



Kingdom of Lesotho



Statistical Report

No 26: 2023

2022 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

The analysis done in this report is based on administrative data gathered 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) which is used to collect routine data on health indicators by the Health Planning and Statistics Unit (HPSU). The data covers the daily reporting of the following aspects of health; inpatients, outpatients and discharges.

The 2022 health routine data collected from the DHIS2 was recompiled and analyzed then a report is written and published by the Bureau of Statistics (BOS). The International Classification of Diseases 10th Edition (ICD) codes designed to promote international comparability in the collection, processing, classification, and presentation of statistics were employed.

Patients receive services 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 377 health care facilities (General Hospitals, Health Centres and Clinics) incorporated in the MoHs' DHIS2 application, however only 217 reported. The 2022 report utilized data collected from the 217 health care facilities only; 18 General Hospitals of which 10 belong to the Government of Lesotho (GoL) and the other eight (8) belonging to Christian Health Association of Lesotho (CHAL).

1.3 Data Limitations

- There is no analysis of inpatients from Health facilities but only general hospitals since in clinics they don't admit patients but only pregnant women
- Not all operational health care facilities whose information was included in the previous health reports captured data during the year 2022.
- Only 217 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 the magnitude of occurrence of different diseases in geographical areas by sex and age of the patients.

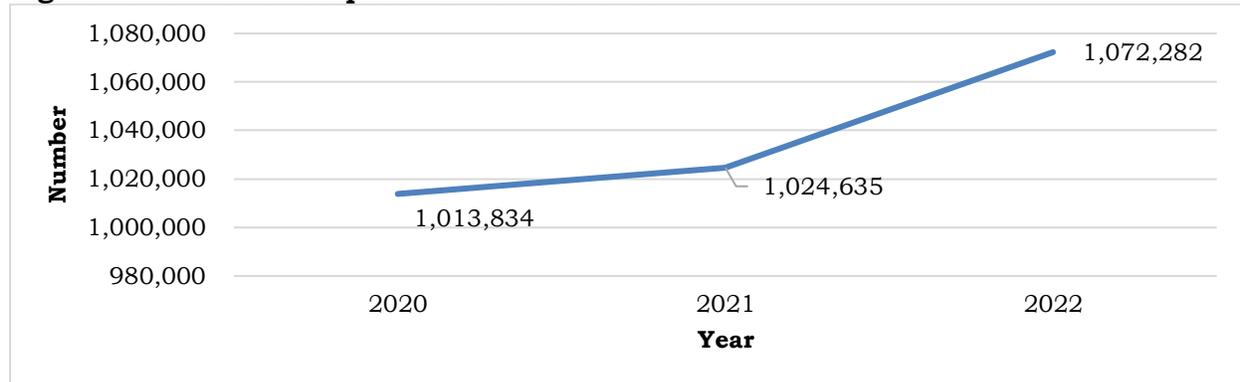
2.0 OUTPATIENTS

An outpatient is an individual who sought help or service in a health care facility but is not hospitalized overnight but who visits a hospital, clinic, or associated facility for diagnosis or treatment (www.merriam-webster.com 2023).

2.1 Outpatients in Health Facilities

The number of outpatients (both new attendees and re-attendants) who visited the health care facility across the country has been increasing from 1,013,834 in 2020 to , 1,024,635 in 2021 and 1,072,282 in 2022 as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Number of Outpatients from 2020-2022



The new attendees for 2022 accounted for a total of 824,319 showing an increase of 1.06 percent from 776,242 that was recorded in 2021 as revealed in Table 1. The sex distribution of out-patients that were diagnosed and treated with various diseases or conditions showed that 62.9 percent were females and 37.1 constituted males illustrating the fact that health seeking behavior for males is still low. The lower (0-4 years) and upper (65 years and above) age groups which could be referred to as vulnerable groups had higher percentages constituting 13.9 and 13.2 percent respectively than other age-groups.

