

## Health Assessment and Problems of Implementation of Drug Prescriptions by Physicians in Georgia

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### **ABSTRACT**

Health assessment recognized as a potentially powerful tool in achievement of progress in public-health system. In the period of political, social and economic changes in Georgia, the need for an integrated approach to health assessment of population becomes even more urgent. Health assessment may apply to individual, whole country and even world population. Processes could be assessed for short, middle and long-term periods. It could involve esthetic solution as well. The present review involves the problem of medical prescriptions in Georgia, which is based on independent information sources, without participation of objects directly taking part in drug circulation. It provides objective information about one of the most important sectors in public health in the process of health assessment in Georgia.

**KEYWORDS:** *public health, health assessment, drug prescriptions, delivery, healthcare programs, insurance programs*

**H**ealth impact assessment is increasingly recognized as a potentially powerful tool in the achievement of multi sectoral action for greater equity in Health.

It has long been recognized that decisions in sectors such as education, agriculture, industry, transport, housing and finance, that is, decisions affecting the quality of people's lives, their lifestyles and options, can have far reaching effects on their health.

A health assessment may relate to a local, regional, country or even a global population and the impact may be assessed for the short, medium or long term. During the boundaries of the assessment may involve ethical decisions. Impacts on the local or national population may differ from those borne by neighboring populations.

In the present period of political, social and economic change, the need for an integrated approach to health and development, requiring action in many sectors becomes even more urgent.

Quite often the impact is caused through intermediate factors and through determinants of health, such as physical, social, economic and cultural environment or lifestyle and behavior. Health cannot be protected, sustained or promoted only by action of the health care sector. There is a need for considering and improving the impact of other sectors on the health of the population.

During the last decade, the awareness of the huge potential impacts on health of policies of many public and private sectors has increased rapidly. Sometimes, awareness is stimulated by crises such as the present

health crisis in many countries of the former Soviet Union resulting from social-economic development.

### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

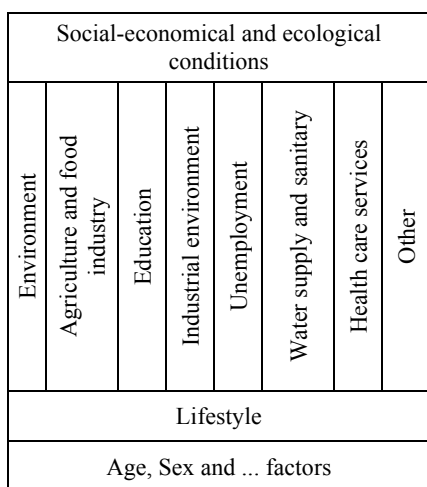
Methods of the study are complex and locally variable. The following steps are important:

- \* Create a common understanding of the basic concepts, and consensus on the definitions of the main terms used;
- \* Build on existing knowledge by reviewing and learning from related or similar evaluation and assessment processed and from existing models and methods of health impact assessment;
- \* Define possible principles and approaches to the implementation of health impact assessment
- \* Test and evaluate the results in pilot countries and regions, and revise the suggested approaches accordingly

### **RESULTS**

As known health conditions for human and society is considered by social-economical, natural and biological environment and factors regarding the health care system improvement

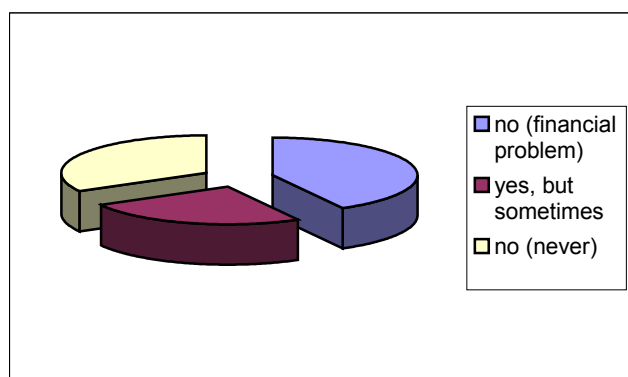
According to the documents of WHO - "Health 21 - Health for all in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" - the main determinate of health care are:



**Fig.1** Main Determinants of Health

Since 1998 critical factors of Georgia economy significantly decreased economical growth, that's why the poverty became deeper through over the country. The financial difficulties reflected on the population and their awareness in health care and visits to physicians as well.

