

Muslim Women: Central Asia: Health Care Systems

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EWIC Staff: Datasheet:

- ❖ Health care in Kazakhstan is highly centralized. The state Health Care Development Programme for 2011-2015 plans to reduce informal and out-of-pocket costs for health care and switch to a single-payer system in which the government subsidizes all care and covers Kazakh citizens under a national healthcare system. Since healthcare reforms developed in 2000, life expectancy for women has increased from 70.4 years to 72.3 while fertility rates have increased from 2 children per woman to 2.4 reaching replacement fertility levels.¹⁻²
- ❖ In 1997 Kyrgyzstan moved from subsidized care to a single-payer insurance fund where patients pay minimal co-payments for medical treatment and are also fully covered for primary care by a basic benefits package. The changes were put into place to reduce unofficial out-of-pocket expenses through a more formal co-payment process. Since implementing these changes, life expectancy for women has increased from 70 to 72 while fertility rates have remained the same at 2.9 children per woman.²⁻³
- ❖ Uzbekistan offers a form of socialized health insurance. After the dissolution of the Soviet era in the 1991, life expectancy in Uzbekistan increased from 69.4 year to 71.6 for women and fertility rates declined from 3.8 to 2.3 children per woman.² In Uzbekistan nearly all births are attended by a skilled health care professional; in 2006 the percent of attended births was at 99.9%.⁴
- ❖ Rural communities in Turkmenistan face considerable challenges in terms of receiving adequate healthcare. Issues range from lack of clean water and drug abuse to high incidences of maternal complications. The Red Cross is currently working on programs in the region that focus on preventative care. In 2013, 82% of pregnant and breastfeeding women followed the nutritional recommendations given by Red Cross.⁵ UNICEF has designated more than half of Turkmenistan's maternity hospitals as "Baby-Friendly," these hospitals account for around 60% of all deliveries.⁶
- ❖ Healthcare in Tajikistan is undergoing a transition from the former Soviet healthcare system. In 2007 the Ministry of Health developed a program that includes a basic benefit package for low income Tajiks and a regulated co-payments program for everyone else.⁷ Fertility rates in 2011 were 3.81 births per woman.⁸ The average age of marriage for women has decreased from 21.5 years in 1989 to 23 years in 2005.⁹

¹ July 30, 2014 http://www.euro.who.int/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/161557/e96451.pdf

² July 30, 2014 <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/index.htm>

³ July 30, 2014 <http://heapol.oxfordjournals.org/content/25/5/427.long>

⁴ July 30, 2014 <http://www.globalsurance.com/health-insurance/uzbekistan/>

⁵ August 22, 2014 <http://www.redcross.org.uk/en/What-we-do/Health-and-social-care/Health-issues/Community-healthcare/Healthcare-in-Turkmenistan>

⁶ August 22, 2014 http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/Turkmenistan_466.html

⁷ August 21, 2014 http://www.researchgate.net/publication/49659628_Tajikistan_health_system_review

⁸ July 30, 2014 <http://hfgproject.org/resources/health-systems-database/country-profiles/tajikistan/>

⁹ July 30, 2014 http://www.euro.who.int/data/assets/pdf_file/0009/119691/E94243.pdf