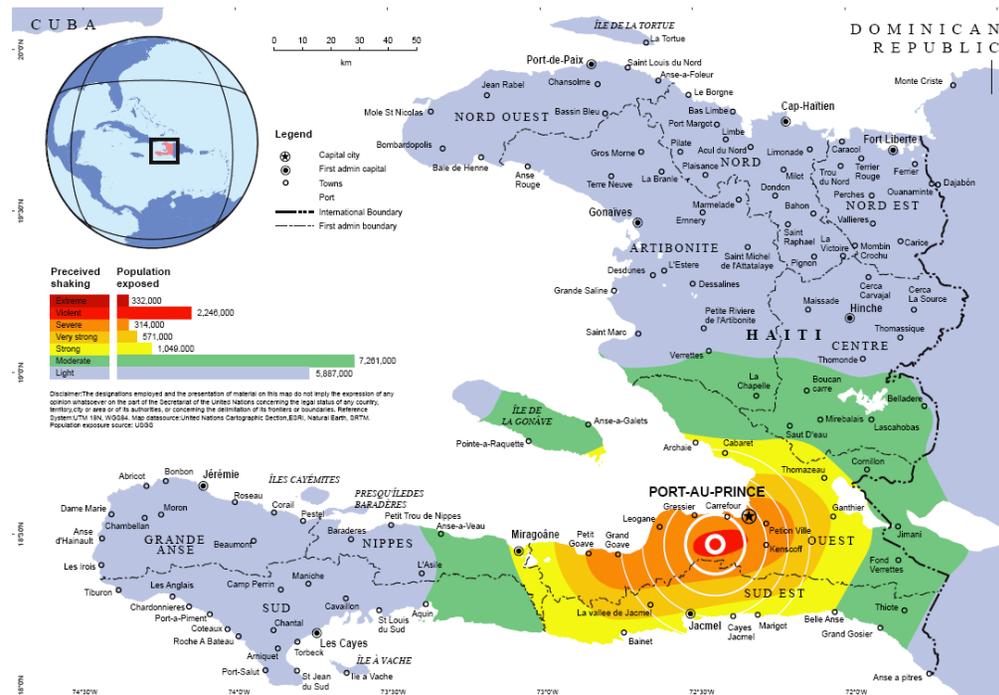


Health situation in Haiti before the 2010 earthquake



prepared by PAHO,
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Population's health:

Available data indicates that:

- Death registry highly incomplete (death certificates account for only 10%)
- The highest general mortality in the Americas (12.1 per 1,000 population)
- The highest maternal mortality in the Americas (pregnancy and labor related deaths)
- Shortest life expectancy in the Americas (61.5 years)

Demographics

- First black nation in the Americas, located in the Caribbean with 27,700 Kms²
- Current population of 10 million
 - Close to one million in Port-au-Prince (Capital City)
- 60% of the population is under 25 years of age
- 11% of children had lost either parent (half a million kids)
- Population growth of 1.6% a year
 - 274,000 newborn every year
- Life expectancy at birth: Male: 59.7 and Female: 63.2
- Country's official languages are Creole and French, but only 10% of population speaks French.

Socio-economics

- Poorest country in the Americas
 - 55% of population lives in households below the extreme poverty line of US\$ 1.00 per person per day
 - 71% (over 6 million people) lives below poverty line of US\$ 2.00 per person per day
- Unequal income distribution (4% population own 66% of nation's wealth)
- 61% of population over 10 years old are illiterate
- Less than 40% of population has access to basic health care and 50% lacks access to basic prescribed drugs
- Annual GDP negative with -1.1% per year (2000-2004)
 - GDP improved to 1.1 recently (2005 – 2006)
- 33% of economically active population is unemployed

Governance and security

- Half of economically active workers have government funded jobs
- Political instability has slowed investment
- Transitional governments since the 2000 have contributed to recurrent political unrest
- The average inflation rate has been 17% per year
- Floods in 2004, along with insecurity and political instability caused a 5.5% drop in the country's GDP

Environmental health

- Deficient farming practices on steep terrain have accelerated soil erosion and loss of agriculturally productive land deriving in:
 - Land erosion that contributes to drainage obstruction, worsening the situation during flooding season
 - Inaccessibility to nutritional food due to a decline in agricultural production
 - Deterioration of children's nutritional status
 - 40% of households experience food insecurity and
 - 12% of women are below the critical threshold for chronic energy deficiency
- Surface water is usually polluted by inefficient excreta and household waste management
 - Population with access to safe drinking water: 58%
 - Population with access to adequate sanitation: 19%