According to the results: 42% of respondents are not able to visit physicians' consultations - the problem is heavy economical conditions; 25% of population tries to visit the clinics, but various conditions exists, 33% of respondents have personal consultants (among them 13% - with medical education, 20% have relatives or family members with high medical education).



**Fig.2** Frequency of visits to physicians.

Sometimes there are the main reasons why respondents get the medicines themselves with recommendation of others or follow the advertisements without consulting the physician.

As the above was mentioned some part of population tries to visit physician, but various factors were existed. We would like to mention that important thing was shown:

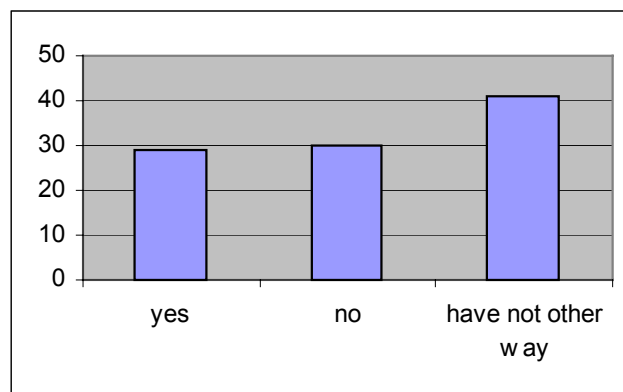
Name of program	2000	2001	Absol. Increase	Increase %
Healthcare programs (total)	48,0	58,2	10,2	21,3
Public healthcare programs	5,6	12,7	7,1	126,8
Other healthcare programs	3,2	4,4	1,2	37,5
State Medical insurance programs	239,2	41,1	1,9	4,8

**Tab.1** Health care system financing planning indicators.

According the social investigation of respondents: 29% - trust the doctors' prescriptions, 30% - the answer is negative, 41% - they have not other way.

Thus, health research is a process for generating systematic knowledge and for testing hypotheses, within the domain of medical and natural sciences, as well as social sciences including economics and behavioral science. The information resulting form this process can be used to improve the health of individuals or groups.

In 2001 healthcare state program of financing planning indicator since 2000 year was increased by 21,3% (from 48,0 mln lari to 58,2 mln lari), among them - public health programs - 126,8%, other healthcare programs financing increased by 37,5%.



**Fig.3** Percentage of implemented drug prescriptions by physicians in Georgia.

Health impact assessment is essential to improve the design and implementation of health interventions, policies and health service delivery. It's evident that the 1990s have been a worldwide increase in funding

for health research and a transition of donors. Yet, in order to improve the health of the majority of the world's population, research must be targeted to solving the problems of greatest importance worldwide now and in the future. Thus research funds must be rationally allocated in order to:

\* Develop new and improved technologies to address the diseases and conditions of greatest magnitude.

\* Improve the delivery of and accessibility to health care.

\* Address the cross-sectoral issues relevant to improved health.

Therefore, essential that information on health research funding on a disaggregated basis be collected and disseminated.

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## **Оценка здоровья и проблемы врачебных предписаний в Грузии**

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### **Р Е З Ю М Е**

Оценка здоровья - потенциально мощный инструмент для понимания проблем и достижения прогресса в здравоохранении. В период современных политических и социально-экономических перемен в Грузии потребность в комплексном подходе к оценке здоровья населения возрастает. Оценка здоровья может касаться отдельного гражданина, всей страны, или даже глобально – населения земли. Процессы могут быть оценены для короткого, среднего или долгосрочного периода. Оценка может вовлечь и этические решения. Настоящий обзор охватывает проблему врачебных предписаний в Грузии и основывается на информацию независимых источников без участия объектов непосредственно принимающих участие в обращении медикаментозных препаратов. Это дает максимально объективную картину о состоянии дел в одном из важнейших секторов здравоохранения при оценке здоровья в Грузии.

**КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА:** *здравоохранение, оценка здоровья, врачебные предписания, поставка, программы здравоохранения, программы страхования*