acute hospitals per 1000 population in Israel and selected other countries, 1990–2006

Source: WHO Regional Office for Europe 2007.
Inpatient Utilization in Acute Hospitals

- Low bed-population ratio (2.2 / 1000)
- Extremely low average length of stay (4.1 days)
- Mid-high rate of admissions (17.8 per 100)
- High occupancy rate (93%)

* Low bed-population ratio results from government policy = focus on community care
Public Health Services

- Operated mainly by governmental agencies
- 7 health regions
- 10 local health districts
Public Health Services – cont.

• Preventive care provided by government:
  • mother & child centers
  • school health services
  • food sanitation
  • environmental health
  • health promotion

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Ministry of Health

• Overall responsibility for the effective function of the health care system

• Owns and operates:
  • ~ half of acute hospital beds
  • ~ 2/3 of the psychiatric beds
  • 10% of chronic disease beds
  • most mother & child preventive health centers
Sources of funding – Emergency preparedness & response

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical institutions</td>
<td>Training &amp; drills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>Development of doctrines &amp; training materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Equipment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
National Exp. on Health as % of GDP International Comparison-2004

Source: Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics
National Exp. On Health
By Financing Sector - 2005

Source: Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics
Infant mortality rate

Infant mortality rate: total: 4.22 deaths/1,000 live births
male: 4.39 deaths/1,000 live births
female: 4.05 deaths/1,000 live births (2009 est.)
Physician Human Resources

• Sources of physicians
  • 4 medical schools in Israel (280 graduates yearly)
  • Immigrants
  • Israelis studying in foreign medical schools
    * in 2000 - ~ 2/3 of physicians under 65 were born outside Israel
Physician Human Resources

• License from Ministry of Health is a prerequisite
• Over 20,000 active physicians
• 12,400 board certified specialists (9,800 under 65)
Fig. 5.2  Number of physicians per 1000 population in Israel, selected countries and EU averages, 1990–2006
Major Problems

• Multiple functioning of the Ministry of Health regulator and service supplier.
• Updating and financing the package of health benefits.
• Infrastructure of hospitals
• Investment budget
• Co-payment in medical treatments
Conclusions

• Health care based on regulated competition among HMOs
• Explicit priorities and definitions of basket of health care services
• Equity in the health system
THANK YOU

Bahai Shrine

Jerusalem

Eilat