Children under 5 years old

- **1 in 12 Haitian children die before their fifth birthday**
- According to the Morbidity, Mortality and Service Utilization Survey:
 - Leading causes of death are
 - Acute respiratory infections
 - Acute diarrheal diseases
- Most common problems
 - 65% pre-scholars had anemia
 - 40% Acute respiratory infections symptoms
 - 28% had one or more episodes of diarrhea
 - Only 57% had been treated with oral rehydration therapy
 - 23 % had suffered chronic malnutrition
 - 20% have been taken for a consultation or to get help

Children 5-9 years old

Overview:

- They account for 13% of the population
- 17% do not attend school
- 12.5% have never been enrolled
- 1/3 of the children had parasites.
- **27% of deaths were infectious and parasitic diseases**

The five leading causes of death:

- **Tuberculosis**
- **Diarrheal diseases**
- **Malnutrition**
- **HIV/AIDS**
- **Malaria**

Adolescents: 10-14 and 15-19 years old

Overview:

- **Services for adolescents are mainly provided by nonprofit organizations**
- Fertility rate among 15-19:
 Urban: 69/1,000
 Rural: 86/1,000
- One for every 5 women aged 15-19 years old has access to modern contraceptives
- **Condom use was low is 7% in 2005-2006**

The six leading causes of death:

- **AIDS**
- **Physical assaults**
- **Accidents**
- **Tuberculosis**
- **Typhoid**
- **Maternal causes**

Adults 20-59 years old

Overview:

- This age group represents 40% of the total population.
- **Includes women of childbearing age and most persons in the workforce**
- 99% of women has received information on at least one modern family-planning method.

Leading causes of death in 2003

- **15% AIDS (leading cause for age group 20-49)**
- **10% Cardiovascular diseases**
- **5% Assaults**
- **4.4% Maternal causes**
- **4% Accidents**
- **4% Tuberculosis**

Older adults 65 years

Overview

- This age group represent 5.1% of the total population
- 78% is illiterate
- Some 72% of this group lives in rural areas
- There is no health care program for the elderly
- 7.7 indicated that they had at least one disability

Leading causes of death:

- **Cardiovascular disease**
- **Stroke**
- **Neoplasm**
- **Lung disease**
- **Diarrheal disease**
- **Diabetes mellitus**

Ten leading causes of death by sex and percentage of total diseases in Haiti, 2003

	Male	Female	Total	(%)
Disease of circulatory system	829	561	1,380	24.4
AIDS	219	271	490	8.6
Infectious intestinal diseases	219	268	487	8.6
Pneumonia and influenza	160	169	329	5.8
Malignant neoplasm	157	135	292	5.1
Tuberculosis	118	148	266	4.7
Malnutrition	117	132	249	4.4
Infection specific to perinatal period	128	117	245	4.3
Accidents	77	142	219	3.8
Assault	28	145	173	3.0
Total deaths with other defined causes	781	775	1,556	27.3
Total deaths from defined causes	2,833	2,863	5,696	100
Ill-defined causes	1,043	1,272	2,315	

Source: PAHO. Health in the Americas, 2007. Volume II-Countries; page 416

Five leading cause of infant mortality by rates by the first four Mortality, Morbidity and Service Utilization (EMUS I-IV), Haiti, 1987-2006)

	EMUS			
	I 1987	II 94-95	III 00-01	IV 05-06*
Infant mortality (0-1 years old)	99	74	80	57
Neonatal mortality (0-28 days old)	40	31	32	25
Postnatal mortality (1-11) months old)	59	43	48	32
Young child mortality (1-4 years old)	66	61	42	31
Infant and young child mortality (0-4 years old)	158	131	119	86

Source: PAHO. Health in the Americas, 2007. Volume II-Countries; page 416

* These are preliminary results

Health Problems

Communicable diseases

Vector-borne diseases

Malaria:

- Rainy season: March-May and October-November
- Over 106,152 cases in 2005
- There were 50 sentinel (surveillance) sites throughout the country
- The Global Fund had provided financial resources to reduce malaria morbidity by 10% and eliminate mortality by 2010

Vector-borne diseases

Cont...

Dengue

- All serotypes (I-IV) circulate in the country.
- No structured program in place
- Problem is mainly located in urban areas, where the presence of larval breeding sites facilitates its propagation

Lymphatic filariasis

- Found in both urban and rural areas, mainly in the Nord department (Gulf of Gondave)
- The entire country is at risk of transmission through biting by *Culex quinquefasciatus*.

Vaccine-preventable Diseases

- Immunization program covers the following diseases:
 - Tuberculosis (Highest incidence in the Americas)
 - Poliomyelitis (no single case found since 2000)
 - Diphtheria (DPT coverage of 53% in 2008)
 - Tetanus
 - Whooping cough (major outbreak in 2004)
 - Measles is a major concern due to its extremely low coverage (54% vaccination coverage)
 - Neonatal tetanus remains a major public health problem
 - In 2005 119 cases of tetanus were reported, of which 71 were neonatal.