Table 1: Percentage Distribution of New Outpatients by Age-group and Sex, 2022

Age-group	Females	Males	Total
00-04	10.9	19.0	114,717
05-09	5.8	9.1	57,658
10-14	6.3	7.4	55,629
15-19	7.6	6.1	58,161
20-24	8.0	5.5	58,149
25-29	7.4	5.8	56,191
30-34	7.5	6.5	58,927
35-39	6.7	6.4	54,206
40-44	5.9	6.1	48,925
45-49	4.7	4.9	39,663
50-54	4.7	4.5	38,010
55-59	4.5	4.1	35,995
60-64	5.0	4.4	39,351
65+	15.0	10.1	108,737
Total (%)	62.9	37.1	
Total (N)	518,504	305,815	824,319

2.1.1 Top Ten Causes of Morbidity in Health Facilities

The top ten causes of outpatient's morbidity in Health facilities for 2022 is presented in Table 2. The top ten causes of Outpatients morbidity constituted 69.2 percent of the diseases that they were diagnosed or treated with. The most commonly reported disease was Cough and Colds with 37.5 percent, followed by Other Disorders of the Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue System with 14.5 percent. Tonsillitis was a less popular type of illness with only 2.4 percent of patients who were diagnosed with it.

Table 2: Top Ten Causes of Outpatients Morbidity in all Health Care Facilities, 2022

Diagnosis	Number	Percent
Cough and Colds	221,040	37.5
Other disorders of the musculoskeletal and connective tissue system	85,533	14.5
Other symptoms and/or ill-defined conditions	68,446	11.6
Other skin subcutaneous tissue disorder	64,612	10.9
Hypertension	39,121	6.6
Other respiratory tract diseases	34,462	5.8
Vaginal discharge	23,876	4.0
Other diseases of digestive system	20,931	3.5
Other Genito-urinary disease and other STI	17,661	3.0
Tonsillitis	14,406	2.4
Total (Causes specified above)	590,088	69.2
Other Conditions	262,931	30.8
Total (All Attendances)	853,019	100.0

2.2 Outpatients in General Hospitals

This section focuses on the number of diseases/conditions of outpatients reported in General Hospitals in 2022 as well as the top ten causes of outpatients' morbidity.

The number of outpatients in general hospitals decreased from 170,717 in 2020 to 169,024 during the year 2021 and rapidly increased in 2022 recording 180,112 patients as presented in Table 3. The distribution by hospitals reflects that, Maluti hospital recorded the highest percentages throughout the years than other hospitals. The second highest was Scott Mission hospital with 13.9 percent outpatients in 2020 and 10.8 percent of outpatients in 2021. The hospital with the least proportion of outpatients in 2022 was Cehal (Mbeya) hospital recording 0.3 percent of outpatients.

Table 3: Percentage Distribution of Outpatients by General Hospital,2020-2022

Hospital	2020	2021	2022
Berea	8.4	6.0	2.3
Botha-Bothe	3.5	5.7	5.8
CEHAL (Mbeya)	-	0.7	0.3
Machabeng	1.8	1.3	2.0
Mafeteng	0.5	0.4	0.6
Makoanyane Military	7.4	1.5	1.1
Maluti	18.3	18.3	16.3
Mamohau Mission	6.1	5.3	3.9
Mokhotlong	4.0	4.4	6.1
Motebang	7.4	6.9	12.6
Ntsekhe	1.6	10.4	12.2
Paray	6.0	5.5	6.8
Quthing	3.8	5.1	6.4
Scott Mission	13.9	10.8	8.6
Seboche	7.1	7.2	4.5
St James Mission	4.4	6.3	7.1
St Josephs	2.7	1.1	0.5
Tebellong	3.0	3.1	2.8
Total	170,717	169,024	180,112

Table 4 shows the percentage distribution of outpatients by general hospital for the year 2022. In 2022, Ntsekhe hospital, Motebang hospital and Maluti hospital had the highest percentages of new attendees constituting 14.8 percent, 14.6 percent and 14.2 percent respectively. Furthermore, for patients who re-attended the OPD for all diseases or disorders, Maluti hospital had the highest percentage accounting for 26.0 followed by Scott hospital with 16.0 percent. Cehal (Mbeya) Hospital had no patients who re-attended the OPD.

