



Kingdom of Lesotho



Statistical Report

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2021 HEALTH STATISTICS



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Mission: To coordinate the National Statistical System (NSS) and produce accurate, timely and reliable culturally relevant and internationally comparable statistical data for evidence-based planning, decision making, research, policy, program formulation and monitoring and to satisfy the needs of users and producers.

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List of Acronyms

BOS	Bureau of Statistics
CHAL	Christian Health Association of Lesotho
DHIS	District Health Information System
GOL	Government of Lesotho
HPSU	Health Planning and Statistics Unit
ICD	International Classification of diseases
MOH	Ministry of Health

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This Health Statistics report is analyzed based on administrative data from health care facilities across Lesotho providing outpatients and inpatients care. The information is housed at the planning unit of the Ministry of Health (MoH). The data used in this report was extracted from the District Health Information System (DHIS2) application compiled by Health Planning and Statistics Unit (HPSU). The data covers the daily reporting of the following aspects of health; inpatients, outpatients and discharges. The 2021 data collected from the DHIS2 application is recompiled and analyzed then a report is published by the Bureau of Statistics (BOS). The data collection tools were implemented in response to the introduction of the International Classification of Diseases 10th Edition (ICD) codes.

Patients receive a service from health centres through consultation. A consultation in a health centre is either recorded as a new or repeat case. A new consultation refers to a case where a patient is seeking health services for a condition for the first time, whereas repeat refers to a case where a patient is getting health service for the same condition for the second time, or several times.

1.2 Data Coverage

There are 375 health care facilities (*General Hospitals, Health Centres and Clinics*) incorporated in the MoHs' DHIS2 application, however only 216 reported. The 2021 data utilized in this report is collected from the 216 health care facilities, 18 General Hospitals of which 10 belong to the Government of Lesotho (GoL) and the other eight (8) belong to Christian Health Association of Lesotho (CHAL).

1.3 Data Limitations

- Not all operational health care facilities whose information was included in the previous health reports captured data during the year 2021.
- Only 216 health care facilities collected and captured the data for the current year.
- The analysed statistical tables exclude reports from privately owned facilities as some of them do not report their activities or performance to MoH.
- The health care facilities do not have the same operating procedures, hence are applying different programs and it's not easy to get all the required information.

1.4 Methodology

The absolute numbers and percentages were used in tables and graphs to describe patients with various diseases. Proportions have been used to illustrate occurrence of different diseases in geographical areas by sex and age of the patients.

2.0 Outpatients

An outpatient is a patient who is not hospitalized overnight but who visits a hospital, clinic, or associated facility for diagnosis or treatment (www.merriam-webster.com 2022). A total of 1,024,635 outpatients which includes both re-attendants and new attendees visited the health care facility across the country in 2021 for various illnesses. This showed an increase of 1.1 percent from 1,013,388 recorded in 2020.

The new attendees accounted for a total of 776,242 diseases/conditions that were recorded for outpatients who visited the health care centres in 2021. This is an increase of 2.2 percent from 759,013 diseases/conditions recorded in 2020.

The sex distribution of out-patients that were diagnosed and treated with diseases or conditions as revealed in Table 1 shows that 63.8 percent were females and 36.2 constituted males. Across all age groups more females were treated than males. The lower and upper age groups had higher percentages constituting 14.4 and 14.3 percent respectively.

Table 1: Percentage Distribution of Outpatients by Age-group and Sex, 2021

Age Group	Males	Females	Both Sexes
0-4	49.5	50.5	14.4
5-9	48.0	52.0	6.0
10-14	41.3	58.7	5.3
15-19	30.6	69.4	6.4
20-24	27.6	72.4	7.2
25-29	30.5	69.5	7.3
30-34	33.2	66.8	7.3
35-39	35.3	64.7	6.7
40-44	37.6	62.4	5.9
45-49	36.8	63.2	4.9
50-54	35.8	64.2	4.7
55-59	34.5	65.5	4.8
60-64	35.2	64.8	4.9
65+	28.3	71.7	14.3
Total	281,312	494,930	776,242

Top Ten Causes of Morbidity

Table 2 shows the top ten causes of outpatient morbidity in 2021. The most reported disease was Cough and Colds with 23.6 percent, followed by Other Disorders of the Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue System with 11.3 percent.