Intestinal Infectious Diseases

Overview

- 24% of children under 5 years old had had one or more episodes of diarrheal disease in the previous two weeks of a national survey.
 - Of these children 40% were treated with oral rehydration therapy (ORT).
 - ORT is more prevalent in the cities (72% in the metropolitan area and 52% in the countryside)
- Children aged 6-11 are the most affected (41%)
 - Infants 12-13 months old (38%)
 - **These pathology ranked third behind AIDS, on the list of leading causes of death in 2003**

Typhoid fever responsible for the following percentages of death:

- **2.8% in children 5-9**
- **8.9% in age group 10-14**
- **3.2% in age group 15-19**
- **1.5% in age group 20-49**

Chronic Communicable Diseases

- Tuberculosis
 - Seventh leading cause of death in the country
 - The most affected age group is 15-44
 - Estimated incidence of TB in 2005 was 12,632 cases
 - Detection rate of 49% in 2006
 - Cure rate 70% (Treatment provided free of charge)
 - TB/HIV co-infection rate is 29%
 - HIV has exacerbated TB situation making it the leading infectious disease in people living with HIV.

Chronic Communicable Diseases cont...

- Leprosy
 - Between 1998-2002 there were 1,718 cases were detected (only 75% were treated)

Acute Respiratory Infections

- Mortality attributable to ARI in children ranks just behind the number of deaths from malnutrition and diarrhea (According to the mortality, morbidity and service utilization survey (2005-2006))
- No less than 40% of children under 5 years old had had fever or symptoms compatible with ARI in the two week preceding the survey.
 - Only 20% of them had been formally examined to obtain treatment

HIV/AIDS

- **HIV prevalence is 2.2% (220, 000 cases)**
 - 2.3% among women aged 15-49
 - 2.0% among men aged 15-59%
 - In selected women groups is 3.3% and 91% of the women tested returned for their results
 - Male: Female ratio is 1:1.9
- **An estimated 40,000 HIV-positive persons needed antiretroviral therapy in 2005**
- Number of people receiving treatment increased from 5,500 in January 2006 to 9,412 in September 2006
- 10% of seropositive women and their babies received antiretroviral therapy to prevent mother-to-child transmission
- Condom use limited (11% of women and 23% of men who had had sexual relation in the 12 months prior to the survey reported its use.
- **People with HIV/AIDS continue to be stigmatized and discriminated.**

Non-communicable Diseases

- Anemia:
 - 65% in children under 5 years of age
 - **54% among women in general**
 - **63% in pregnant women**
 - 1/3 of children 6-59 months suffer from vitamin A deficiency
 - Children 24-35 months old had some form of mild iodine deficiency
- Sickle cell disease
 - 706 individuals were identified with sickle cell disease in 679 families of which 27 had two or three children with the malady.

Non-communicable Diseases cont...

- It is estimated that heart diseases, diabetes and hypertensive disorders are important public health problems, but the extent of them is known.

Diabetes

- Eleventh cause of death in the country
- The age-adjusted prevalence of diabetes is:
 - 4.8% in men and 8.9% in women, with 71% of cases already known.

Hypertension

- Found in 48.7% of men and 46.5% women. The rate in the group older than 40 was 69.1% in men and 67.2% in women.

Non-communicable Diseases cont...

- Cardiovascular disease
 - Cerebrovascular diseases accounted for one third of all deaths in 2003
- Malignant Neoplasm
 - Ranks fifth as the specific cause of death
 - 5.1% of all recorded deaths were related to cancer

Zoonoses

Rabies

- In 2006, Haiti was the country with the highest number of human cases (10 cases) in the Americas, and reported an average of 4 cases a year, mostly in metropolitan areas.
- Because of this, the country had undertaken massive dog vaccinations to reduce human rabies.
- Brazil has provided important vaccine donations.
- Prophylaxis remains a problem in the country

Anthrax

- Endemic in the Department of the Nord, Sud-Est, Nippes and Artibonite
- These four departments are active foci.

Health Infrastructure Distribution by Department, Haiti 2003

Department	Hospitals	Health Centers	Dispensary	Total
Artibonite	6	12	7	88
Centre	4	1	33	38
Grand'Anse	2	16	35	53
Nord	5	3	40	48
Nord-Est	1	6	15	22
Nord-Ouest	3	10	58	71
Ouest	31	13	169	213
Sud	6	17	41	64
Sud-Est	1	4	26	31
Total	59	82	487	628

Source: Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population. Analyse du Secteur de la Santé pour la Réforme, 2004