



General data

POPULATION, 2024
401,283

SURFACE KM², 2022
13,880

PHYSICIANS/1000 INH, 2021
N/A

NURSES/1000 INH, 2021-2022
N/A

Socioeconomic data

COUNTRY INCOME LEVEL, 2022
High

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX RANKING, 2023
66

GDP PER CAPITA (US\$), 2023
35,896.51

HEALTH EXPENDITURE PER CAPITA (US\$), 2021
1,961.68

UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE, 2021
77



WHO FRAMEWORK FOR PALLIATIVE CARE DEVELOPMENT

- Ⓐ EMPOWERMENT OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES
- Ⓑ POLICIES
- Ⓒ RESEARCH
- Ⓓ USE OF ESSENTIAL MEDICINES
- Ⓔ EDUCATION AND TRAINING
- Ⓕ PROVISION OF PC

LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT

- 1 EMERGING
- 2 PROGRESSING
- 3 ESTABLISHED
- 4 ADVANCED

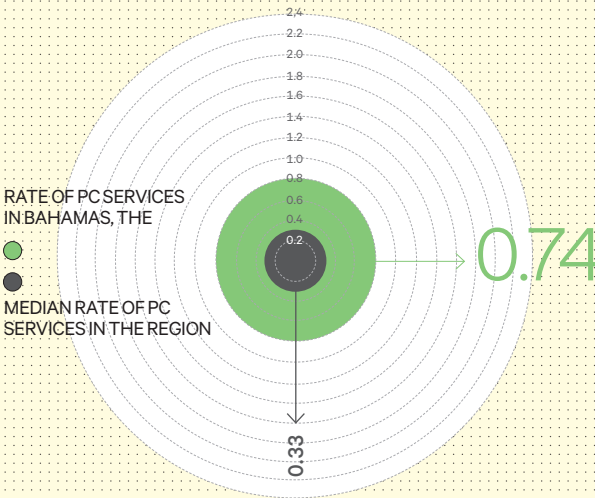
Bahamas, The

Ⓕ Provision of PC (Specialized Services)

Total number of Specialized PC services
3

Rate of PC services per 100,000 inhabitants
0.74

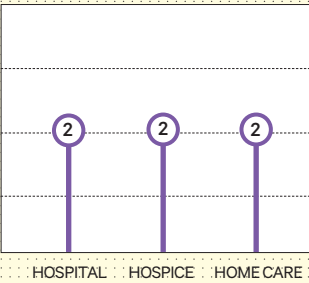
Bahamas, The in the context of the region



Geographic distribution and integration of PC services



Level of development of different types of PC services



Pediatric PC Services

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION AND INTEGRATION
2

TOTAL NUMBER
1

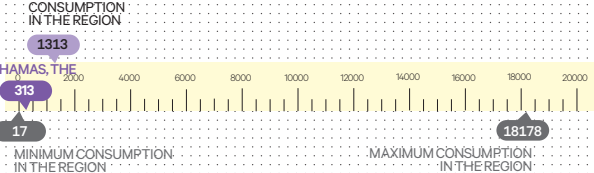


Bahamas, The

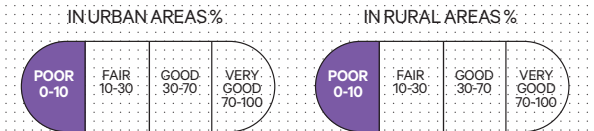
Ⓓ Use of essential medicines

Opiods consumption (excluding methadone)
313
S-DDD/MILL INHABITANTS/DAY

Bahamas, The in the context of the region



Overall availability of essential medicines for pain and PC at the primary level



General availability of immediate-release oral morphine at the primary level



Ⓒ Research

PC-related research articles
1

Existence of PC congresses or scientific meetings
1



Consultants: Margo Munroe.
National Association: -

Data collected: November 2024-June 2025
Report validated by consultants: Yes
Endorsed by National PC Association: -
Edition: Edited by Atlantes Research Team (University of Navarra, Spain).

