

Health in Namibia

Namibia currently has one doctor per 3650 people, and one of the best doctor/patient ratios in Africa. All major centers have state-run hospitals. In Windhoek there are three would-standard privately run hospitals and two state hospitals, each with fully equipped and maintained intensive care units.



Qualifications of medical practitioners measure up to world standards. All specialist fields are available in Windhoek, where 90% of emergency cases can be treated.

All medication is obtainable in the capital. The American Food and Drug organization standards are strictly adhered to. All imported medication is controlled by the local Drug Control Board.

Hospitals

There are state hospitals in virtually all-major towns in Namibia. In smaller towns, villages and rural settlements well-equipped and staffed clinics and healthcare centers are operated by the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

Windhoek has three private hospitals:
Medi-Clinic in the Eros suburb,
The Roman Catholic Hospital in the center of town and
Rhino Park Private Hospital on the northern highway.

Major private hospitals outside Windhoek include:
The Medi-Clinic Private Hospital in Otjiwarango, and
The Tsumeb Private Hospital in Tsumeb

In Swakopmund there are two private facilities:
The Cottage Hospital, and
The Bismarck Medical Center

In Walvis Bay is:
The privately run Welwitschia Hospital.



HIV/AIDS

has hit Africa worse than any other continent, with Namibia being one of the hardest hit countries. Twenty two percent of pregnant women were found HIV positive in the last survey carried out by the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

The prevalence ranges from 43% in Katima Mulilo to 9% in Opuwo. In its national effort to combat HIV/AIDS, Government launched a Strategic Plan in 1999 that calls on all stake holders to contribute in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Both the public and private sectors have started to establish comprehensive HIV/AIDS programs.

Service providers such as non-governmental organizations, churches, youth and women groups also raise awareness and provide care and support to the Namibian public. Increasing numbers of voluntary counseling and testing centers are being established thorough out the country.

Emergency Medical Services

Medical emergency evacuation services extend to the furthest corners of Namibia. They are supported by a well-developed charter industry, countless landing strips and a well-maintained road network.

At the end of 2001 the two medical assistance companies Aeromed and MedRescue merged to form International SOS (ISOS), part of a global network operating in 41 countries. The most important feature of Namibia's ISOS is the fact that with tow fully equipped ambulance aircraft based in Windhoek it is possible to reach even the remotest parts of the country in a very short space of time.

Apart from the Cessna 402 C air ambulances, ISOS also uses three Cessna 402 C air ambulances, ISOS also uses three Cessna 406s, tow Cessna Conquests and a Cessna Citation Jet. This is in addition to ambulances based in Swakopmund, Walvis Bay, Otjiwarongo and Tsumeb. For sea and mountain operations, helicopters are loaned from companies such as NamPower.

While medical care in Namibia is on par with most first-world countries, advanced medical faculties and 80% of the country's medical specialists are based in Windhoek. For this reason considerably more air evacuation is done than in most other countries, and the service is therefore more highly developed.

The largest percentage of cases requiring emergency evacuation related to road accidents, mostly on gravel by self-drive tourists who are not used to local conditions and are evaluation is a highly reliable service.

ISOS can be reached at:

Tel (++264 61) 23 0505/24977

Cell (++264 61) 81 128 4888/9

Emergency number: (++ 264 61) 112