Table 2: Top Ten Causes of Outpatients Morbidity in all Health Care Facilities, 2021

Rank	Diagnosis	Number	Percent
1	Cough and Colds	182,166	23.5
2	Other disorders of the musculoskeletal and connective tissue system	87,371	11.3
3	Other symptoms and/or ill-defined conditions	69,624	9.0
4	Other skin subcutaneous tissue disorder	57,736	7.4
5	Hypertension	41,558	5.4
6	Other respiratory tract diseases	29,692	3.8
7	Vaginal discharge	25,719	3.3
8	Other diseases of digestive system	21,558	2.8
9	Other Genital-urinary disease and other STI	17,480	2.3
10	Urethritis and urethral discharge (Male)	12,350	1.6
Total (Causes specified above)		545,254	70.2
	Other Conditions	230,988	29.8
Total (All Attendances)		776,242	100

2.1 Outpatients in General Hospitals

This section focuses on the number of diseases/conditions of outpatients reported in General Hospitals in 2021 as well as the top ten causes of outpatients' morbidity. There were 169,024 outpatients that were attended in the General Hospitals only.

The number and percentage distribution of outpatients by hospital are presented in Table . In 2021, Maluti hospital had the highest percentage of new attendees constituting 16.0 percent while Mafeteng hospital had the least proportion of new attendees estimated at 0.5. Furthermore, for patients who were re-attended the OPD for all diseases or disorders, Maluti hospital had the highest percentage accounting for 27.8 followed by Seboche hospital with 16.1 percent. Quthing Hospital had no patients who re-attended the OPD.

Table 3: Percentage Distribution of Outpatients by General Hospital,2021

Hospital	New attendees	Re-attendance	Total
Berea	7.3	0.9	10,217
Botha-Bothe	6.7	1.8	9,688
Machabeng	1.5	0.2	2,156
Mafeteng	0.5	0.0	749
Makoanyane Military	1.6	1.1	2,532
Maluti	16.0	27.8	30,958
Mamohau Mission	3.7	11.9	8,958
Mokhotlong	4.3	4.8	7,437
Motebang	7.9	3.0	11,708
Ntsekhe	12.2	2.9	17,520
Paray	5.1	7.2	9,262
Quthing	6.4	-	8,619
Scott Mission	10.1	13.8	18,318
Seboche	4.9	16.1	12,115
St James Mission	7.3	2.1	10,570
St Josephs	1.2	0.6	1,883
Tebellong	2.5	5.3	5,203
CEHAL (Mbeya)	0.7	0.5	1,131
Total	135,364	33,660	169,024

2.2 Age and Sex of Outpatients in General Hospitals

Table Table illustrates the percentage distribution of outpatients by age and sex for the year 2021. The results reveal that, the age groups 0 to 4 years and 65 years and above for those patients who visited for the first time in OPD had the highest percentages for both males and females outpatients compared to other age groups accounting for 12.0 and 20.1 percent for males while 20.0 and 14.1 percent were for females. Regarding the re-attendance outpatients, the age group observed with higher percentages was that of 55 years and above for both males and females.

