

PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITIES AND POPULATION HEALTH STATISTICS IN ANGOLA

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Introduction: Due to historical, economic, and social factors, Angola in Southern Africa faces significant public health challenges. The country's health system was severely affected by civil war, leading to damaged infrastructure and limited human resources. Other challenges include widespread poverty, lack of access to healthcare in rural areas, and high rates of infectious diseases.

Method and objective: This study is based on a comprehensive literature review identifying Angola's leading public health priorities. The review process involved a systematic search of reputable databases, including PubMed, Google Scholar, and the World Health Organization's Global Health Observatory, to ensure the inclusion of the most current and relevant research, as well as Health Statistical Yearbooks.

Results: The National Health Development Plan 2012-2025 and the National Development Plan 2023-2027 prioritize increasing life expectancy, reducing maternal and child mortality, improving healthcare quality, and expanding the healthcare network while reformulating the financing model and organizing the national health system accordingly. In 2022, life expectancy was 62.5 years (a 20% increase from 2011), maternal mortality was 199 in 2022 per 100,000 live births (17% decrease from 2020), and the under-five mortality rate was 69 deaths per 1,000 live births (65% decrease from 2011). However, mortality rates due to main infectious diseases tend to rise. In 2021, mortality per 100,000 inhabitants due to malaria exceeded 42.44, AIDS: 7.20, and tuberculosis: 4.78 persons. The supply of doctors and nurses per 10,000 inhabitants increased by 348% and 402%, respectively, to 1.8 doctors and 14.1 nurses and midwives.

Conclusion: While Angola has significantly improved public health, these achievements are not evenly distributed between urban and rural areas and provinces. The country's multifaceted public health challenges demand an integrated approach combining health interventions with socioeconomic improvements and bolstering educational and preventive programs in disease control and health promotion.

Keywords: Public health, health priorities, infectious diseases, Health Development Plan