

Georgia

Georgia is a country of 69,700 km² bordered by Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia, and Turkey. In July 2001 its population was estimated at 4.9million.



Life expectancy for men was 61.04 years and for women it was 68.28 years. The country's ethnic groups are made up of: Georgian (70.1%), Armenian (8.1%), Russian (6.3%), Azeri (5.7%), Ossetian (3%), Abkhaz (0.8%) and other 5%. Religious groupings comprise: Georgian Orthodox (65%), Muslim (11%), Russian Orthodox (10%), Armenian Apostolic (8%).¹

¹ Eradicate Conflict by Building Cultural Awareness; Website <http://www.countryreports.org/georgia.htm>

1 Palliative care service provision

1.1 Current services (last updated: May 2002)

No palliative care services are known to exist in Georgia:

		<i>Existing services (2002)</i>
Adult	Inpatient - Freestanding	0
	- Hospital unit	0
	- Hospital mobile team	0
	Nursing home	0
	Home care	0
	Day care	0
	Total	0
Paediatric	Inpatient	0
	Home care	0
	Day care	0
	Unspecified	0
	Total	0
Grand total		0

Current projects (last updated: May 2002)

No palliative care projects, not yet operational services, are known to exist in Georgia.

		<i>Known hospice/ palliative care projects (2002)</i>
Adult	Inpatient - Hospital	0
	- Hospice	0
	Home care	0
	Unspecified	0
	Total	0
Paediatric	Hospital	0
	Hospice	0
	Home care	0
	Unspecified	0
	Total	0
Grand total		0

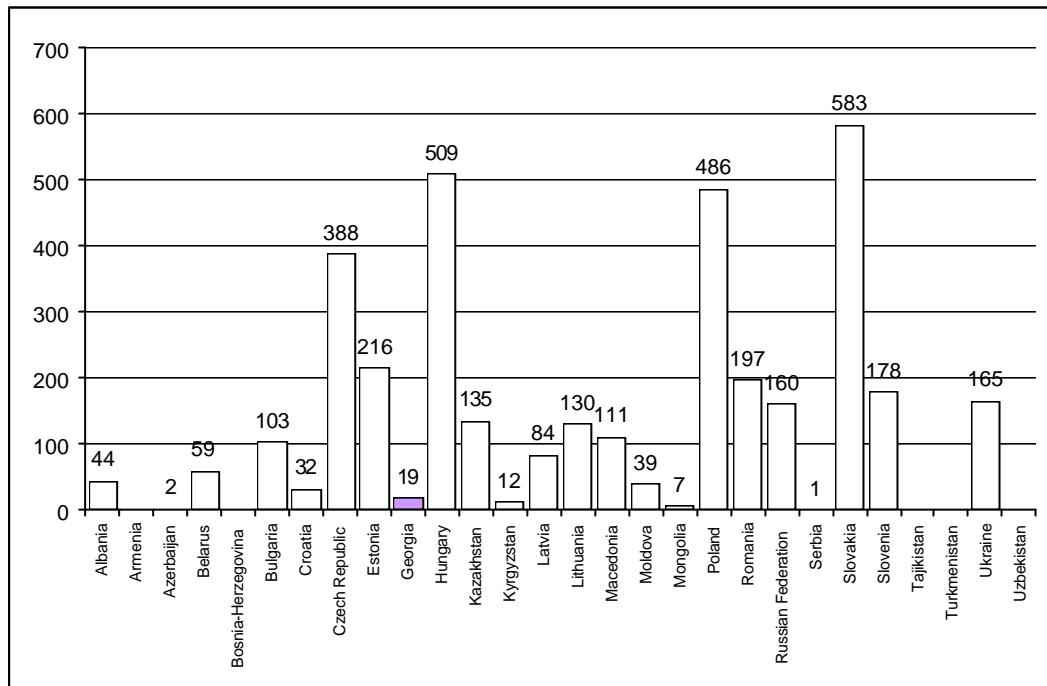
1.2 Reimbursement and funding for services

No information currently available.