Table 4: Percentage Distribution of Outpatients by General Hospital,2022

Hospital	New OPD attendees	Re-attendance (for all causes)	Total
Berea	2.8	0.3	4,223
Botha-Bothe	5.3	8.4	10,508
CEHAL (Mbeya)	0.4	-	564
Machabeng	2.2	0.7	3,552
Mafeteng	0.8	0.1	1,157
Makoanyane Military	0.9	1.9	1,962
Maluti	14.2	26.0	29,360
Mamohau Mission	2.8	9.3	7,114
Mokhotlong	5.9	6.9	10,925
Motebang	14.6	3.4	22,764
Ntsekhe	14.8	0.1	22,035
Paray	6.6	7.7	12,229
Quthing	7.7	0.1	11,478
Scott Mission	7.0	16.0	15,459
Seboche	3.0	11.6	8,190
St James Mission	8.0	2.4	12,698
St Josephs	0.6	0.2	894
Tebellong	2.4	4.7	5,000
Total	148,213	31,899	180,112

2.2.1 Outpatients in General Hospitals, their Age and Sex

The observation is that, the age groups 0 to 4 years and 65 years and above for patients who visited OPD for the first time had the highest percentages for both males and female's outpatients compared to other age groups accounting for 10.7 percent and 18.0 percent for females, 21.6 percent and 12.0 percent for males. Furthermore, the re-attendance outpatients aged 65 and above had the most patients for both sexes recording 36.9 percent for females and 36.0 percent for males.

Table 5 illustrates the number and percentage distribution of outpatients in general hospitals by age and sex for the year 2022. The observation is that, the age groups 0 to 4 years and 65 years and above for patients who visited OPD for the first time had the highest percentages for both males and female's outpatients compared to other age groups accounting for 10.7 percent and 18.0 percent for females, 21.6 percent and 12.0 percent for males. Furthermore, the re-attendance outpatients aged 65 and above had the most patients for both sexes recording 36.9 percent for females and 36.0 percent for males.

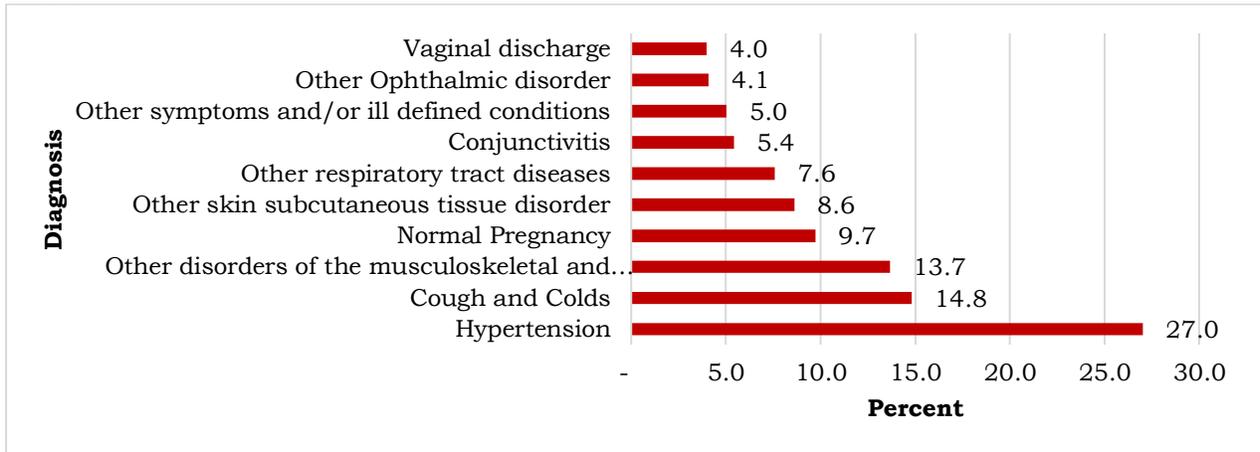
Table 5: Number and Percentage distribution of Outpatients in Hospital by Age and Sex, 2022

Age-group	New OPD attendees		Re-attendance (for all causes)		Total
	Females	Males	Females	Males	
00-04	10.7	21.6	2.5	5.9	22,867
05-09	3.6	5.2	0.9	2.2	6,615
10-14	6.0	5.2	1.5	1.9	8,931
15-19	7.1	5.4	2.2	2.1	10,337
20-24	7.3	5.5	2.7	2.8	10,728
25-29	7.9	6.3	4.2	3.3	12,040
30-34	6.9	6.0	4.7	4.8	11,253
35-39	6.0	5.6	6.3	5.8	10,589
40-44	5.2	4.8	6.5	6.2	9,552
45-49	4.0	7.6	0.9	2.3	8,296
50-54	5.5	4.9	8.1	6.8	10,298
55-59	5.7	4.6	9.9	8.3	10,870
60-64	6.2	5.2	12.8	11.8	12,607
65+	18.0	12.0	36.9	36.0	35,129
Total	94,472	53,741	20,666	11,233	180,112

2.2.2 Top Ten Causes of Females' Outpatients in General Hospitals

Figure 2 portrays top ten illness or symptoms recorded at hospitals for females. The graph shows that, the most commonly recorded diseases/conditions were hypertension with 27.0 percent followed by cough and colds with 14.8 percent. The least observation among the top ten diseases was for Vaginal discharge constituting only 4.0 percent.

