

Mongolia

Mongolia occupies 1.565 million km² of land in Northern Asia, between China and Russia. The population was estimated at 2.65 million in July 2001. The capital is Ulaan Baatar.



1 Palliative care service provision

1.1 Current services (last updated: May 2002)

The following palliative care services are known to exist in Mongolia:

		<i>Existing services (2002)</i>
Adult	Inpatient - Freestanding	0
	- Hospital unit	1
	- Hospital mobile team	0
	Nursing home	0
	Home care	0
	Day care	0
	Total	1
Paediatric	Inpatient	0
	Home care	0
	Day care	0
	Unspecified	0
	Total	0
Grand total		1

Current projects (last updated: May 2002)

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

		<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

There is a 10-bed palliative care ward within the Mongolian National Cancer Centre, in Ulaan Baatar, which has begun without government funding but which is free to patients. The development of the ward has been assisted by palliatours in Melbourne,

Australia, both in help with planning and in the provision of equipment.¹ Support has also been given through a travelling fellowship of the International Association of Hospice and Palliative Care.

At the National Medical University of Mongolia, projects have been developed with OSI funding for the translation of WHO and other documents and to support a scholarship of one month to the National Cancer Institute of Bratislava. Under the leadership of Dr Davaasuren Odontuya, funding has also been made available for the establishment of a national palliative care educational programme for doctors, nurses, and other medical workers and leading to the development of home palliative care services. Training for medical faculty will also facilitate the incorporation of palliative medicine education into the medical curriculum. Training will also be made available for those involved in drug regulation and legislation in Mongolia.

1.2 Reimbursement and funding for services

The 10-bed palliative care ward within the Mongolian National Cancer Centre in Ulaan Baatar was begun without government funding but is free to patients. The development of the ward has been assisted by palliaters in Melbourne, Australia, both in help with planning and in the provision of equipment.² Support has also been given through a travelling fellowship of the International Association of Hospice and Palliative Care.

1.3 Opioid availability and consumption

There are comments in one paper on opioid availability in Mongolia:

‘Opioid availability complies with the UN and WHO resolutions and the Single Convention. However, we do have problems with cancer pain relief because there is no national policy, and many health workers, administrators and the public are not informed that cancer pain can be relieved. Additionally, there is a fear that opioid use

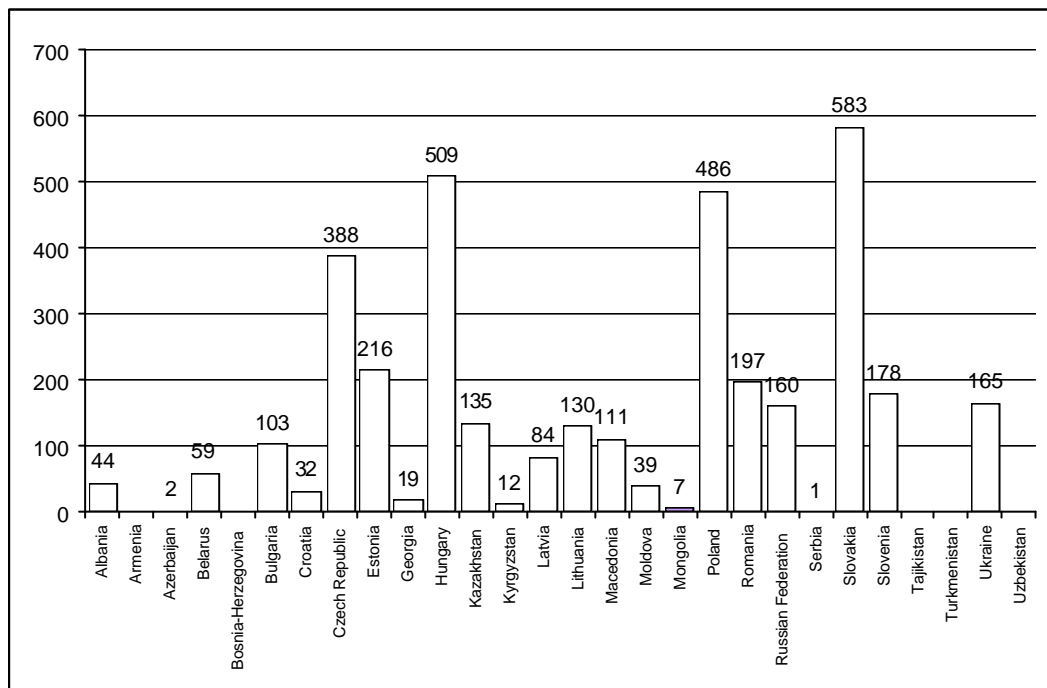
¹ Tan J (1999) ‘Palliative care in Mongolia: looking to the next millennium’ *IHC Newsletter*, Sept.

² Tan J (1999) ‘Palliative care in Mongolia: looking to the next millennium’ *IHC Newsletter*, Sept.

will produce psychological dependence and abuse. There is also a shortage of financial resources and trained personnel.³

INCB data on opioid consumption in Mongolia report figures only for codeine (2 kg per year in 1994 and 1995) and morphine (1 kg in 1994). The average daily consumption of defined daily doses per million inhabitants of opioids between 1994-98 was codeine (10) and (morphine (7)).⁴

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

There appears to be a national palliative care association in Mongolia. There is also a Mongolian Cancer Society.

