

# **Anaemic Public Health Framework in Most States**

Himachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh have the best infrastructure for public medical care



**H**ealth infrastructure is an essential ingredient of the physical well-being of human capital as it reflects the conditions of healthcare facilities available in an economy. Modernised and equipped health infrastructure not only attracts expats in a country but also becomes significant reason for attraction of investments.

In effect, health infrastructure plays an important role both in economic and social progress of an economy.

This article looks at public or government health infrastructure of different states via accessing the four basic parameters: average population served per government hospital, average population per government doctor, statewide expenditure on health facilities, and percentage of villages having community health centre with three-kilometre reach.

## POPULATION SERVED PER HOSPITAL

Population served per government hospital determines the number of people a hospital is expected to serve. Lower the population served per hospital, more effective it would be in offering healthcare services.

The nation's average of population served per government hospital is just below one lakh, which is not a good sign as with such high number no hospital is able to give quality medical treatment to its patients.

States like Himachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh have done exceptionally well and achieved 4,692 and 5,920 headcounts served per hospital respectively, which shows their enhanced capability in treating the patients effectively.

The situation in Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh is totally out of order as the hospital is expected to serve two lakh people, which is unacceptable.

## AVERAGE POPULATION SERVED PER DOCTOR

Average population served per doctor reflects the number of people a doctor is meant to serve. The lower it would be,

the more efficient the doctor will be in treating his patients.

In some of fastest-growing states, Gujarat and Maharashtra with GDP growth rate of 13% and 8.59%, respectively, the average population served by one government doctor is 25,168 and 24,237 respectively, which is alarming.

There is a big shortage of government doctors in these states and people are left with no option but to go to expensive private hospitals.

Smaller states like Goa and Chandigarh secured the best grade, as average population served per government doctor is 1,763 and 1,728, respectively, which makes the doctors more effective and reliable, and the number of patients and doctors don't mismatch.

## GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON HEALTH CARE INFRASTRUCTURE

Health infrastructure is highly capital-intensive, bringing the responsibility to the government to build it for its citizens so that healthcare facilities can be availed by everybody.

The lowest per-capita government expenditure on health is in states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Karnataka where the number of people below poverty line—25.5%, 32.5% and 17%, respectively—is quite high.

It means that nearly a fifth of the population in these states is deprived of the healthcare services due to inadequate government investment.

Three northeastern states, Mizoram, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh, have the highest government expenditure per person—₹2,618.50, ₹1,481.50 and ₹1,479.80, respectively—which also justifies the lower death rates in these states of nearly 5% while the country's annual death rate is 7.4%.

## VILLAGES UNDER COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRES

Kerala and Himachal Pradesh have the wider reach for the community healthcare centres—94.9% and 94.5%, respectively—which means that healthcare facilities are accessible to every individual of the state. On the other hand, northeast-

ern state Mizoram needs urgent attention for opening health community centres as it has just 28.6% accessible community healthcare centres.

Half of the population in Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh remains deprived of healthcare as they have just 52.9% and 55.6%, respectively, accessible community healthcare centres.

## STATES: THE ROAD AHEAD

It is, thus, imperative that states would have to focus on improving healthcare infrastructure and they still have a long way to go when compared to global standards.

Health infrastructure of a state can be categorised into three stages depending on quality and accessibility.

► **Superior healthcare infrastructure:** These states are most prepared for future healthcare requirements of dealing with a growing population at a natural growth rate of 15%.

These states can be great assets to provide medical support to other states and focus on building high-end healthcare practices and infrastructure.

► **Restrained healthcare infrastructure:** States like Orissa, Karnataka, Sikkim and Delhi face the challenge of providing accessible healthcare to all and should aim at opening new hospitals and expanding the current capacity of hospitals if investing fresh capital is a constraint.

► **Deprived healthcare infrastructure:** These states need an urgent attention towards health infrastructure.

They need to invest by accessing the gaps and through effective implementation plan in opening new healthcare facilities and, more importantly, recruiting new medical practitioners.



## Healthcare Infrastructure: Progress Chart

### SUPERIOR HEALTHCARE INFRASTRUCTURE STATES

(AVERAGE POPULATION SERVED BY HOSPITALS >50K AND GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE PER PERSON >₹320 & <₹640)

Himachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh

### RESTRAINED HEALTHCARE INFRASTRUCTURE STATES

(AVERAGE POPULATION SERVED BY HOSPITALS >50K & LESS THAN 1 LAKH AND GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE PER PERSON >₹320 & <₹640)

Assam, Goa, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Orissa, Sikkim, Tripura and Delhi

### DEPRIVED HEALTHCARE INFRASTRUCTURE STATES

(AVERAGE POPULATION SERVED BY HOSPITALS >1 LAKH AND GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE PER PERSON <₹200)

Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal

## STATE-WISE HEALTHCARE INFRASTRUCTURE DATA

State	Average Population Served by Each Doctor	Average Population Per Govt Hospital	%age of Villages Having CMC	Expenditure Per Person (₹)
Himachal Pradesh	NA	4692	94.5	709.97
Arunachal Pradesh	2692	5920	NA	1479.85
Assam	13066	19486	68.3	465.18
Goa	1763	82750	73.5	1712.11
Jammu & Kashmir	5152	120641	75.4	710.91
Kerala	8950	88246	94.9	419.12
Meghalaya	5079	67368	56.9	678.35
Mizoram	2553	47900	28.6	2618.56
Orissa	7808	23420	83.6	292.79
Sikkim	2694	19933	55.3	1481.41
Tripura	4933	113955	78.9	512.35
Delhi	3933	130423	84	1033.26
Andhra Pradesh	17988	224825	67.9	373.46
Bihar	23174	54533	70.6	147.30
Gujarat	25168	153979	70.8	261.17
Haryana	13165	159721	82.3	363.41
Karnataka	11446	63309	77.9	283.22
Madhya Pradesh	18451	179228	55.6	185.89
Maharashtra	24237	143207	64.9	3240.08
Rajasthan	10268	133491	66.2	287.92
Tamil Nadu	9234	112959	78.5	371.56
West Bengal	9953	298772	86.3	293.48
Uttar Pradesh	23986	198143	77.8	205.50