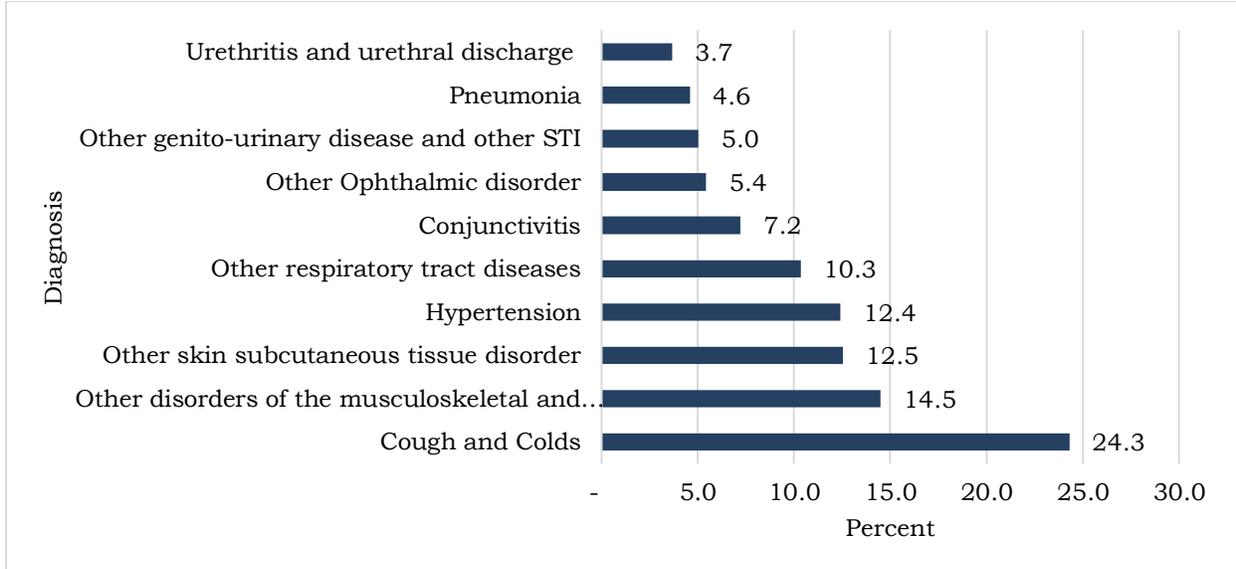
Figure 2: Percentage Distribution of Top Ten Causes of Outpatient Morbidity for Females, 2022



2.2.3 Top Ten Causes of Males' Outpatients in General Hospitals

The percentage distribution of the top ten causes of male outpatients is portrayed in Figure 3. The figure illustrates that, the main cause of males attending OPD was due to Cough and Colds recording 24.3 percent and Urethritis and urethral discharge as the lowest accounting for 3.7 percent among the top ten causes of outpatients for males.

Figure 3: Percentage Distribution of Top Ten Causes of Outpatient Morbidity for Males, 2022



3.0 Inpatients

An inpatient is a person who receives lodging and food as well as treatment while in a hospital (www.merriam-webster.com 2023). It is also an individual who has been admitted to hospital for medical treatment. There are two main ways that one could become an inpatient which is through a hospital's emergency room, or through a pre-booked surgery or treatment. One does not 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 the day – such person is still an inpatient. (Nib 2023). This section focuses on the number of admissions in general hospitals during the year 2022. The report will be analyzing data on inpatients using their background characteristics such as age and sex.

3.1 Inpatient Admissions in General Hospitals

Table 6 illustrates the number and percentage distribution of patients admitted in different general hospitals during the year 2022. The table shows that there was a total of 16,101 patients admitted in all facilities. The majority of inpatients were admitted in Mafeteng hospital constituting 14.1 percent. Tebellong hospital had the least inpatients with only 1.3 percent..or The second least was Seboche with 1.5 percent.