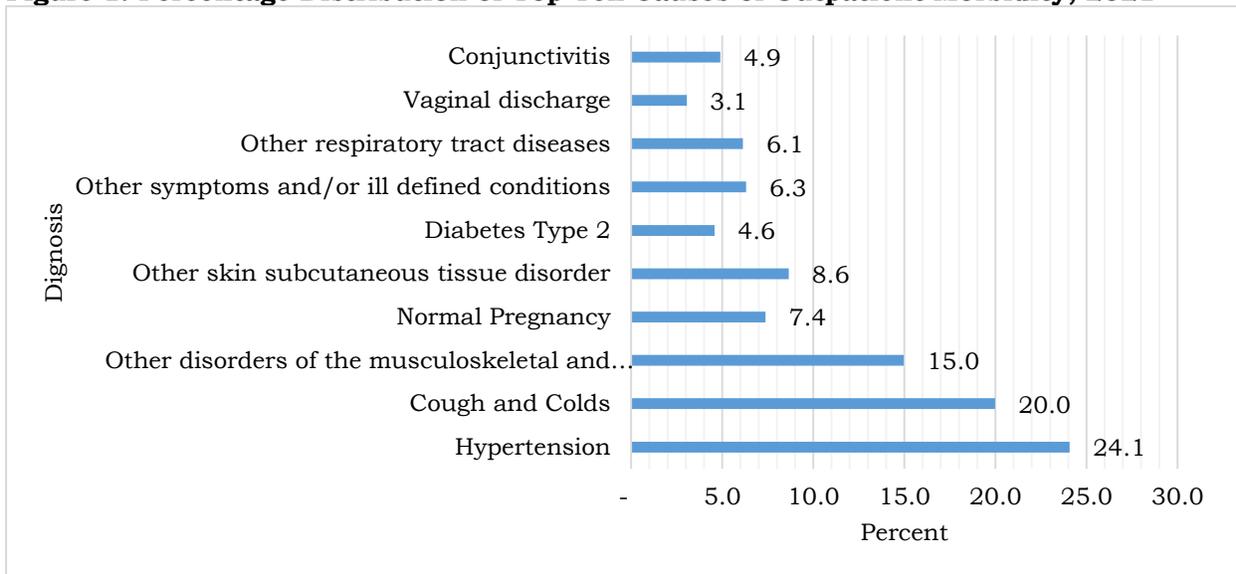
Table 4: Percentage Distribution of Outpatients by Age and Sex, 2021

Age	New attendees		Re-attendance		Total
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
0-4	12.0	20.0	1.7	4.4	21,059
5-9	3.1	6.1	0.7	1.9	6,014
10-14	2.4	4.0	0.8	1.7	4,396
15-19	5.2	4.4	1.2	1.9	7,067
20-24	7.6	5.3	1.9	2.4	9,885
25-29	8.2	6.0	2.9	2.6	11,002
30-34	7.7	6.4	3.7	3.4	11,028
35-39	6.7	6.1	4.3	4.9	10,257
40-44	5.5	5.9	5.4	5.3	9,401
45-49	4.9	5.2	6.2	6.8	8,971
50-54	5.1	5.1	8.3	6.9	9,565
55-59	5.5	5.4	10.3	10.4	10,887
60-64	6.0	5.9	12.3	12.1	12,173
65+	20.1	14.1	40.4	35.3	37,319
Total	86,679	48,685	22,327	11,333	169,024

2.3 Top Ten Causes of Outpatients in General Hospitals

The top ten illness or symptoms recorded at hospitals for outpatients are represented in Figure 1. The graph shows that, the most recorded diseases/conditions were hypertension with 24.1 percent followed by cough and colds with 20.0 percent. The least observation was for Vaginal discharge constituting 3.1 percent. Most of the top ten diseases/conditions recorded in 2020 were also identified in 2021.

Figure 1: Percentage Distribution of Top Ten Causes of Outpatient Morbidity, 2021



3.0 Inpatients

The patients who have been admitted into health facilities are referred to as inpatients which means that, the procedure requires that the patient gets admitted to the hospital, primarily to be closely monitored during the procedure and afterwards, during recovery (www.dictionary.com). A patient doesn't have to stay overnight in hospital to be classified as an inpatient, as long as he/she has been admitted by a doctor and received treatment, even if he/she was only in for a day – such person is still an inpatient (Nib 2021). This section discusses inpatient admissions by hospital, sex, diagnosis, ward and age.

Not all the health care facilities within the country are fully equipped and able to deal or admit inpatients due to this fact, only the General hospitals are the ones that provided data.

