

AP



General data

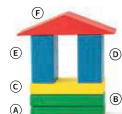
POPULATION, 2023
9,816
SURFACE, KM², 2022
30
PHYSICIANS / 1,000 INH, 2022
1,261

Socioeconomic data

COUNTRY INCOME LEVEL, 2022
Upper-middle
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX RANKING, 2021
130
GDP PER CAPITA (US\$), 2023
6344,78
HEALTH EXPENDITURE (% GDP), 2021
19,97
UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE, 2021
52



WHO FRAMEWORK FOR PALLIATIVE CARE DEVELOPMENT



- Ⓐ EMPOWERMENT OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES
- Ⓑ POLICIES
- Ⓒ RESEARCH
- Ⓓ USE OF ESSENTIAL MEDICINES
- Ⓔ EDUCATION AND TRAINING
- Ⓕ PROVISION OF PC



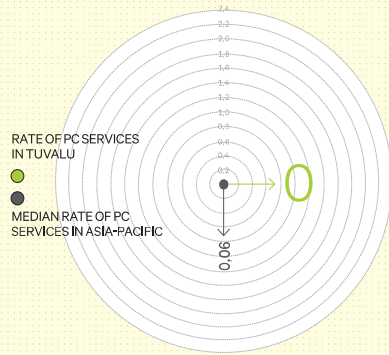
Tuvalu

F Provision of PC (Specialized Services)

Total number of Specialized PC services **0**

Rate of PC services per 100,000 inhabitants **0**

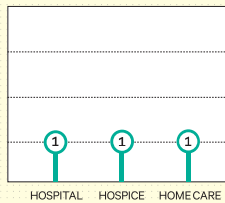
Tuvalu in the context of Asia-Pacific regions



Geographic distribution and integration of PC services



Level of development of different types of PC services



Pediatric PC Services

LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT **1**

TOTAL NUMBER

0

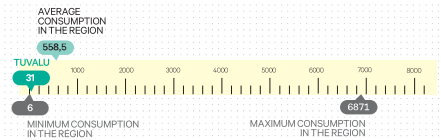
AP

Tuvalu

D Use of essential medicines

Opioids consumption (excluding methadone) **31**
S-DDD/MILL INHABITANTS/DAY

Tuvalu in the context of Asia-Pacific regions



Overall availability of essential medicines for pain and PC at the primary level



General availability of immediate-release oral morphine at the primary level



C Research

PC-related research articles **2**

Existence of PC congresses or scientific meetings **2**



National Association: -
Consultants: -

Data collected: June-September 2024.
Report validated by consultants: October - November 2024
Report sponsored by National Association: N/A
Edited by Atlantes Research Team University of Navarra (Spain)

E Education & Training

Medical schools with mandatory PC teaching **0/0**

Nursing schools with mandatory PC teaching **0/0**

Recognition of PC specialty **1**

B Policies

National PC plan or strategy **1**

Responsible authority for PC in the Ministry of Health **1**

Inclusion of PC in the basic health package at the primary care level **1**



A Empowerment of people and communities

Groups promoting the rights of PC patients **1**



Advanced care planning-related policies **1**

AP Tuvalu

People & Communities





<p>Ind1</p> <p>Existence of groups dedicated to promoting the rights of patients in need of PC, their caregivers, and disease survivors.</p>	 <p>Only isolated activity can be detected.</p>	<p>Currently, there is no evidence available about the existence of specific groups in Tuvalu dedicated to promoting the rights of patients in need of palliative care, their caregivers, or disease survivors. Patients requiring specialized care are often referred to facilities in other countries, such as Fiji or New Zealand, through patient referral schemes.</p>
<p>Ind2</p> <p>Is there a national policy or guideline on advance directives or advance care planning?</p>	 <p>There is no national policy or guideline on advance care planning.</p>	<p>Currently, there is no evidence available about a national policy or guideline on advance directives or advance care planning in Tuvalu.</p>

