



7.2.7. Healthcare

According to the 2023 Population & Housing Census, usually each union council in Sindh has a healthcare clinic known as a Basic Health Unit (BHU) with two beds for a population of 10 000 to 25 000. Furthermore, primary health care at Sindh province level consisted of Rural Health Councils (RHC), which are better equipped than BHUs and usually had a 15-20 bed capacity for a population of 100 000.[2162](#)

The DVIP report declared that residents of Karachi were able to access a BHU within a kilometre, except from Malir District (within 34 kilometres), and Karachi West (within 15 kilometres). Maternal, neonatal and child health facilities had a similar distribution among the Karachi districts.[2163](#) According to the homepage of the Commissioner of Karachi, the city had in total 165 governmental, departmental, private and local bodies hospitals with a capacity of 14 350 beds. Furthermore, it counted 37 BHUs with 76 beds and 6 RHCs with 94 beds, 643 dispensaries, 85 mother and child health centres and 7 maternity homes.[2164](#)

Media reporting indicated significant capacity constraints in Karachi's public hospitals. In March 2025, the Sindh health minister acknowledged shortages of public health facilities in Karachi.[2165](#) In August 2025, the Express Tribune reported that Karachi's public hospitals had only 6 500 beds and 250 ventilators. The former director of Health Services for Karachi described a 'severe shortage' of medical staff in public hospitals, compound by an influx of patients from rural Sindh due to limited treatment capacity in district hospitals. At Jinnah Hospital, around 50 % of required ICU technicians were reportedly lacking, rendering most ICU units inactive. Similar shortages of beds and medical staff were reported at several other public hospitals.[2166](#) Sindh's public hospitals were estimated to require an additional 15 000 nurses.[2167](#) The cost of qualified private health care was not affordable for most low-income patients.[2168](#)

The Health Department of Sindh province lists 44 public Tuberculosis health facilities and 39 private facilities.[2169](#) According to the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (NHSRC), 13 hospitals in Karachi provided antiretroviral therapy.[2170](#) The Health Department of Sindh province listed 11 HIV treatment centres in Karachi of which seven are public facilities.[2171](#) According to a contact at a private hospital in Karachi, contacted by the Swiss Refugee Council (SFH) in June 2025, consultation fees at private hospitals such as Aga Khan University Hospital ranged between 4 500 and 7 000 Pakistani rupees [approximately EUR 13.6-21.2], while antiretroviral treatment and blood tests were provided free of charge.[2172](#) The Health Department of Sindh province lists 20 Hepatitis Sentinel and vaccinations facilities in Karachi.[2173](#) According to the former head of the Civil Hospital's cancer department, cited by the Express Tribune, cancer treatment in public facilities was limited.[2174](#) There was no dedicated public cancer diagnosis or treatment facility in Karachi available for low-income patients. Private radiation treatment was available at two to three private hospitals where one

session costs 15 000 to 20 000 Pakistani rupees [approximately EUR 45.4-60.6].[2175](#)

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