3.1 Inpatient Admissions in General Hospitals

The number and percentage distribution of inpatient admissions by different general hospitals for the period 2019 to 2021 is illustrated in Table . There was a total of 17,526 inpatients admissions in 2021, resulting in a 7.7 percent increase of the number of inpatients 2020. The majority of inpatients in 2019 and 2021 were admitted in Motebang hospital with 16.7 and 20.7 percent respectively while Botha-Bothe hospital accounted for fewer proportions of inpatients in 2019 estimated at 0.3 and for 2021 Cehal (Mbeya) hospital recorded the least estimated at 1.2 percent.

Table 5: Number and Percentage distribution of Inpatient Admissions by Hospital, 2019-2021

Hospital	2019		2020		2021	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Berea	291	1.6	186	1.2	521	3.0
Botha-Bothe	50	0.3	817	5.1	795	4.5
Machabeng	399	2.2	693	4.3	942	5.4
Mafeteng	2,020	10.9	934	5.8	1,977	11.3
Makoanyane Military	525	2.8	525	3.2	450	2.6
Maluti	711	3.9	2,882	17.8	1,331	7.6
Mamohau Mission	713	3.9	531	3.3	369	2.1
Mokhotlong	1,073	5.8	851	5.3	1,149	6.6
Motebang	3,076	16.7	1,213	7.5	3,622	20.7
Ntsekhe	1,851	10.0	1,463	9.0	1,128	6.4
Paray	1,666	9.0	1,320	8.2	1,392	7.9
Quthing	1,196	6.5	1,032	6.4	592	3.4
Scott Mission	2,082	11.3	1,771	11.0	1,375	7.8
Seboche	1,095	5.9	807	5.0	437	2.5
St James Mission	378	2.0	365	2.3	431	2.5
St Josephs	1,210	6.6	707	4.4	549	3.1
Tebellong	-	-	74	0.5	262	1.5
CEHAL (Mbeya)	-	-	-	-	204	1.2
Total	18,336	100	16,171	100.0	17,526	100.0

3.2 Sex of Admitted Inpatients in General Hospitals

The sex of the inpatients was taken into consideration in order to establish how many males and females were admitted in different hospitals in the country from 2019 to 2021. Table 6 indicates percentage distribution and trend of inpatient admissions by general hospitals from 2019 to 2021. Motebang hospital admitted more female and male patients in 2019 and 2021 compared to other hospitals with percentages ranging between 15.3 and 27.0 during 2021. Maluti hospital admitted more female (17.9) and male (17.7) patients in 2020. The least admissions of both male and female patients were observed in Tebellong hospital from 2020 to 2021.