Table 6: Number and Percentage Distribution of Inpatient Admissions by Hospital, 2022

Hospital	Number	Percent
Berea	1,052	6.5
Botha-Bothe	588	3.7
CEHAL (Mbeya)	283	1.8
Machabeng	1,028	6.4
Mafeteng	2,270	14.1
Makoanyane Military	605	3.8
Maluti	469	2.9
Mamohau Mission	689	4.3
Mokhotlong	1,097	6.8
Motebang	2,018	12.5
Ntsekhe	1,862	11.6
Paray	1,044	6.5
Quthing	460	2.9
Scott Mission	1,257	7.8
Seboche	237	1.5
St James Mission	428	2.7
St Josephs	506	3.1
Tebellong	208	1.3
Total	16,101	100

3.2 Sex of Admitted Inpatients in General Hospitals

The sex of inpatients was considered in order to establish how many males and females were admitted in different general hospitals in the country for different years from 2019 to 2022. The table below shows that the number of patients has been declining from 2019 with the exception of 2021 where there is a slight increase in the number of patients. The sex differential shows that, female

patients have been dominating from 2020 to 2022 with the opposite scenario observed in 2019. Motebang hospital admitted the highest number of patients in 2019 and 2021. However, in 2020 Maluti hospital dominated with the proportion of 17.7 for male patients and 17.9 for female patients. In 2022 the scenario is different as Mafeteng hospital admitted more female patients compared to other hospitals accounting for 15.1 percent and Motebang hospital admitted more male patients estimated at 19.9 percent.

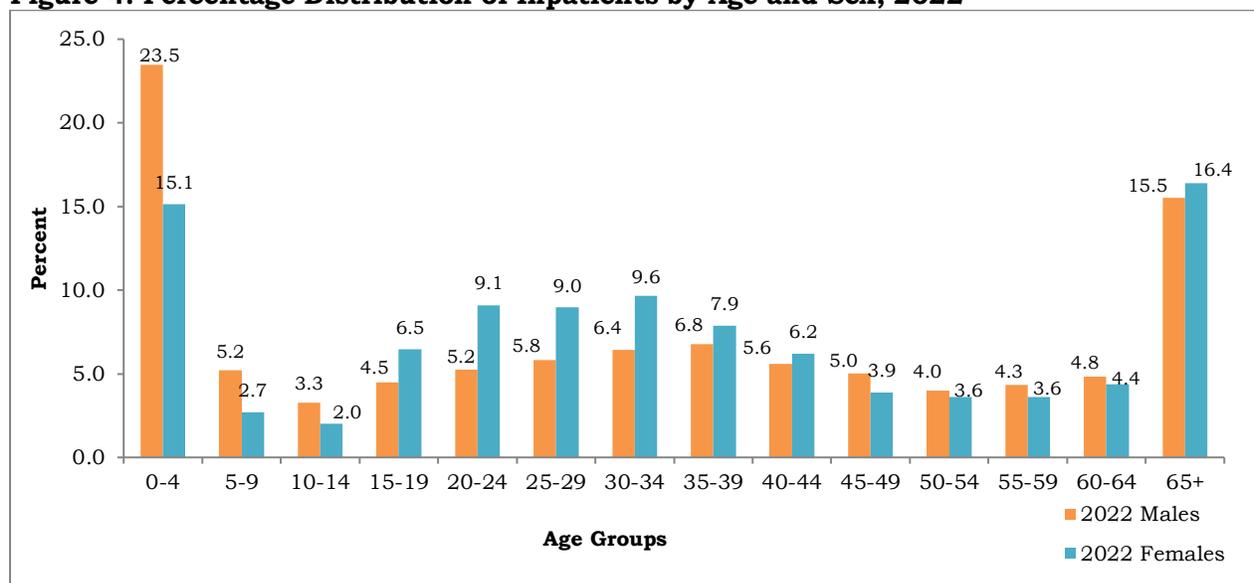
Table 7: Number and Percentage Distribution of Inpatient Admissions by Hospital and Sex, 2022

