

Broken system

The growing spread of disease and the gaping inadequacies in public health care show that the government has to do a lot to achieve the goal of providing universal access to affordable and quality health care. By **RAMESH CHAKRAPANI**

The dilapidated state of public sector health care in major States and the country's inability to wipe out various diseases, as demonstrated by the latest data from the National Health Mission under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, are clear indicators that the government has a long way to go before it can achieve the goal of providing universal access to equitable, affordable and quality health care.

The key components of public sector health care are the sub-centre, the primary health centre (PHC) and the community health centre (CHC). The sub-centre is the first point of contact for the community in accessing health care. Its primary focus was originally on reproductive and child health services, but services concerning the treatment of important non-communicable diseases have now been included in its remit.

The government's primary objective in the field of rural health was to establish one sub-centre for every 5,000 people in the plains and 3,000 in tribal and hilly

areas, one PHC for every 30,000 people in the plains and 20,000 in tribal and hilly areas, and one CHC for a population of one lakh. (This is subject to tweaks as the population density is not uniform across the country.)

Most States have an adequate number of doctors at primary health centres. Some major States figure among the worst performers, with Uttar Pradesh recording the highest shortfall, followed by Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

Kerala and Goa have the best public sector health care infrastructure in the country, with sufficient centres and doctors. The southern States rank high in all indices.

In the area of disease prevention and treatment, much needs to be done. The number of suspected cases of dengue has remained high in the past five years and the number of deaths due to it are above 100 every year. Japanese encephalitis has seen a worrying rise in incidence and fatalities over the past five years, while malarial and kala azar-related deaths and suspected cases of chikungunya have fallen.

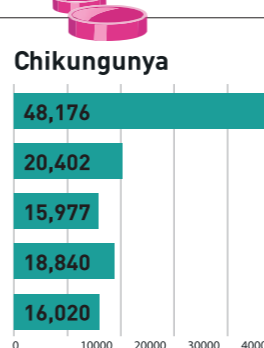
Doctors at primary health centres			
State	Required	In position	Shortfall
NORTH-EAST REGION			
Arunachal	97	92	5
Sikkim	24	32	-
Meghalaya	109	104	5
Mizoram	57	49	8
Assam	975	1,478	-
Nagaland	126	99	27
Manipur	80	170	-
Tripura	79	119	-
SOUTHERN REGION			
Kerala	809	1,152	-
Karnataka	2,310	2,089	221
A.P.*	1,624	3,448	-
Tamil Nadu	1,227	2,271	-
REST OF INDIA			
Bihar	1,863	3,532	-
Maharashtra	1,811	2,760	-
West Bengal	909	1,006	-
Rajasthan	1,528	1,755	-
Punjab	449	457	-
Jharkhand	330	407	-
J&K	396	845	-
Delhi	8	19	-
Goa	19	41	-
WORST PERFORMERS			
U.P.	3,692	2,861	831
Gujarat	1,158	778	380
M.P.	1,156	814	342
Chhattisgarh	755	435	302
Odisha	1,226	1,069	157
Haryana	447	342	105
Uttarakhand	257	205	52
H.P.	472	436	36

* Data pertain to undivided Andhra Pradesh

Health centres in major States			
	Required	In position	Shortfall
UTTAR PRADESH			
Sub-centre	31,037	20,521	10,516
Primary Health Centre	5,172	3,692	1,480
Community Health Centre	1,293	515	778
BIHAR			
Sub-centre	18,533	9,696	8,837
Primary Health Centre	3,083	1,863	1,220
Community Health Centre	770	70	700
RAJASTHAN			
Sub-centre	15,172	11,487	3,685
Primary Health Centre	2,326	1,528	798
Community Health Centre	581	382	199
MADHYA PRADESH			
Sub-centre	12,314	8,869	3,445
Primary Health Centre	1,977	1,156	821
Community Health Centre	494	333	161
MAHARASHTRA			
Sub-centre	13,410	10,580	2,830
Primary Health Centre	2,189	1,811	378
Community Health Centre	547	363	184
WEST BENGAL			
Sub-centre	13,186	10,356	2,830
Primary Health Centre	2,166	909	1,257
Community Health Centre	541	348	193
JHARKHAND			
Sub-centre	6,043	3,958	2,085
Primary Health Centre	964	330	634
Community Health Centre	241	188	53
GUJARAT			
Sub-centre	9,156	7,274	1,882
Primary Health Centre	1,433	1,158	275
Community Health Centre	358	318	40
HARYANA			
Sub-centre	4,159	2,520	1,639
Primary Health Centre	657	447	210
Community Health Centre	164	109	55



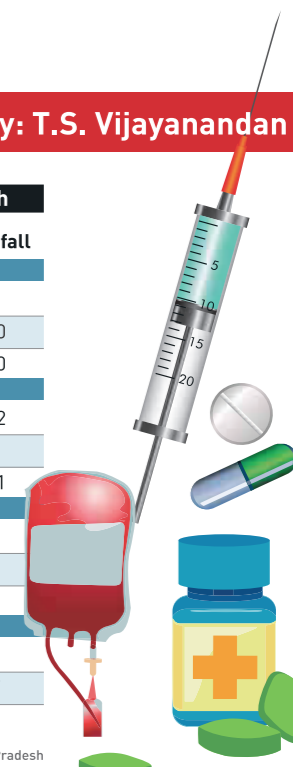
New case detection of leprosy



Health centres in the south		
Required	In position	Shortfall
A.P.*		
12,283	12,522	-
2,004	1,624	380
501	281	220
KARNATAKA		
9,063	8,871	192
1,445	2,310	-
361	180	181
KERALA		
3,525	4,575	-
586	809	-
146	217	-
TAMIL NADU		
7,555	8,706	-
1,254	1,227	27
313	385	-

* Data pertain to undivided Andhra Pradesh

Health centres in minor States			
	Required	In position	Shortfall
GOA			
Sub-centre	110	205	-
Primary Health Centre	18	19	-
Community Health Centre	4	5	-
HIMACHAL PRADESH			
Sub-centre	2,055	2,065	-
Primary Health Centre	308	472	-
Community Health Centre	77	76	1
ODISHA			
Sub-centre	8,136	6,688	1,448
Primary Health Centre	1,308	1,226	82
Community Health Centre	327	377	-
CHHATTISGARH			
Sub-centre	4,904	5,111	-
Primary Health Centre	776	755	21
Community Health Centre	194	149	45
DELHI			
Sub-centre	83	41	42
Primary Health Centre	13	8	5
Community Health Centre	3	0	3
JAMMU AND KASHMIR			
Sub-centre	3,044	1,907	1,137
Primary Health Centre	456	396	60
Community Health Centre	114	84	30
PUNJAB			
Sub-centre	3,463	2,951	512
Primary Health Centre	577	449	128
Community Health Centre	144	132	12
UTTARAKHAND			
Sub-centre	2,341	1,848	493
Primary Health Centre	351	257	94
Community Health Centre	87	59	28



SUSPECTED CASES OF DISEASES