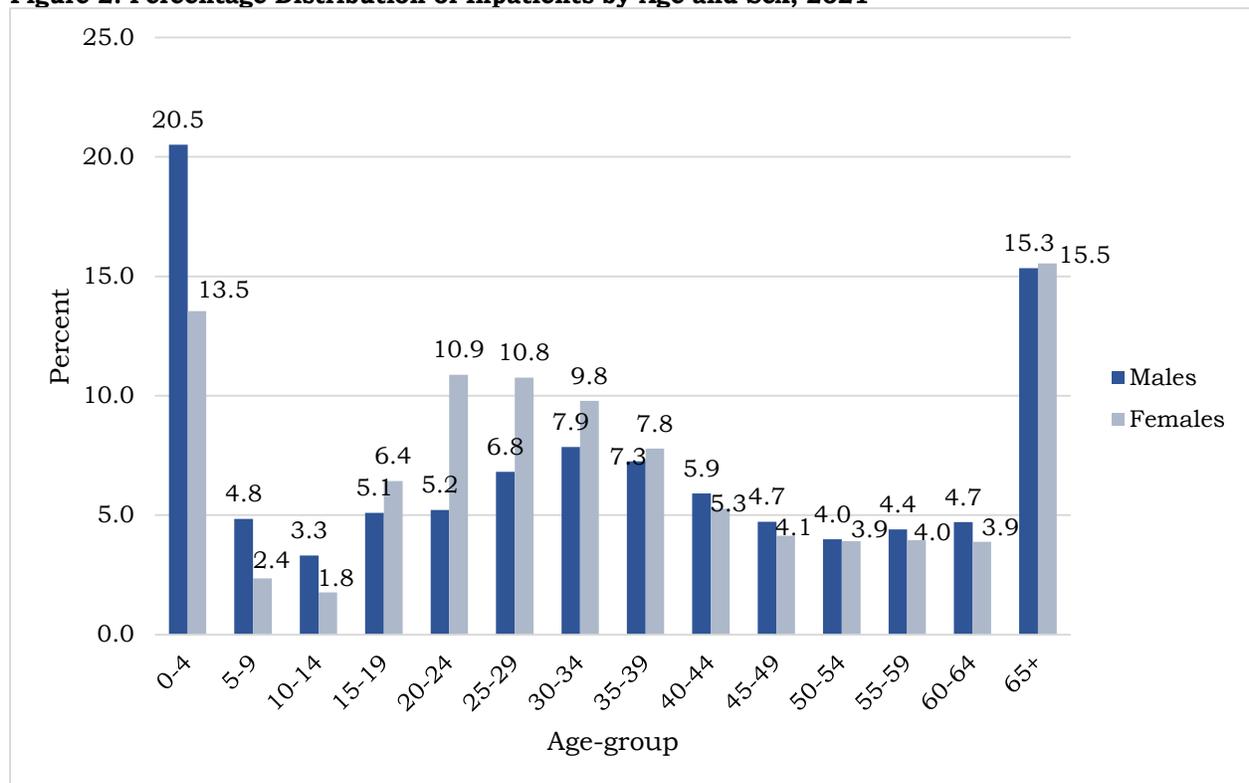
Table 6: Percentage Distribution of Inpatients Admissions by Hospital and Sex, from 2019-2021

Hospital	2019		2020		2021	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Berea	2.1	0.9	1.6	0.8	2.5	3.4
Botha-Bothe	0.4	0.1	5.2	4.9	3.5	5.4
Machabeng	2.1	2.3	4.7	4.0	5.1	5.6
Mafeteng	10.8	11.3	5.7	5.8	9.8	12.5
Makoanyane Military	2.9	2.8	3.0	3.4	2.0	3.1
Maluti	3.9	3.9	17.7	17.9	7.7	7.5
Mamohau Mission	3.4	4.6	3.6	3.1	2.5	1.8
Mokhotlong	5.1	6.8	6.0	4.7	7.5	5.8
Motebang	16.8	16.7	8.4	6.8	27.0	15.3
Ntsekhe	9.2	11.2	9.2	9.0	6.0	6.8
Paray	8.4	10.0	8.9	7.7	7.5	8.3
Quthing	6.3	6.9	6.2	6.5	3.1	3.6
Scott Mission	13.1	9.2	8.4	12.8	5.8	9.6
Seboche	5.9	6.0	4.5	5.4	2.6	2.4
St James Mission	2.0	2.1	2.5	2.1	2.6	2.3
St Josephs	7.7	5.2	3.7	4.9	2.4	3.8
Tebellong	-	-	0.6	0.3	1.5	1.5
CEHAL (Mbeya)	-	-	-	-	1.1	1.3
Total	10,329	8,007	6,834	9,337	7,997	9,529

3.3 Age and Sex of Admitted Inpatients

Figure 2 illustrates percentage distribution of inpatients by age and sex in 2021. The figure shows that more females and males aged 0 to 4 years were admitted in hospitals, even though males were outstandingly higher with 20.5 percent while females had 13.5 percent representation. Females were mostly admitted in general hospitals with higher proportions than males from age group 15 to 19 up to 30 to 34 years. The noticeable peak of 10.9 percent for females was at age group 20 to 24 years. The least percentage of males and females admitted in hospitals was observed at age group 10 to 14 years with 3.3 and 1.8 respectively.

