

WHO and OECD (2014), Health at a Glance: Asia/Pacific 2014

Country note: India

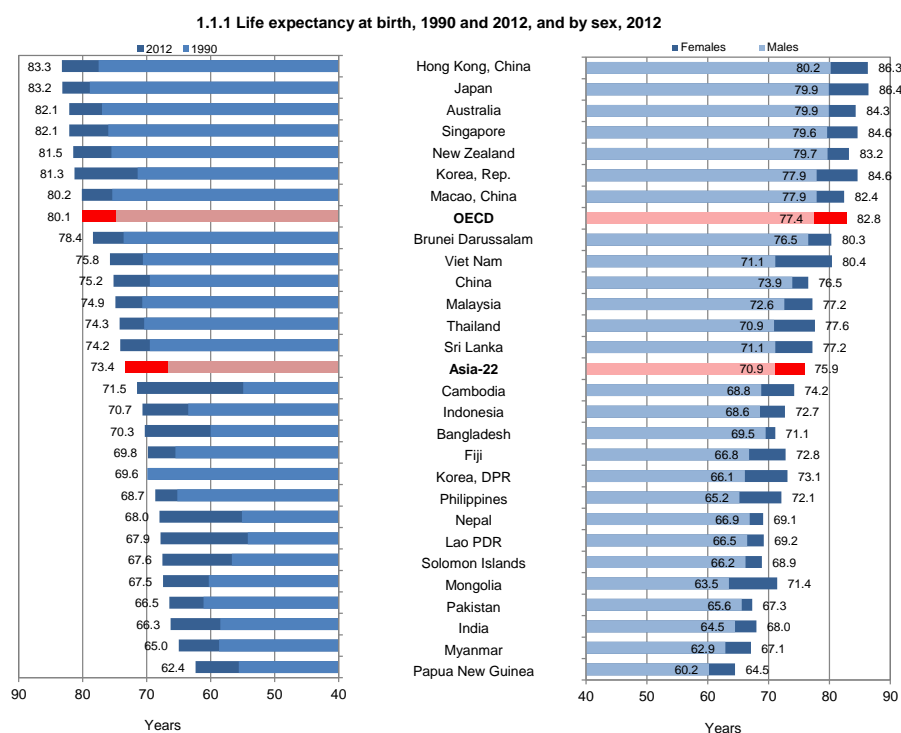


Important engagement in quality improvement initiatives

Many policy initiatives have been implemented in India, in recognition of the key role quality plays in strengthening health care systems. Accreditation programmes for hospitals and health care providers and the development of hospital infection control programmes seem to be the most relevant initiatives. There are also programmes to develop guidelines, standards and indicators, as well as initiatives to measure patient experiences and improve patient safety.

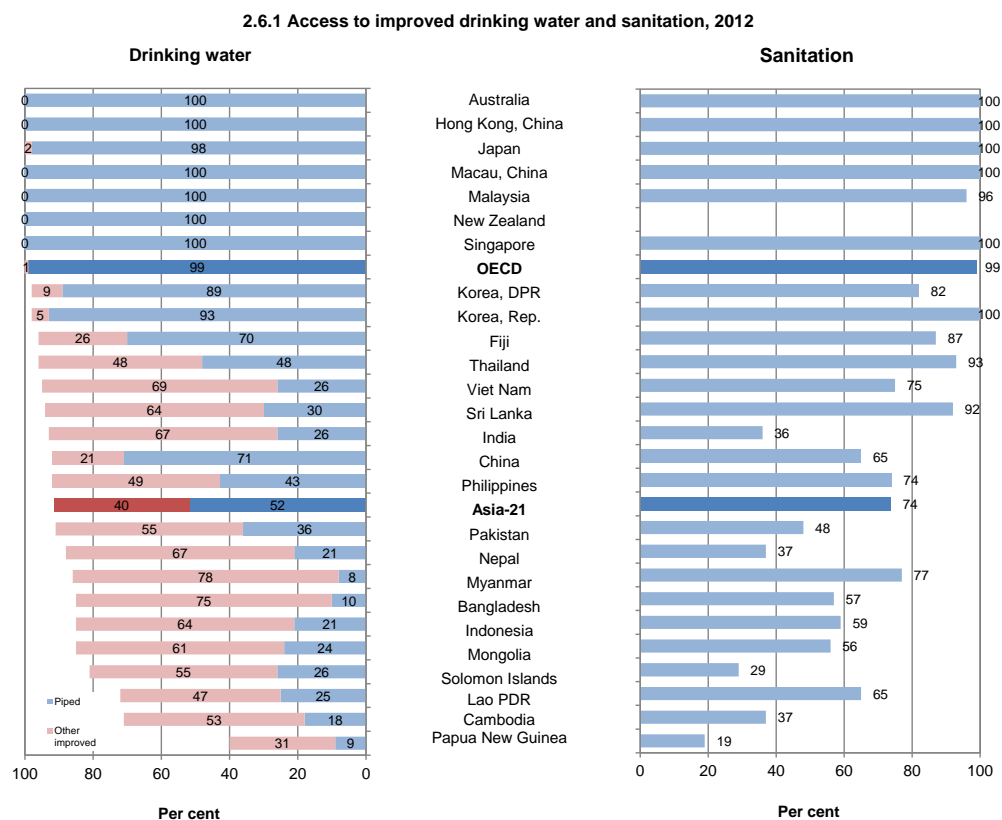
Life expectancy has improved but remains behind most other Asia/Pacific countries