Hospital	2019		2020		2021		2022	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Male	Female
Berea	2.1	0.9	1.6	0.8	2.5	3.4	5.5	7.6
Botha-Bothe	0.4	0.1	5.2	4.9	3.5	5.4	2.3	5.0
CEHAL (Mbeya)	-	-	-	-	1.1	1.3	1.4	2.1
Machabeng	2.1	2.3	4.7	4.0	5.1	5.6	5.7	7.0
Mafeteng	10.8	11.3	5.7	5.8	9.8	12.5	13.0	15.1
Makoanyane Military	2.9	2.8	3.0	3.4	2.0	3.1	3.0	4.5
Maluti	3.9	3.9	17.7	17.9	7.7	7.5	3.7	2.2
Mamohau Mission	3.4	4.6	3.6	3.1	2.5	1.8	4.4	4.2
Mokhotlong	5.1	6.8	6.0	4.7	7.5	5.8	7.2	6.4
Motebang	16.8	16.7	8.4	6.8	27.0	15.3	19.9	5.5
Ntsekhe	9.2	11.2	9.2	9.0	6.0	6.8	11.8	11.3
Paray	8.4	10.0	8.9	7.7	7.5	8.3	6.6	6.4
Quthing	6.3	6.9	6.2	6.5	3.1	3.6	2.5	3.2
Scott Mission	13.1	9.2	8.4	12.8	5.8	9.6	5.9	9.7
Seboche	5.9	6.0	4.5	5.4	2.6	2.4	1.4	1.5
St James Mission	2.0	2.1	2.5	2.1	2.6	2.3	2.5	2.8
St Josephs	7.7	5.2	3.7	4.9	2.4	3.8	1.9	4.4
Tebellong	-	-	0.6	0.3	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.2
Total	10,329	8,007	6,834	9,337	7,997	9,529	7,858	8,243

3.3 Age and Sex of Admitted Patients

Figure 4 illustrates percentage distribution of inpatients by age and sex. The figure shows that more males aged 0 to 4 years and females aged 65+ years were admitted in hospitals with 23.5 percent representation for males and 16.4 for females. Females were admitted in general hospitals with higher proportions than males from age group 15 to 19 years up to 40 to 44 years and for those aged 65 years and over. The least percentage of females and males admitted in hospitals was observed for the same age group of 10 to 14 years with 3.3 percent for males and 2.0 percent for females.

Figure 4: Percentage Distribution of Inpatients by Age and Sex, 2022



3.4 Citizenship of Admitted Inpatients

Table 8 below shows the percentage distribution of inpatients by citizenship in 2022, and as illustrated in Table 8, the highest proportion was that of Lesotho citizens. The total number of inpatients has declined from 17,791 in 2021 patients to 16,101 in 2022. The table below also shows that the number of non-Lesotho citizen inpatients increased from 63 in 2021 to 74 admitted patients in 2022.

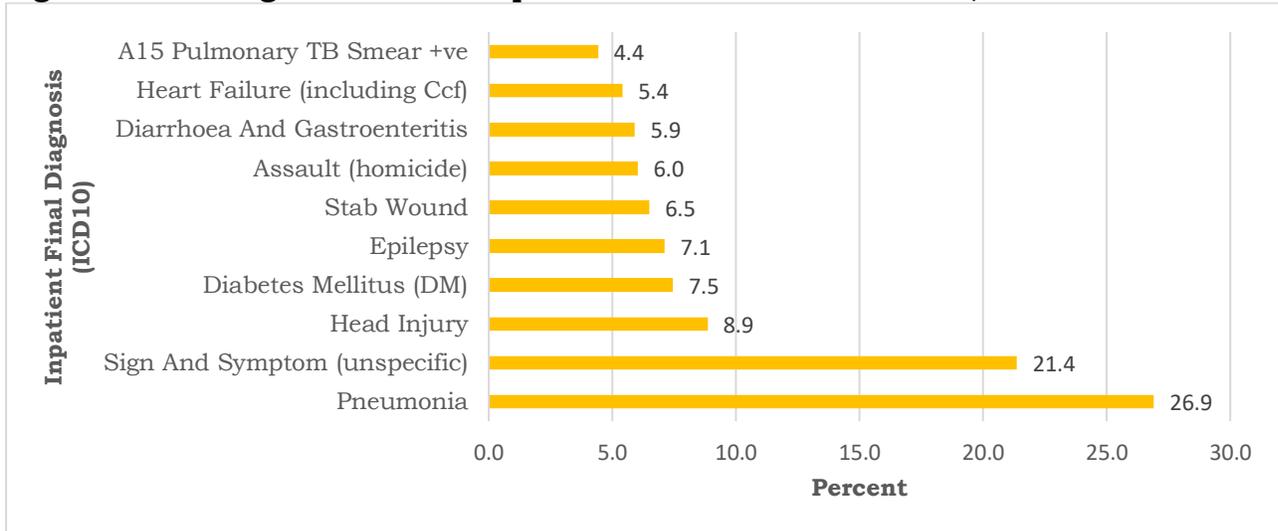
Table 8: Percentage Distribution of Inpatients by citizenship, 2022