Figure 2: Percentage Distribution of Inpatients by Age and Sex, 2021



3.4 Inpatients in Wards for General Hospitals

The percentage distribution of inpatients by hospital wards is demonstrated in Table 7. The table indicates that, female-general wards accounted for most inpatients than any other ward with 32.3 percent followed by male-general ward with 19.4 percent. The lowest admissions were found in Private/Block ward, Tuberculosis ward and Eye ward all accounting 0.1 percent.

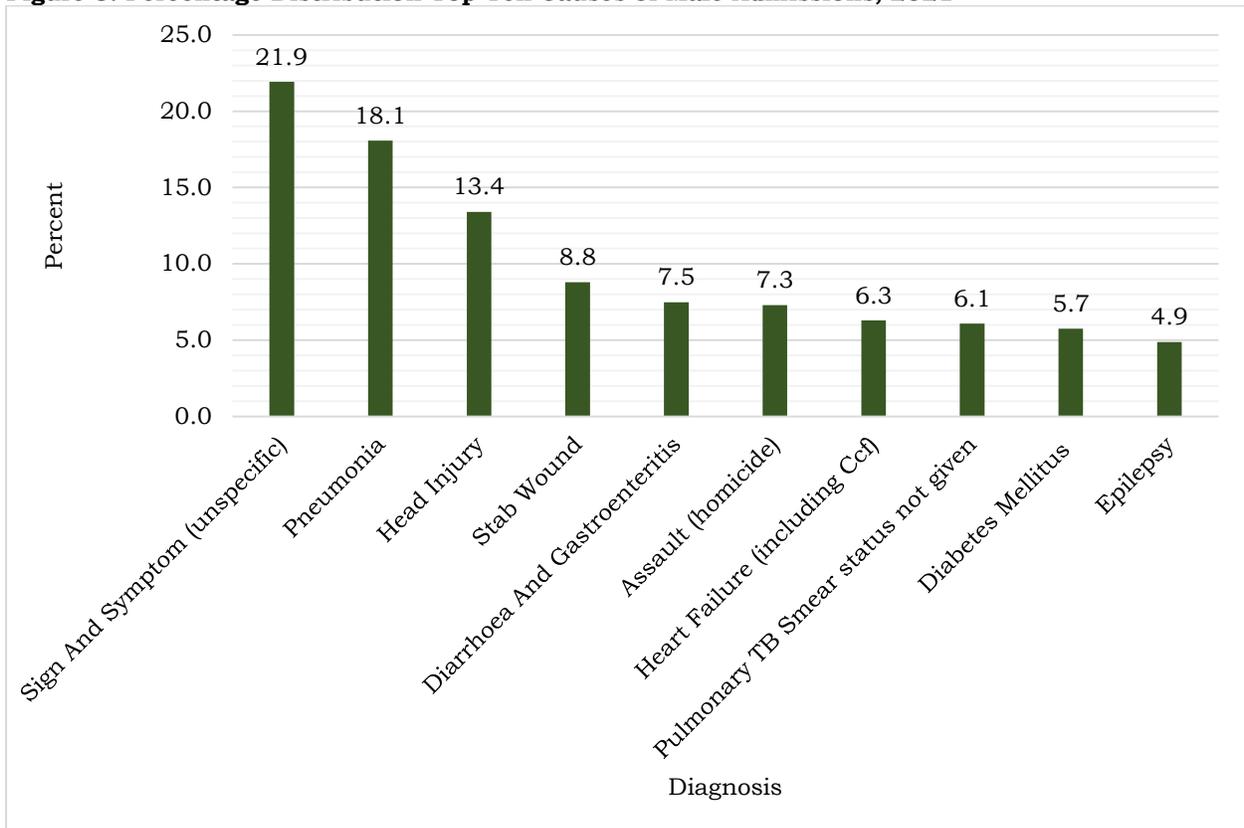
Table 7: Percentage Distribution of Inpatient Admissions by Hospital Ward, 2021

