



Government's Efforts for Rural Healthcare

According to the latest bulletin of the [Sample Registration System](#), government's efforts to provide better healthcare to people in rural areas seem to have resulted in them tapping the formal healthcare infrastructure more.

Effect of Better Healthcare Services on Rural Lives

- **Fewer children are dying at birth** not just in urban areas but also in rural regions.
- The **infant mortality rate**, widely accepted as a crude indicator of the health scenario of a country, fell from 58% (infant deaths per 1,000 live births) in 2008 to 37% in 2017 in rural areas, while birth rate (total number of live births per 1,000 in a population in a year) came down to 21.8% from 24.4% during the same period in those areas.
- **Death rate declined during the decade of 2007-2017.**
- The rate of decline in these years has been higher in rural areas (around 14.5%) than in urban areas (10.5%).

Situation of Rural Healthcare

- The latest data on live births, infant mortality and deaths suggests **more people in rural areas are visiting doctors** than ever before at private and government clinics/hospitals.
- The percentage of live births where the mother received medical attention at delivery either at a government or private hospital rose from **73.1 in 2012 to 81.9 in 2017** at the all-India level.
- Similarly, 47% got attention before their death in 2017, up from 34.6% in 2012. In both events, birth and death, all the 22 states surveyed showed an improvement from the previous time.
- On healthcare indicators **Nagaland fares the best**, with the lowest death rate and the lowest birth rate.
- The death rate in 29 states and in Delhi for 2017 ranges from 3.6% in Nagaland to 7.5% in Chhattisgarh.
- **Nagaland scores well on birth rates**, too, sharing the fifth spot with Chandigarh at 13.5%.
 - The health indicators of its rural areas are good as well, with the birth rate at 14% against an all-India rural average of 21.8% and the death rate at 4.2% versus 6.9%. The IMR in its rural areas is 7%.

GDP Spent on Healthcare

- At **1.4% of GDP**, India spends among the least on healthcare.
- The Centre aims to raise it to **2.5% by 2025**.
- The **National Health Policy 2017 seeks** to hike states' health spending to over 8%.
- The Centre has made an outlay of ₹64,999 crore for health in FY20, **16% higher than the FY19** revised estimates.
 - Of this, ₹33,651 crore is set aside for the government's flagship scheme, the National Health Mission.

Source: Mint

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