1.4 Palliative care 'coverage'

No information currently available.

³ Dr A Munkhtaivan. 'Palliative care initiatives in Mongolia'. Unpublished paper, nd (probably late 1999).

⁴ International Narcotics Control Board (2000) *Narcotic Drugs: Estimated World Requirements for 2000. Statistics for 1998*. New York: United Nations.

1.5 Palliative care workforce capacity

No information currently available.

2 History and development of palliative care in Mongolia

2.1 Narrative history of palliative care in Mongolia

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2.2 Hospice/beacon case studies

No information currently available.

2.3 Life/oral histories

No information currently available.

⁵ Tan J (1999) 'Palliative care in Mongolia: looking to the next millennium' *IHIC Newsletter*, Sept.

3. Public Health Context

3.1 Population

The population of Mongolia was estimated at 2.65 million in July 2001.

3.2 Epidemiology

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

Information on standardised death rates per 100,000 population is not available for Mongolia: however, data from the Mongolian National Cancer Centre indicate that in 1994-8 there were a total of 2,631 new cases of cancer.

WHO age standardised death rates per 100,000 population, Commonwealth of Independent States & Mongolia (1995-1998)

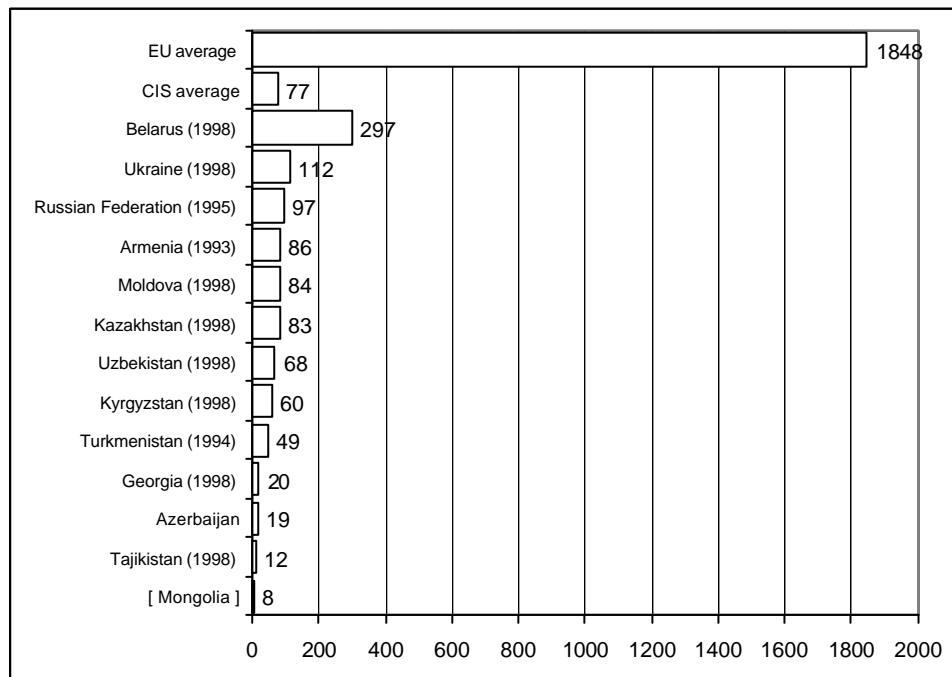
Country	Year	All causes	Cancer
Armenia	1997	696.7	97.7
Azerbaijan	1997	814.4	84.5
Belarus	1998	1015	141.8
Georgia			
Kazakhstan	1997	1196.7	152.9
Kyrgyzstan	1998	1033.2	91.9
Moldova	1996	1202.5	125.5
Russia	1997	1084.4	151.
Tajikistan			
Turkmenistan			
Ukraine	1998	1010.7	135.9
Uzbekistan			
[Mongolia]			

Source: World Health Organisation: World Health Statistics 1997-1999

3.3 Health care system

The Mongolian health care system has been predominantly hospital-based. A national cancer control programme is now being developed.

Health care expenditure (US\$) per capita, Commonwealth of Independent States and Mongolia



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

3.4 Political economy

No information currently available.

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: Tan J (1999) 'Palliative care in Mongolia: looking to the next millennium' *IHIC Newsletter*, Sept.
- 2: Tan J (1999) 'Palliative care in Mongolia: looking to the next millennium' *IHIC Newsletter*, Sept.
- 3: Dr A Munkhtaivan. 'Palliative care initiatives in Mongolia'. Unpublished paper, nd (probably late 1999).
- 4: International Narcotics Control Board (2000) *Narcotic Drugs: Estimated World Requirements for 2000. Statistics for 1998*. New York: United Nations.
- 5: Tan J (1999) 'Palliative care in Mongolia: looking to the next millennium' *IHIC Newsletter*, Sept.