1.3 Opioid availability and consumption

INCB data on opioid consumption in Georgia report figures only for morphine (6 kg) and pethidine (1 kg), both for the year 1997 only. The average daily consumption of defined daily doses of these drugs per million population between 1994-98 is given only for morphine (19).²

Average defined daily doses of morphine, Central and Eastern Europe (1994-1998)



Source: Clark D, Wright M (2002) *Transitions in End of Life Care: Hospice and Related Developments in Eastern Europe and Central Asia*. Buckingham: Open University Press

1.4 National and professional associations

No information currently available.

1.5 Palliative care 'coverage'

No information currently available.

1.6 Palliative care workforce capacity

No information currently available.

² International Narcotics Control Board (2000) *Narcotic Drugs: Estimated World Requirements for 2000. Statistics for 1998*. New York: United Nations.

2 History and development of palliative care in Georgia

2.1 Narrative history of palliative care in Georgia

We obtained almost no information on palliative care developments in Georgia. In 2000 the OSI Foundation for Georgia obtained one application for a palliative care development, but it was not successful. The foundation wishes to support projects which seek to initiate palliative care in the medical community and in the wider population. In 2001 it received a supportable application and together with OSI in New York awarded a grant to support a training programme for palliative care staff and to strengthen a resource centre, with a 'train the trainers' programme for 5 physicians, 10 nurses and 20 volunteers. The programme is led by Dr Dimitri Kordzaya, of the Humanists' Union, in the capital, Tiblisi³.

2.2 Hospice/beacon case studies

No information currently available.

2.3 Life/oral histories

No information currently available.

³ Information from Lasha Zaalishvili, Public Health Program Co-Ordinator, Open Society-Georgia Foundation, 16 February 2001.

3. Public Health Context

3.1 Population

In July 2001 the population of Georgia was estimated at 4.9 million.

3.2 Epidemiology

Life expectancy for men in 2000 was 65.7 years and for women it was 71.8 years. The country's ethnic groups are made up of: Georgian (70.1%), Armenian (8.1%), Russian (6.3%), Azeri (5.7%), Ossetian (3%), Abkhaz (0.8%) and other 5%. Religious groupings comprise: Georgian Orthodox (65%), Muslim (11%), Russian Orthodox (10%), Armenian Apostolic (8%).

Population and life expectancy, Commonwealth of Independent States & Mongolia (2000)

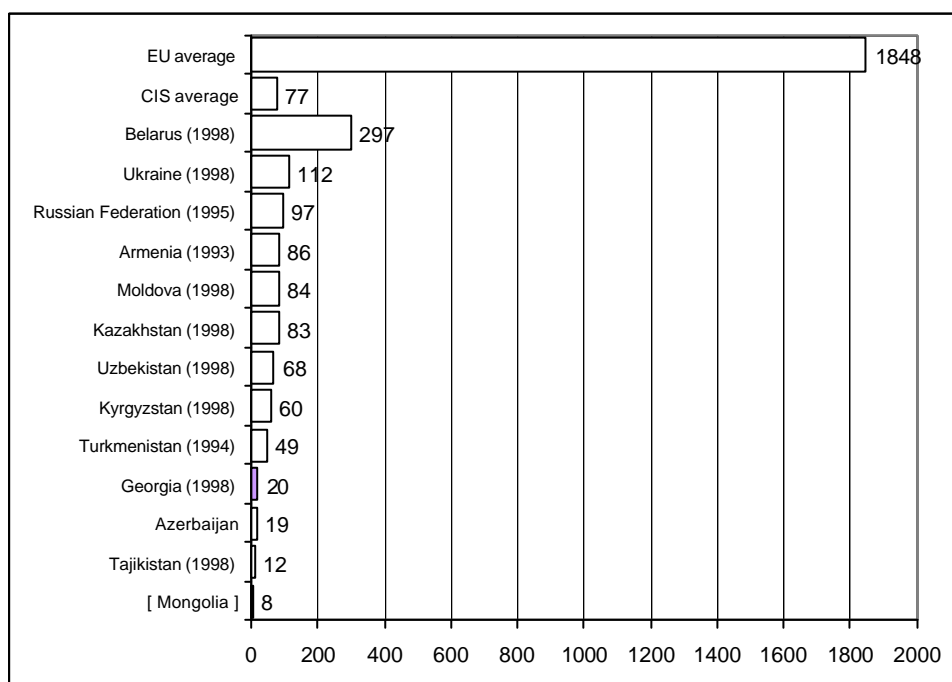
Country	Population <i>Millions</i>	Life expectancy	
		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Armenia	3.7	64.4	71.2
Azerbaijan	8.0	61.7	68.9
Belarus	10.1	62.0	74.0
Georgia	5.2	65.7	71.8
Kazakhstan	16.1	58.0	68.4
Kyrgyzstan	4.9	60.0	68.8
Moldova	4.2	63.1	70.5
Russia	145.4	59.4	72.0
Tajikistan	6.0	60.4	64.7
Turkmenistan	4.7	60.0	64.9
Ukraine	49.5	62.6	73.3
Uzbekistan	24.8	62.1	68.0
[Mongolia]	2.5	61.2	66.9

