

**Afghanistan Hypertension Fact Sheet**

**BURDEN OF HYPERTENSION (2018)**

- 29.5% of the adult population have hypertension
- 5.3 million people with hypertension do not have it under control

**2018 TOTAL POPULATION: 37 171 922**

**Estimated number with hypertension**

- **Aware (diagnosed):** 5.3 m
- **Under treatment:** 3.2 m
- **Controlled:** 2.8 m

**Age range**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age range</th>
<th>% of the population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-29</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-44</td>
<td>27.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44-69</td>
<td>50.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NATIONAL SYSTEMS RESPONSE (2019)**

- Availability of a policy to reduce population salt/sodium consumption
- Number of essential hypertension-related medicines* reported as “generally available”
- Blood pressure measurement reported as “generally available” in primary health care facilities of the public sector

**NATIONAL TARGETS**

- **RAISED BLOOD PRESSURE** [no target]
- **SALT CONSUMPTION** [no target]

**WHO RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HYPERTENSION PREVENTION AND CONTROL**

- Address population prevalence of hypertension through reducing modifiable risk factors such as unhealthy diets (excessive salt consumption, high in saturated fat and trans fats, low intake of fruits and vegetables), physical inactivity, consumption of tobacco and alcohol, and being overweight or obese. WHO MPOWER, ACTIVE, SHAKE, REPLACE and HEARTS technical packages** can help in this.
- Address hypertension control (WHO HEARTS technical package):
  - Improve and expand identification and treatment (using evidence based protocols) of people with hypertension
  - Treatment intensification for patients whose blood pressure isn’t controlled and ensuring access to medicines
  - Track blood pressure control rates in clinical settings and measure population prevalence.

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* Essential hypertension-related medicines are Thiazide Diuretics, ACE Inhibitors, Angiotensin II receptor blockers (ARBs), Calcium channel Blockers and Beta Blockers.

# Afghanistan Hypertension Fact Sheet

## Trends in Uncontrolled Hypertension Prevalence in Adults Aged 18+<sup>4</sup>

The prevalence of uncontrolled hypertension has increased over time.

### Hypertension Cascade by Age and Sex (2018)<sup>1,2</sup>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Males [N in 100 000 (%)]</th>
<th>Females [N in 100 000 (%)]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18-69</td>
<td>18-29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>With hypertension</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24.6</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(26.6)</td>
<td>(19.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aware (diagnosed)</strong></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(48.6)</td>
<td>(54.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Under treatment</strong></td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(41.2)</td>
<td>(48.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Controlled</strong></td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(17)</td>
<td>(30.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Definitions*<sup>2</sup>

**Population with hypertension**

People who:

- Have systolic blood pressure (SBP) of ≥ 140 mmHg (mean of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> measurements), AND/OR
- Have diastolic blood pressure (DBP) of ≥ 90 mmHg (mean of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> measurements), AND/OR
- Have been told by a doctor or other health worker that they have raised blood pressure or hypertension AND been treated for raised blood pressure with medication prescribed by a doctor or other health worker in the past two weeks.

**Aware (diagnosed)**

People who:

- Meet the definition of population with hypertension, AND
- Have been told by a doctor or other health worker that they have raised blood pressure or hypertension

**Under treatment**

People who:

- Meet the definition of population with hypertension, AND
- Have been told by a doctor or other health worker that they have raised blood pressure or hypertension AND been treated for raised blood pressure with medication prescribed by a doctor or other health worker in the past two weeks.

**Controlled**

People who:

- Have SBP of < 140 mmHg (mean of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> measurements), AND
- Have DBP of < 90 mmHg (mean of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> measurements), AND
- Have been told by a doctor or other health worker that they have raised blood pressure or hypertension AND been treated for raised blood pressure with medication prescribed by a doctor or other health worker in the past two weeks.

* Percentages for Aware (Diagnosed), Under Treatment and Controlled reflect the percentage of the population with hypertension in each of these categories.

### Data sources:

1. Prevalence and hypertension cascade data are from the Afghanistan 2018 STEPwise approach to noncommunicable disease risk factor surveillance (STEPS) survey. [https://extranet.who.int/ncdsmicrodata/](https://extranet.who.int/ncdsmicrodata/)
3. National systems response data is from the 2019 National County Capacity Survey for NCDs.
4. Trend data for hypertension are from the Global Health Observatory data repository comparable age-standardized estimates of raised blood pressure (SBP ≥ 140 OR DBP ≥ 90) [accessed February 2020]. [https://www.who.int/data/gho](https://www.who.int/data/gho)

### Acknowledgement:

Production of this WHO document has been supported by a grant from Resolve to Save Lives, an initiative of Vital Strategies.