Policies

<p>Ind3</p> <p>3.1. There is a current national PC plan, programme, policy, or strategy.</p>	 <p>Not known or does not exist.</p>	<p>The National Health Reform Strategy 2016–2019 and the National Non-Communicable Disease Strategic Plan 2017–2021 do not specifically address palliative care services. Additionally, the National Health Strategic Plan for 2020–2024 focuses on strengthening health systems and service delivery but does not include specific provisions for palliative care. This suggests that, currently, there is no formalized national framework for palliative care in Tuvalu.</p>
<p>3.2. The national palliative care plan (or programme or strategy or legislation) is a standalone.</p>	 <p>Not known or does not exist neither standalone nor is included in another national plan.</p>	

AP Tuvalu

Policies

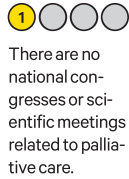
<p>3.3. There are indicators in the national plan to monitor and evaluate progress, with measurable targets.</p>	 <p>Not known or does not exist.</p>	
<p>Ind4</p> <p>PC services are included in the list of priority services for Universal Health Coverage at the primary care level in the national health system.</p>	 <p>Not at all.</p>	<p>Palliative care services are not explicitly listed as priority services for Universal Health Coverage (UHC) at the primary care level in Tuvalu's national health system. The National Health Reform Strategy 2016–2019 focuses on strengthening health management and service delivery but does not specifically mention palliative care. While Tuvalu's healthcare system provides free primary and preventive care, including medication and hospital stays, there is no evidence that palliative care is prioritized within primary healthcare services.</p>
<p>Ind5</p> <p>5.1. Is there a national authority for palliative care within the government or the Ministry of Health?</p>	 <p>There is no authority defined.</p>	<p>The healthcare system in Tuvalu is overseen by the Ministry of Health, which manages general health services and public health policies. However, the Ministry does not have a dedicated department or unit specifically focused on palliative care services, nor does it allocate a specific budget or staff for such services.</p>
<p>5.2. The national authority has concrete functions, budget and staff.</p>	 <p>Does not have concrete functions or resources (budget, staff, etc.)</p>	

AP Tuvalu

Research

Ind6

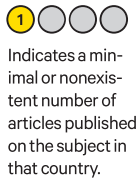
Existence of congresses or scientific meetings at the national level specifically related to PC.



No evidence available about any national-level congresses or scientific meetings in Tuvalu specifically focused on palliative care.

Ind7

Estimation of the level of peer-reviewed articles focusing on PC research published in any language in the past 5 years with at least one author from the country.



Medicines

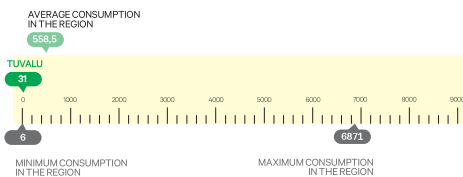
Ind8

Reported annual opioid consumption –excluding methadone– in S-DDD per million inhabitants per day.

Average consumption of opioids, in defined daily doses (S-DDD) for statistical purposes per million inhabitants per day, 2020–2022: 31 S-DDD



COUNTRY VS REGION

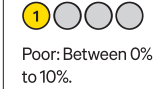


AP Tuvalu

Medicines

Ind9

9.1. Percentage of health facilities at the primary care level in urban areas that have pain and palliative care medications as defined in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines.



In Tuvalu, the healthcare system is entirely public, with the Princess Margaret Hospital in Funafuti serving as the main facility and eight medical centers on the outer islands staffed by nurses. The Tuvalu Standard Treatment Guidelines 2010 include the essential drugs list and their availability. While basic medicines such as paracetamol and ibuprofen are generally accessible at the primary healthcare (PHC) level, stronger pain and palliative care medications, such as morphine, are not indicated as available in the essential drugs list, either in Funafuti or on the outer islands. This highlights the limited and uneven access to these critical medications. Additional challenges, include resource constraints, geographic isolation, and inconsistent supply chains. Ongoing efforts, such as regular updates to the Essential Drug List and improved management of medication supplies, aim to bridge these gaps.

9.2. Percentage of health facilities at the primary care level in rural areas that have pain and palliative care medications as defined in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines.



Ind10

10.1. Percentage of health facilities at the primary care level in urban areas that have immediate-release oral morphine (liquid or tablet).