Source: World Health Report 2001

3.3 Health care system

‘In 1995 Georgia embarked on a radical reform of its health system, spurred by the State’s inability to ensure good quality medical care free of charge to the whole population. The purpose of the reform was to increase the participation of the private sector in health care ...’⁴. In 2000 a *State Programme for a National Health Policy* was adopted, together with a strategic plan for health care development. In 1999 the state spent only 0.6% of GDP on health care, the lowest figure in the WHO’s European Region of 51 countries; it is planned to raise this to 4% by 2005. Full coverage of all citizens with medical insurance is a goal for 2010. Great difficulties are being faced in working towards these targets however and it is estimated that citizens are currently paying some 87% of their health care costs directly in cash.⁵

Health care expenditure (US\$) per capita, CIS



Source: WHO Regional Office for European Health for All database and HiTs

⁴ *Highlights on Health in Georgia*. Copenhagen: World Health Organisation European Region, April 2001:22.

⁵ *Highlights on Health in Georgia*. Copenhagen: World Health Organisation European Region, April 2001: 20-23, passim.

3.4 Political economy

Georgia was absorbed into the Russian Empire in the 19th century. Independent for three years (1918-1921) following the Russian revolution, it was forcibly incorporated into the USSR until the Soviet Union dissolved in 1991. Georgia's economy has traditionally revolved around Black Sea tourism; cultivation of citrus fruits, tea, and grapes; mining of manganese and copper; and output of a small industrial sector producing wine, metals, machinery, chemicals, and textiles. The country imports the bulk of its energy needs, including natural gas and oil products. Its only sizable internal energy resource is hydropower. Despite the severe damage the economy has suffered due to civil strife, Georgia has made substantial economic gains since 1995, increasing GDP growth and reducing inflation. The Georgian economy continues to experience large budget deficits. The growing trade deficit, continuing problems with tax evasion and corruption, and political uncertainties cloud the short-term economic picture. GDP per capita in 2000 was estimated at \$4,600.⁶

⁶ Eradicate Conflict by Building Cultural Awareness; Website <http://www.countryreports.org/georgia.htm>

4 Ethics and ethnography

4.1 Ethical issues

No information currently available.

4.2 Ethnographic studies

No information currently available.

5 References and further reading

5.1. References

1: Eradicate Conflict by Building Cultural Awareness; Website
<http://www.countryreports.org/georgia.htm>

2: International Narcotics Control Board (2000) *Narcotic Drugs: Estimated World Requirements for 2000. Statistics for 1998*. New York: United Nations.

3: Information from Lasha Zaalishvili, Public Health Program Co-Ordinator, Open Society-Georgia Foundation, 16 February 2001.

4: *Highlights on Health in Georgia*. Copenhagen: World Health Organisation European Region, April 2001:22.

5: *Highlights on Health in Georgia*. Copenhagen: World Health Organisation European Region, April 2001: 20-23, passim.

6: Eradicate Conflict by Building Cultural Awareness; Website
<http://www.countryreports.org/georgia.htm>