Hospital Ward	Number	Percent
Female - General Ward	5,662	32.3
Male - General Ward	3,404	19.4
Paediatrics Ward	3,175	18.1
Female - Medical Ward	1,368	7.8
Male - Surgical Ward	1,241	7.1
Male - Medical Ward	1,134	6.5
Gynaecology Ward	401	2.3
Female - Surgical Ward	369	2.1
Child Medical Ward	270	1.5
Female- ICU	148	0.8
Male - Tuberculosis Ward	94	0.5
Male- ICU	55	0.3
Child Surgical Ward	40	0.2
Orthopaedics Ward	40	0.2
Neonatal- ICU	37	0.2
Female - Private/Block Ward	26	0.1
Female - Tuberculosis Ward	24	0.1
Male - Eye Ward	21	0.1
Male - Private/Block Ward	13	0.1
Female - Eye Ward	3	0.0
Female- Orthopaedic	1	0.0
Mental Observation/Treatment Unit	-	-
Male- Orghopaedic	-	-
Total	17,526	100.0

3.5 Top Ten Causes of Male Admissions

The percentage distribution of the top ten causes of inpatient admissions is portrayed in Figure 3. The figure illustrates that, the main cause of inpatient admissions was due to Sign and Symptom (unspecific), estimated at 21.9 percent and Epilepsy as the lowest accounting for 4.9 percent among the top ten causes of admissions.

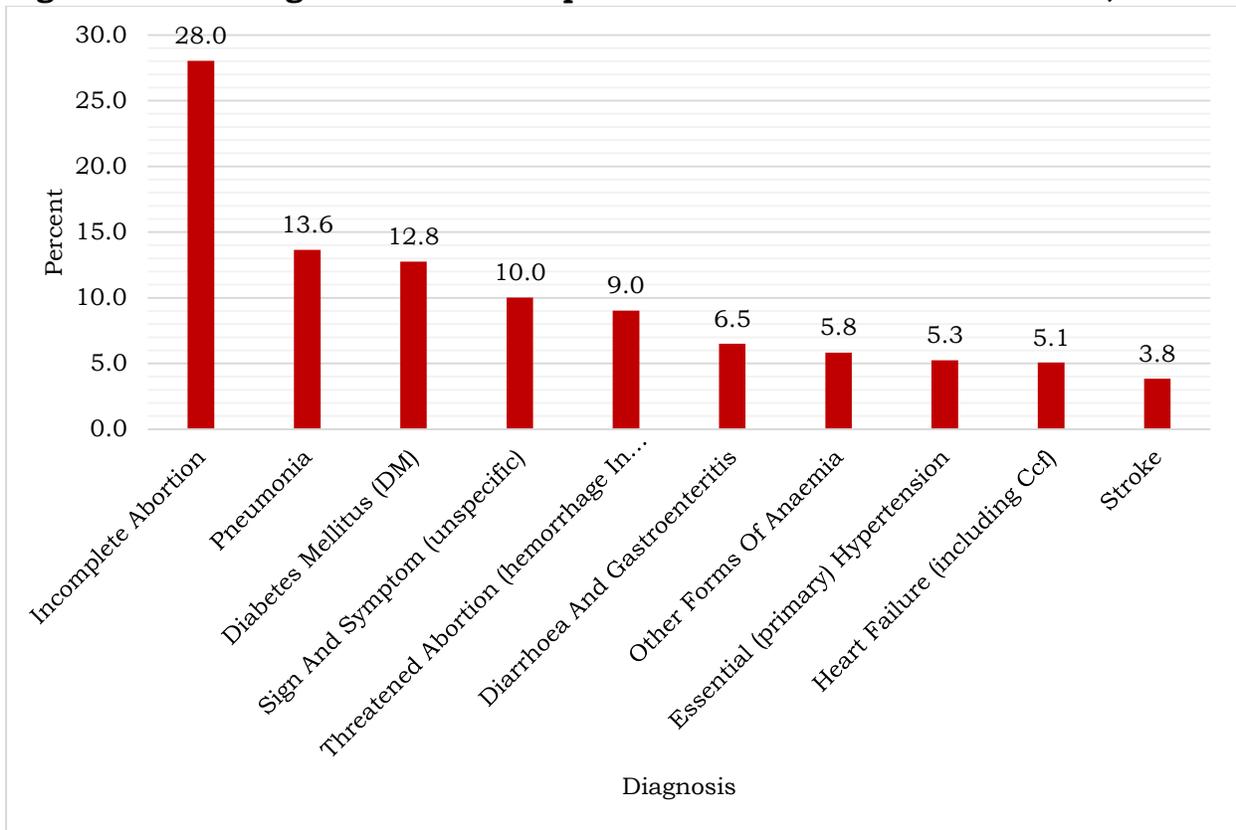
Figure 3: Percentage Distribution Top Ten Causes of Male Admissions, 2021