In Tuvalu, the healthcare system is entirely public, with the Princess Margaret Hospital in Funafuti serving as the main facility and eight medical centers on the outer islands staffed by nurses. The Tuvalu Standard Treatment Guidelines 2010 include the essential drugs list and their availability. While basic medicines such as paracetamol and ibuprofen are generally accessible at the primary healthcare (PHC) level, stronger pain and palliative care medications, such as morphine, are not indicated as available in the essential drugs list, either in Funafuti or on the outer islands. This highlights the limited and uneven access to these critical medications. Additional challenges, include resource constraints, geographic isolation, and inconsistent supply chains. Ongoing efforts, such as regular updates to the Essential Drug List and improved management of medication supplies, aim to bridge these gaps.

10.2. Percentage of health facilities at the primary care level in rural areas that have immediate-release oral morphine (liquid or tablet).



AP Tuvalu

Education & Training

Ind11

11.1. The proportion of medical schools with **COMPULSORY** teaching in PC (with or without other optional teaching) over the total number of medical schools in the country

0/0



Tuvalu does not have medical schools, so aspiring medical students pursue education abroad, often in Fiji, New Zealand, or other countries. With no local medical training institutions, Tuvalu depends on foreign-trained professionals to meet its healthcare needs. Similarly, the country lacks a dedicated nursing school, and aspiring nurses typically train in neighboring countries like Fiji or Samoa. To support nursing education, the Tuvalu Department of Health provides limited scholarships and, in 2021, partnered to expand educational opportunities. The Ministry of Health has also collaborated with the Fiji School of Nursing to deliver in-country Certificate in Enrolled Nursing programs, enhancing workforce capacity.

11.2. The proportion of medical schools with **OPTIONAL** teaching in PC...

0/0

11.3. The proportion of nursing schools with **COMPULSORY** teaching in PC (with or without other optional teaching) over the total number of nursing schools in the country.

0/0

11.4. The proportion of nursing schools with **OPTIONAL** teaching in PC...

0/0

Ind12

12. Existence of an official specialisation process in palliative medicine for physicians, recognised by the competent authority in the country.



There is no process on specialization for palliative care physicians.

AP Tuvalu

Provision of PC / Services

Ind13

13.1. There is a system of specialized PC services or teams in the country that has a **GEOGRAPHIC** reach and is delivered through different service delivery platforms.



No or minimal provision of palliative care specialized services or teams exist in the country.

13.2. Are available in **HOSPITALS** (public or private), such as hospital PC teams (consultation teams), and PC units (with beds), to name a few examples.



Not at all.

13.3. Free-standing **HOSPICES** (including hospices with inpatient beds).



Not at all.

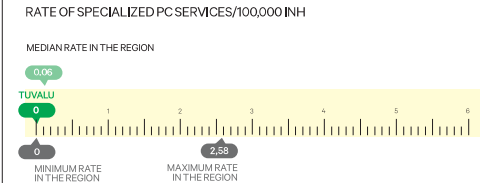
13.4. **HOME CARE** teams (specialized in PC) are available in the community (or at the primary Healthcare level), as independent services or linked with hospitals or hospices.



Not at all.

13.5. Please enter the total number of specialized PC services or teams in the country.

Tuvalu's healthcare system is entirely public, with the Princess Margaret Hospital in Funafuti as the main facility, supported by two health clinics on Funafuti and eight health centers on outer islands staffed by nurses providing primary and preventive care. Advanced clinical care is not available locally, and patients requiring specialized treatments must rely on the Tuvalu Overseas Medical Referral Scheme, which refers patients to overseas hospitals. Challenges such as limited staff, frequent medicine stock-outs, and inadequate medical equipment hinder healthcare delivery. Efforts are underway to enhance the capacity of local health clinics to provide essential primary care and improve access to services. However, Tuvalu lacks a formal system of specialized palliative care services or teams with geographic reach.



Ind14

14.1. There is a system of specialized PC services or teams for **children** in the country that has geographic reach and is delivered through different service delivery platforms.



No or minimal provision of palliative care specialized services or teams for children exists in country.

14.2. Please enter the total number of pediatric specialized PC services or teams in the country.



PPC TEAMS