Ⓔ Education & Training

Medical schools with mandatory PC teaching
0/1

Nursing schools with mandatory PC teaching
0/3

Recognition of PC specialty
1

Ⓑ Policies

National PC plan or strategy
1

Responsible authority for PC in the Ministry of Health
1

Inclusion of PC in the basic health package at the primary care level
1

Ⓐ Empowerment of people and communities

Groups promoting the rights of PC patients
2

Advanced care planning-related policies
1

AM

Bahamas, The

People & Communities

Ind1

Existence of groups dedicated to promoting the rights of patients in need of PC, their care-givers, and disease survivors.



Pioneers, champions, or advocates of palliative care can be identified, but without a formal organization constituted.

PC in Bahamas has seen gradual progress, with pioneers and advocates championing the cause, though without a formal organization established.

Ind2

Is there a national policy or guideline on advance directives or advance care planning?



There is no national policy or guideline on advance care planning.

Policies

Ind3

3.1. There is a current national PC plan, program , policy, or strategy.



Do not know or does not exist.

The most recent National Multi-Sectoral Non-Communicable Disease Strategy and Plan of Action for The Bahamas (2017) does not include PC as a defined component. As of now, there is no dedicated national PC plan, program , policy, or strategy with an established implementation framework in the country.

3.2. The national palliative care plan (or program or strategy or legislation) is a standalone.



Not known or does not exist neither standalone nor is included in another national plan.

AM

Bahamas, The

Policies

3.3. There are indicators in the national plan to monitor and evaluate progress, with measurable targets.



Not known or does not exist.

Ind4

PC services are included in the list of priority services for Universal Health Coverage at the primary care level in the national health system.



Not at all.

PC is not currently available in primary health care facilities in The Bahamas. It is not included as a defined service within the national health system's package of priority services for UHC.

Ind5

5.1. Is there a national authority for palliative care within the government or the Ministry of Health?



There is no coordinating entity.

5.2. The national authority has concrete functions, budget and staff.



Does not have concrete functions or resources (budget, staff, etc.).

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Bahamas, The

Research

Ind6

Existence of congresses or scientific meetings at the national level specifically related to PC.



There are no national congresses or scientific meetings related to palliative care.

Ind7

Estimation of the level of peer-reviewed articles focusing on PC research published in any language in the past 5 years with at least one author from the country.



Indicates a minimal or non-existent number of articles published on the subject in that country.

Medicines

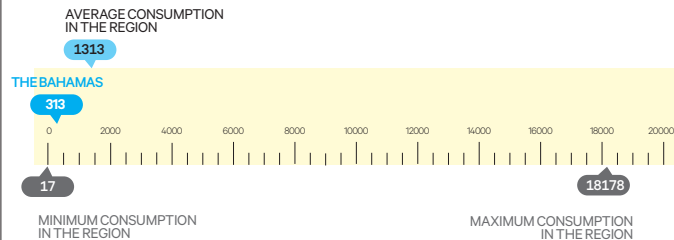
Ind8

Reported annual opioid consumption –excluding methadone– in S-DDD per million inhabitants per day.

Average consumption of opioids, in defined daily doses (S-DDD) for statistical purposes per million inhabitants per day.



COUNTRY VS REGION



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Bahamas, The

Medicines

Ind9

9.1. Percentage of health facilities at the primary care level in Urban areas that have pain and palliative care medications as defined in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines.



Poor: Between 0% to 10%.

9.2. Percentage of health facilities at the primary care level in rural areas that have pain and palliative care medications as defined in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines.



Poor: Between 0% to 10%.

The Supplies Management Agency of the Public Hospital Authority is responsible for the procurement of medicines and medical supplies in The Bahamas. The National Prescription Drug Plan (NPDP), administered by the National Insurance Board, aims to improve access to medicines for individuals living with non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in both the public and private sectors. While the NPDP is a key initiative to enhance healthcare access and quality of life, its primary focus is on chronic disease management rather than PC. In 2019, the procurement list of medicines available under the NPDP, supplied to primary care health facilities, covered only 28.7% of all essential NCD medicines. Additionally, only 5.1% of essential PC medicines were included in the NPDP formulary, highlighting limited availability of essential medications for pain and PC at the primary care level.