3.6 Top Ten Causes of Female Admissions

The percentage distribution of the top ten causes of female adult admissions is portrayed in figure 4. The main cause of female admissions in hospitals was due to incomplete abortions estimated at 28.0 percent and stroke as the lowest constituting 3.8 percent of the top ten causes.

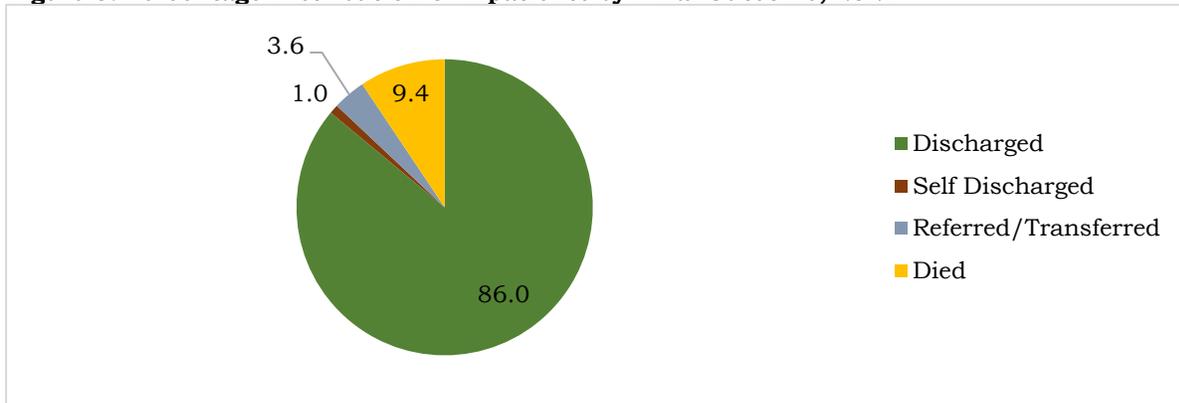
Figure 4: Percentage Distribution Top Ten Causes of Female Admissions, 2021



3.7 Inpatients and Final Outcome

Figure 5 displays inpatients by final outcome as of 2021. It was observed that patients who were discharged had higher percentages of all the outcomes 86.0 percent representation reflecting a positive outcome. The least percentages were for the outcome of self-discharge with 1.0 percent.

Figure 5: Percentage Distribution of Inpatients by Final Outcome, 2021



4.0 Summary

A total of 1,024,635 outpatients including re-attendants and new attendees visited the health care facility across the country for various illnesses reflecting an increase of 1.1 percent from 2020. The new attendees accounted for a total of 776,242 disease/conditions that were recorded for outpatients who visited the health care centres in 2021.

The sex distributions of out-patients that were diagnosed and treated with diseases or conditions portrayed that 63.8 percent were females and 36.2 were males. The most reported disease was Cough and Colds with 23.6 percent, followed by Other Disorders of the Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue System with 11.3 percent.

There were a total of 17,526 inpatients admitted in hospitals in 2021, resulting in a 7.7 percent increase of inpatients in 2020. Motebang hospital admitted more female and male patients in 2021 compared to other hospitals with 27.0 percent. The main cause of male inpatient admissions was due to Sign and Symptom (unspecific), estimated at 21.9 percent while for female it was Incomplete Abortions with 28.0 percent. Patients who were discharged accounted for 86.0 percent while 9.4 percent died.

5.0 References

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