Citizenship	2021			2022		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Non-citizen	0.5	0.3	63	0.4	0.6	74
Citizen	99.5	99.7	17,728	99.6	99.4	16,027
Total	100	100	17,791	100	100	16,101

3.5 Top Ten Causes of Male Admissions

Figure 5 portrays percentage distribution of top ten causes of male inpatient admissions in General hospitals. Pneumonia was the main cause for male patient’s admissions in hospital with 26.9 percent and Pulmonary TB Smear positive as the lowest accounting for 4.4 percent of the top ten causes of admissions.

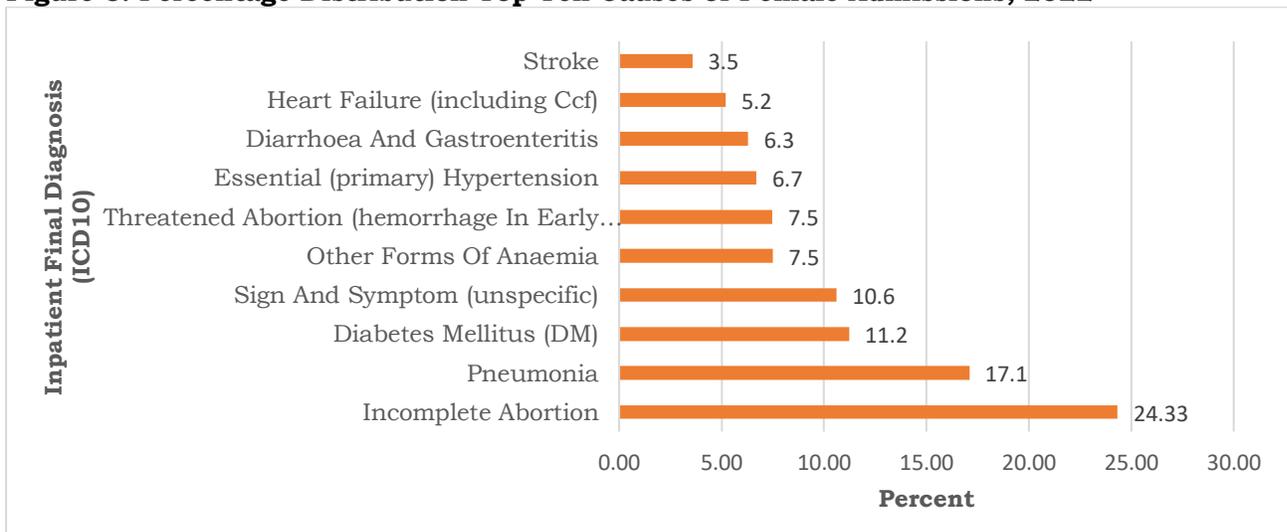
Figure 5: Percentage Distribution Top Ten Causes of Male Admissions, 2022



3.6 Top Ten Causes of Female Admissions

The percentage distribution of the top ten causes of female adult patients that were hospitalized is shown in Figure 6. The main cause of females to be admitted in hospitals was due to incomplete abortions estimated at 24.3 percent while stroke accounted to 3.6 percent which was the least of the top ten diagnosis.

