

# REPORT FROM TURKEY

EQuiP Meeting, Bled, 05-07 November 2009

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- **The Ministry of Health Drafted a Contract Enabling Family Practice Clerkship in PHC Facilities**

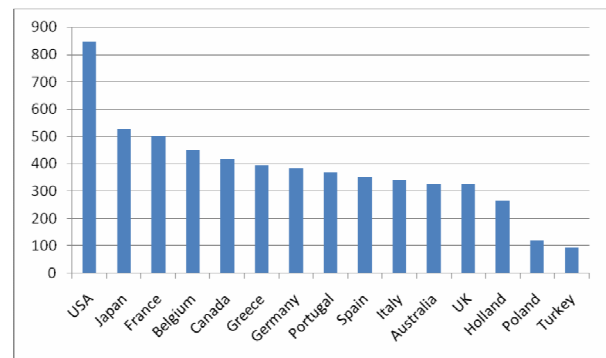
With over 45 family medicine departments in medical faculties, academic family medicine is striving to contribute to undergraduate and postgraduate medical education. One of the main problems faced is the lack of field training facilities. Various individual solutions have been tried so far. Some departments established PHC clinics inside the tertiary hospital, some more lucky ones could open satellite clinics in the city districts. Some others utilized the PCH clinics of the MoH by mutual goodwill (without a written contract).

In the past, the PHC units of the MoH were executing both public preventive services as well as individual clinical services. The authority to use the PHC units in medical education was mainly with the public health departments. With the implementation of the health transition project, the former PHC units of the MoH are divided into clinical services (ASM) and public health services (TSM). The new contract is expected to enable family medicine departments to use the clinical PHC facilities of the MoH in undergraduate clerkship education.

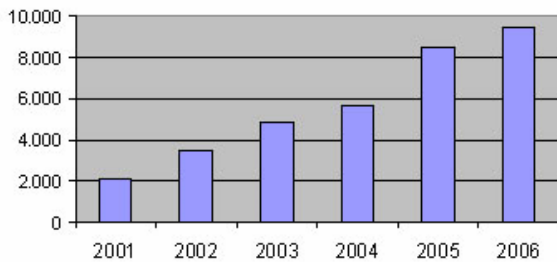
The new regulation is expected to facilitate and empower family medicine departments to be more active in the clerkship rotations of undergraduate medical students. The PHC units of the MoH may also be used in the education of the family medicine residents.

- **Family Physicians Backlash to the Saving Policies of the Social Security Institution**

Drug costs constitute a major part in the total health expenses of Turkey. Although Turkey has less drug expenses when compared with other countries, money paid for medicine increased from 5.2 billion € in 2007 to 6.6 billion € in 2008



Drug expenses in different countries per individual in USD (2005) (<http://www.hastaokulu.org/index.php?p=454&l=&t=2>).



Drug market in turkey (billion TL)

The recently established SSI is periodically issuing new prescription rules in order to push down the prescription costs. Biphosphonates, hormones, even some antilipid and antihypertensives are among the restricted items for family physicians. At the family physicians' side there is major criticism to the prescription limitations. TAHUD has announced a declaration (<http://www.tahud.org.tr/files/20091015110827.pdf>) on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October with suggestions to change.

- ### News from the Health Transition Project

It was declared by the ministry of health that the piloting of the health transition project would be finished by the end of 2009. However, -possibly due to economical reasons- the implementation process was paused in the middle of the year.

As to the last announcement by the ministry, the new date for the expected countrywide implementation of the system is the end of 2010.

Since physicians making contract in the new health system receive more than double of their peers in the old system, some physicians are complaining of inequality and asking for a more rapid implementation. Also from the patient side there are expectations to join the new system which brings advantages to the individual.

On the other side, there is still criticism that the country resources will not be able to cope with the increased health expenditures brought by the new regulations. The total health expenses increased from 14 billion TL (6.3 billion €) in 2006 to 26 billion TL (11.7 billion €) in 2008.

- ### ICPC Trainings Completed: All PHC Personnel Received Trainings on How to Code



After the ToT course for the core trainers in September 2008, a countrywide three-days course on ICPC coding was implemented by the Ministry of Health.

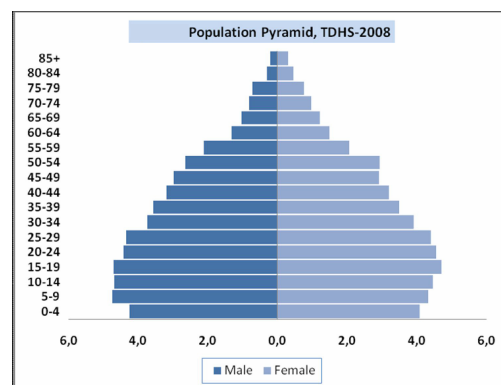
Doctors, nurses, midwives, health technicians and medical secretaries from all 81 cities working in primary health care facilities of the MoH joined the courses.

ICPC codings are expected to be a standard part of the electronic health records in family practice by 2010.

- ### Turkey Demographic and Health Survey 2008 Results Published

The results are showing major changes in the demographic structure of the Turkish population. We present some of the interesting findings for you. The detailed report can be accessed from <http://www.hips.hacettepe.edu.tr/tnsa2008eng/index.htm>

Turkey is facing an "opportunity window" with regard to the population age:

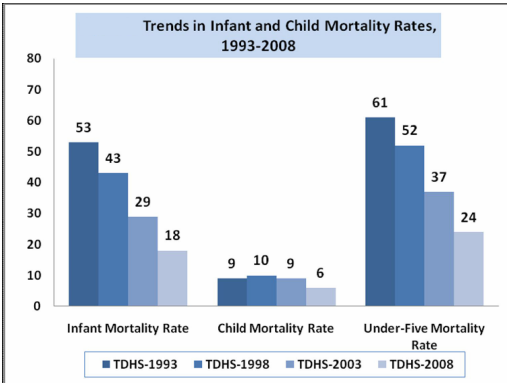


Total fertility rate decreased to 2.1 (it was 4.3 in 1978):

Age-specific fertility rates and total fertility rates, 1978-2008						
Age	TFS-1978	TDHS-1988	TDHS-1993	TDHS-1998	TDHS-2003	TDHS-2008
15-19	93	45	56	60	46	35
20-24	259	193	179	163	136	125
25-29	218	183	151	150	134	133
30-34	154	102	94	93	78	90
35-39	101	55	38	42	38	36
40-44	38	19	12	13	12	10
45-49	2	7	0	1	2	1
TFR 15-49	4.33	3.02	2.65	2.61	2.23	2.15

Note: 1978, 1988 and 1993 rates refer to the year before the survey; 1998, 2003 and 2008 rates refer to the 3-year period before the survey

Infant mortality rates decreased to 18 per 1000 live births:



## • Smokeless Environment

**Onlar %100 Dumansız Hava Sahasına  
%100 Destek Veriyorlar!**



With the motto "Protect your air" and "100% smokeless environment" and a support from all political parties, Turkey is conducting a major campaign against smoking.

After July the 19<sup>th</sup> the law is prohibiting tobacco use in all closed environments. Also the smoking rooms are removed from the buildings.

Training materials and courses for health personnel, promotions for those who quit, as well as medical support for those who ask for help to quit smoking are a part of the campaign.

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