Ind10

10.1. Percentage of health facilities at the primary care level in urban areas that have immediate-release oral morphine (liquid or tablet).



Poor: Between 0% to 10%.

10.2. Percentage of health facilities at the primary care level in rural areas that have immediate-release oral morphine (liquid or tablet).



Poor: Between 0% to 10%.

The NPDP Formulary List (2019–2021) includes tramadol as the only listed opioid. However, no oral narcotics, including immediate-release oral morphine, are dispensed in primary health care clinics.

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Bahamas, The

Education & Training

Ind11

11.1. The proportion of medical schools with **COMPULSORY** teaching in PC (with or without other optional teaching)

0/1



In The Bahamas, the Western Atlantic University School of Medicine is the only medical school in the country. However, its curriculum does not include PC modules, either as a mandatory or optional course. There are at least three nursing schools offering a Bachelor of Science in Nursing : Southern College, Terreve University College, University of The Bahamas. None of these nursing schools have PC integrated into their curricula, whether as a mandatory or optional subject. This reflects a lack of formal PC education at the undergraduate level for both medical and nursing students in The Bahamas.

11.2. The proportion of medical schools with **OPTIONAL** teaching in PC.

0/1

11.3. The proportion of nursing schools with **COMPULSORY** teaching in PC (with or without other optional teaching).

0/3

11.4. The proportion of nursing schools with **OPTIONAL** teaching in PC.

0/3

Ind12

Existence of an official specialization process in palliative medicine for physicians, recognised by the competent authority in the country.



There is no process on specialization for palliative care physicians.

PC is not included in the specialist list of the Bahamas Medical Council.

AM

Bahamas, The

Provision of PC / Specialized Services

Ind13

13.1. There is a system of Specialized PC services or teams in the country that has a **GEOGRAPHIC** reach and is delivered through different service delivery platforms.



Isolated provision: Exists but only in some geographic areas.

13.2. Are available in **HOSPITALS** (public or private), such as hospital PC teams (consultation teams), and PC units (with beds), to name a few examples.



Ad hoc/ in some parts of the country.

13.3. Free-standing **HOSPICES** (including hospices with inpatient beds).



Ad hoc/ in some parts of the country.

13.4. **HOME CARE** teams (Specialized in PC) are available in the community (or at the primary Healthcare level), as independent services or linked with hospitals or hospices.

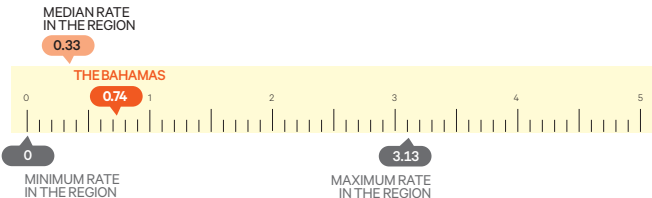


Ad hoc/ in some parts of the country.

13.5. Total number of Specialized PC services or teams in the country.

In The Bahamas, Palliative Care Bahamas (PCB) is the primary provider of specialized PC services, offering both hospital-based and home-based care. In 2011, PC was formally introduced at the PMH Oncology Clinic. Since then, services have expanded and are now accessible in both public and private hospitals and the wider community, including the outlying islands. These services include weekly ambulatory clinics, in-hospital consultations, and home-based hospice care

RATE OF SPECIALIZED PC SERVICES/100,000 INH



3
← SPECIALIZED PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICES

Ind14

14.1. There is a system of Specialized PC services or teams for **children** in the country that has geographic reach and is delivered through different service delivery platforms.



Isolated provision: palliative care specialized services or teams for children exist but only in some geographic areas.

14.2. Number of pediatric Specialized PC services or teams in the country.

1

PPC TEAMS