Figure 6: Percentage Distribution Top Ten Causes of Female Admissions, 2022



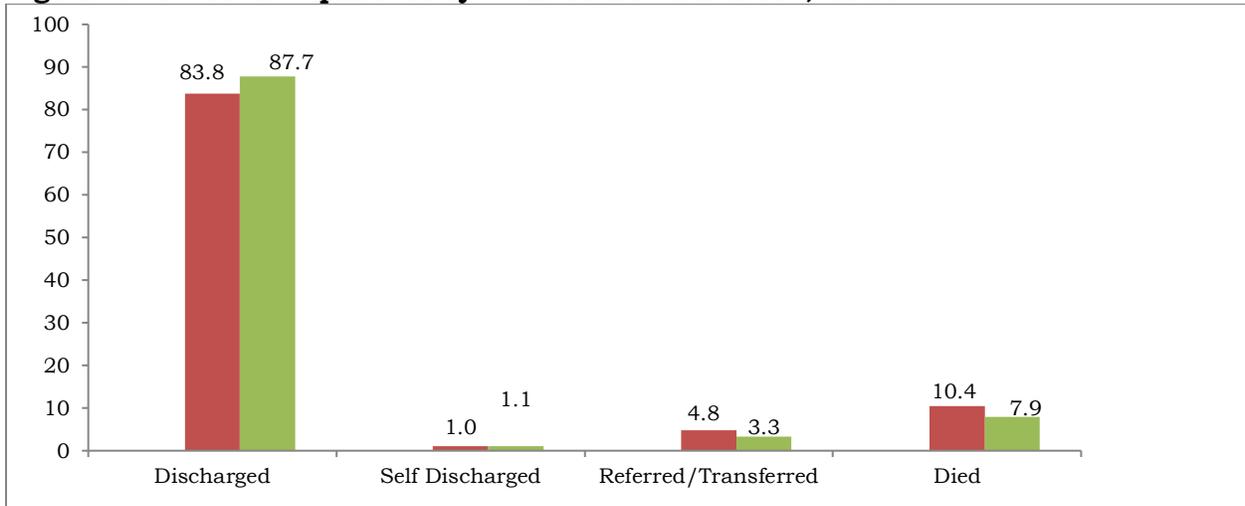
4.0 Discharges

This section provides information on patients who were discharged from various general hospitals in 2022. A discharge occurs when a patient is released from the hospital and this may occur in the following ways: discharge by health personnel, self-discharge, referral and through death.

4.1. Discharge Final Outcome and Sex

Figure 7 presents number of inpatients out of general hospitals by types of final outcome and sex in 2022. Out of the 16,101 admitted patients, 83.8 percent males and 87.7 percent females were discharged by health personnel reflecting the highest proportion of type of discharge; it is followed by proportion of admitted patients who died with 10.4 percent for males and 7.9 females. The least proportion is observed for those who self-discharged with 1.0 and 1.1 percent for males and females respectively.

Figure 7: Number of Inpatients by Final Outcome and Sex, 2022



5.0 Summary

The number of outpatients (both new attendees and re-attendants) who visited the health care facility across the country recorded 1,072,282 individuals who sought assistance. The new attendees for 2022 accounted for a total of 824,319 showing an increase of 1.06 percent from 776,242 that was recorded in 2021. The sex distribution of out-patients that were diagnosed and treated with various diseases or conditions showed that 62.9 percent were females and 37.1 were males.

Moreover, the top ten causes of Outpatients morbidity constituted 69.2 percent of the diseases that they were diagnosed or treated with. The commonly reported disease was Cough and Colds with 37.5 percent, followed by Other Disorders of the Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue System with 14.5 percent. Maluti hospital recorded the highest percentages of outpatients throughout the years than other hospitals.

Furthermore, the results also revealed that, the age groups 0 to 4 years and 65 years and above for those patients who visited OPD for the first time, had the highest percentages for both males and female's outpatients compared to other age groups accounting for 10.7 percent and 18.0 percent for females and 21.6 percent and 12.0 percent for males respectively.

In general, there was a total of 16,101 admissions in 2022 which is relatively lower than the previous years and the data suggest that, in 2022 Mafeteng hospital admitted more female patients compared to other hospitals accounting for 15.1 percent and Motebang hospital admitted more male patients estimated at 19.9 percent. On the contrary, Tebellong hospital had the least proportions of inpatients with 1.4 percent of male patients and 1.2 percent of female patients.

The results further show that across the years, females had the largest number of inpatients admissions than their male counterparts except for the year 2019 where the observation was reversed. The number of non-citizen patients increased in 2022 as compared to 2021 from 63 to 74 patients. Data further indicate the highest proportion of patients being discharged followed by those who die with the least being self-discharged.

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