Life expectancy at birth has increased from 58.5 years in 1990 to 66.3 years in 2012, mainly due to public health efforts which have contributed to these improvements, as demonstrated through the recent eradication of polio after an ambitious immunisation campaign. Nevertheless, life expectancy remains behind most Asian countries, and is reduced by a high proportion of deaths among the youth from communicable diseases and by infant mortality, which has halved since 1990 but it is still high when compared to most other emerging economies.



Improving living conditions would have the greatest impact

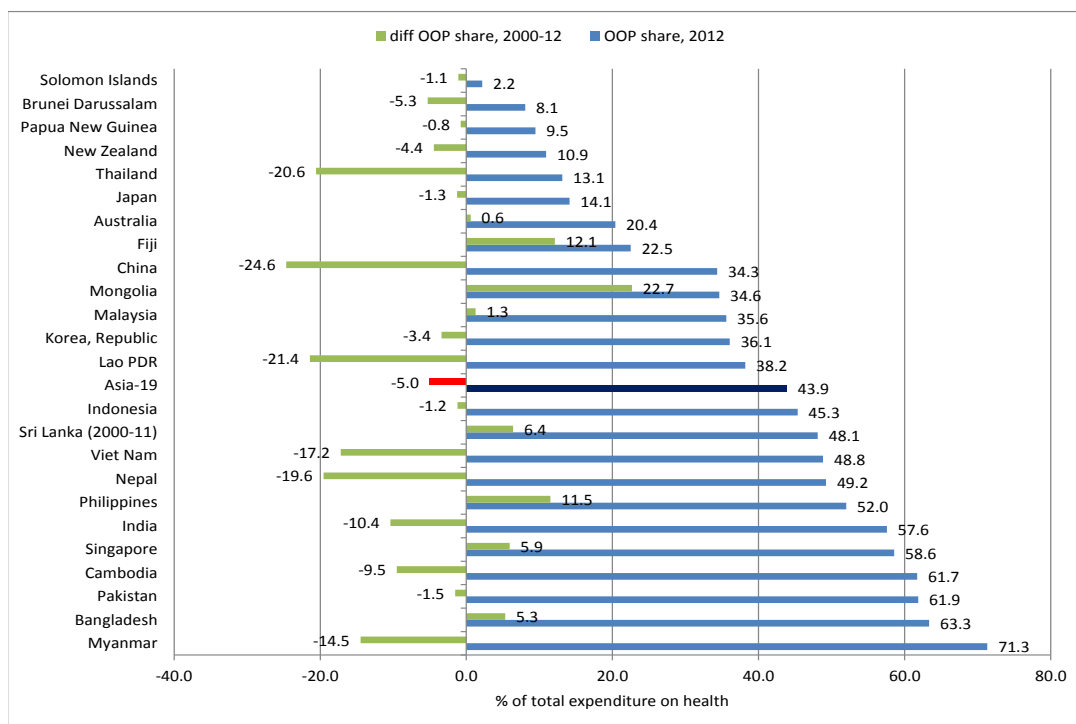
Between 2000 and 2012, India improved access to drinking water to reach 93% of the population. However, only 36% of the population had access to adequate sanitation, and the coverage was very low in rural dwellers, where three out of four households in rural areas do not defecate in a toilet or latrine, which leads to infant and child diseases (such as diarrhoea) and can account for much of the variation in average child height.



Less financial burden on household out-of-pocket spending, but only one-third of the health spending is from public sources

In 2012, India spent 4% of GDP on health, a stable investment if compared to 2000. Government (central, state and local) is the source of about one-third of total health spending while out-of-pocket payments represent about 58 percent – a notable decline of 10 percentage points from 2000. Drugs were the biggest component of total health spending, accounting for 45% of the total in 2010. Less than 10% of spending on pharmaceutical was from public sources.

4.2.2 Change in out-of-pocket spending as a share of total expenditure on health, 2000-12



More information at

<http://www.oecd.org/health/health-at-a-glance-asia-pacific-23054964.htm>