

The Health Care System

3 Sectors:

Sectors	Population
Private Sector	The wealthy (10% of the population)
Obras Sociales	Workers in unions
Public Sector	Everyone

Each Sector has a separate network of hospitals ranging from rundown public hospitals to high tech private hospitals

Finance:

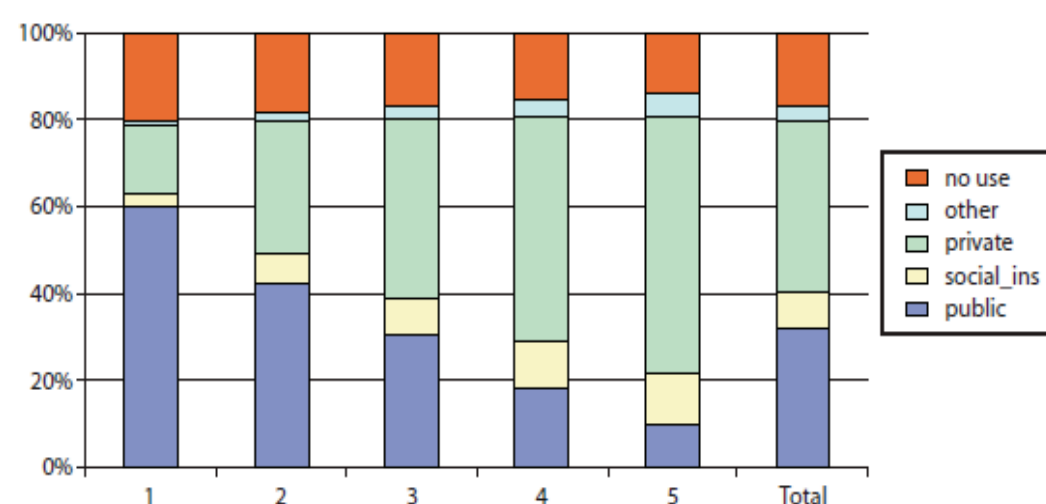
Taxes paid by everyone finances the public sector

Obras Sociales is funded by compulsory payroll contribution

The private sector is an out of pocket expenditure

Total health expenditure makes of 8% of the GDP^[2]

Figure 2. Utilization of Outpatient Health Facilities (by income quintiles)



Source: Siempro, Conditions of Life Survey, 1997

The Population

Major causes of mortality and morbidity^[1]:

Children:

- Congenital anomalies
- Premature birth

The Argentine infant mortality rate is 117th, which is 55% higher than would be expected for its per capita income

Young Adults:

- Sexually Transmitted Infections

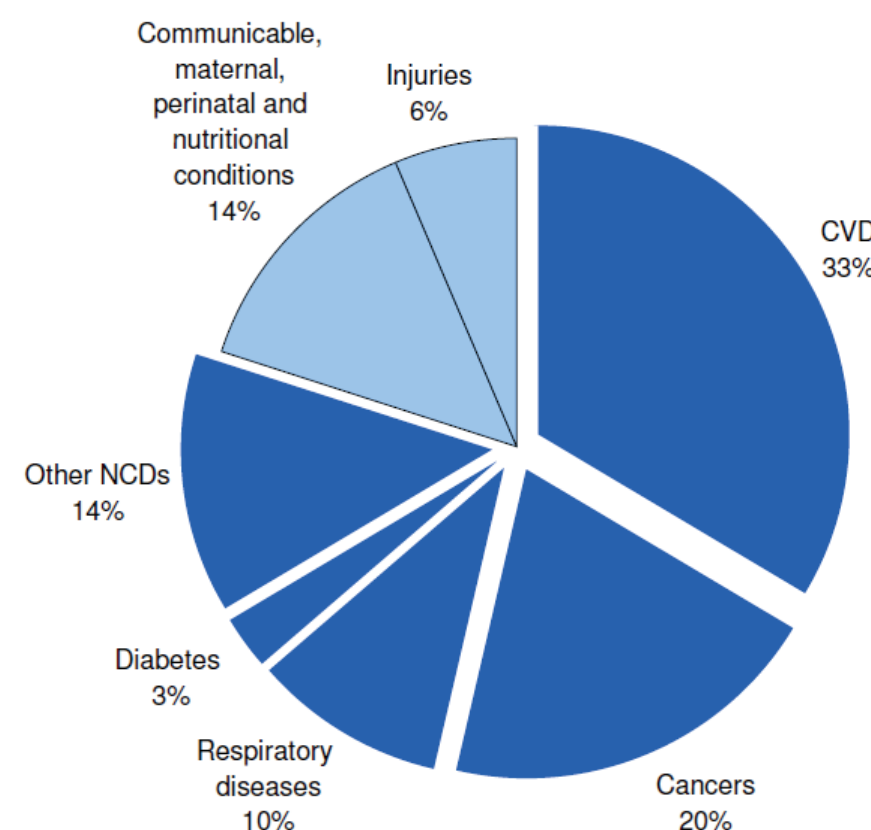
Condoms are available for free at almost every public and private venue

Adults:

- Coronary Heart Disease
- Stroke
- Pneumonia

In the past 20 years there has been a decline in exercise and fruit and vegetable consumption

Proportional mortality (% of total deaths, all ages)



NCDs are estimated to account for 80% of all deaths.

The Politics



Until 2001 the Argentine pesos was pegged to the U.S dollar
In 2001 the market crashed

Hundreds of thousands lost jobs and government had limited revenue to give to hospitals

Not until recently has Argentina been able to recover economically

The health care budgets are distributed equally to each county without consideration of needs because of a lack of specific guidelines in health care policy

CONCLUSION

While there are a lot of kinks in the system Argentina may become a model that the US can use to find solutions to its health care system problems as Argentina's economy recovers fully.



References

[1] Argentina, H. M. (2009). *National Health Survey*

[2] Cavagnero, E., Carrin, G., Xu, K., & Aguilar-Rivera, A. M. (2006). *Health Financing in Argentina: An Empirical Study of Health Care Expenditures and Utilization*. Instituto Nacional de Salud Publica.