

Nauru 2012/2013 HIES Health



HEALTH



Executive Summary

AUD13

average annual
expenditure on
health

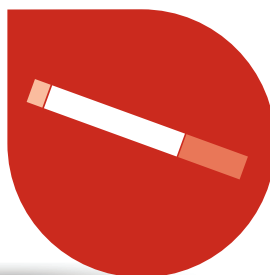


AUD86

typical Nauruans
household
expenditure on
alcohol

12.9%

of individuals
reported having
ongoing health
problems



AUD575

spent by
Nauruans on
tobacco

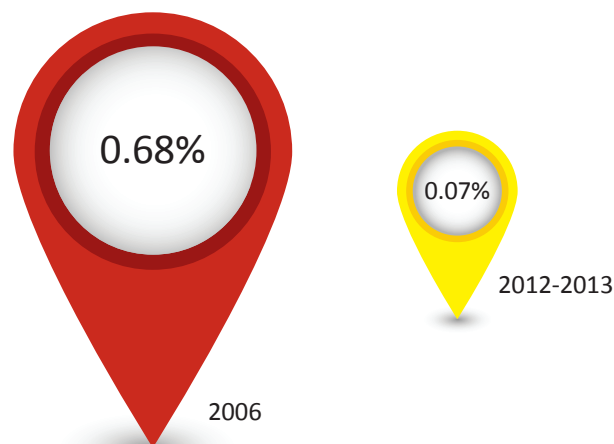
Introduction

This fact sheet will be summarising some of the Health information results based on the HIES conducted in 2012/13. Although Health services on island are provided free of charge to locals, what will be captured will be over the counter medicines like Panadol etc. In effect, the limited economics and monetary expenditure on household has limited thorough economic analysis. Some other useful and updated information for health can be derived for users mainly based on frequencies. Some of the key outputs relating to the health sector that might be more important for users will be the characteristics of chronic illnesses, health delivery services, tobacco usage and alcohol consumption.

The high prevalence of health related issues that is accounted for in Nauru makes this area one of the main topics of interest for decision makers in managing healthcare. There has been much development within the health sector in ensuring the delivery of health services is well maintained and one of those is ensuring that it is supported by utilising timely and reliable information.

As stated previously, the trend for free medical services in Nauru does not have any significant impact for households spending patterns on health therefore the decreasing weight by 10% between the HIES in 2006 and 2013 does not post any negative impact to the importance of health.

Chart 1: Anticipated decrease in health weight in the CPI



Health Expenditure Analysis

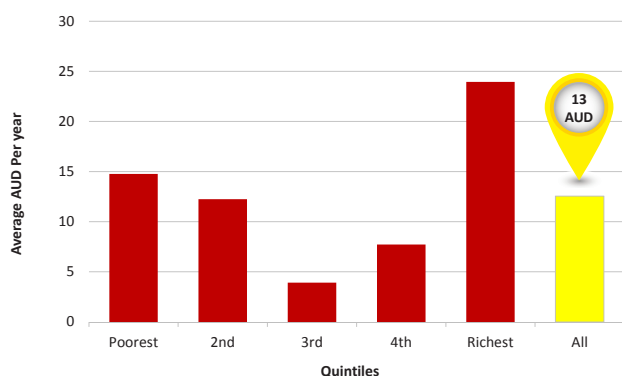
At the time of the survey the overall spending of Nauruan households on health related goods and services was 0.06 per cent or \$ 21,389 annually as evident in Table 1 in comparison to the other sectors. Medical products and hospital services formed the overall expenditure of a typical household on health expenditure with 69 and 31 per cent respectively.

Chart 2 shows that a typical Nauruan household spend on average **\$13** per year on health with the richest households spending around \$24 mostly for medical products. Similarly the poorest households also spend an estimated \$15 per year particularly for non-prescribed medical products which is commonly purchased in local shops, outside the free issuance of the hospital pharmacy.

Table 1: Percentage of expenditure on health

Sector	Expenditure	%
Health	\$ 21,389	0.06
Other	\$ 35,256,280	99.94
All sources	\$ 35,277,669	100

Chart 2: Average Annual expenditure by income quintile (AUD)



Despite the quintiles, the typical household expenditure for the two main goods and services collected for health is accounted to **\$9** for medical products and **\$4** for hospital services annually (Chart 3). With free health services, the monetary analysis is limited therefore it's not appropriate for Nauru due to the insignificant data.

Chart 3: Average Annual HH Expenditure on Health (AUD)

Hospital Services	Medical Products
3.92 AUD	8.63 AUD

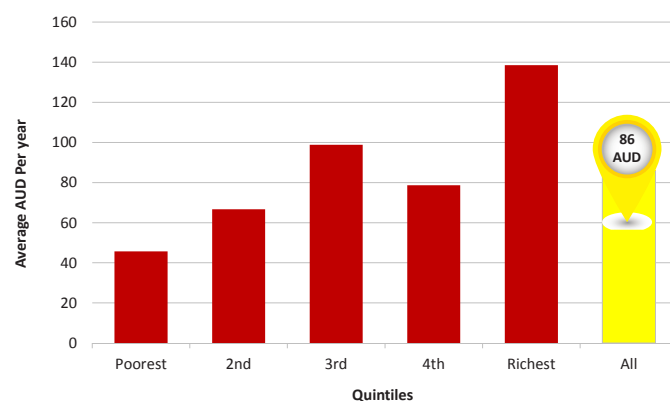
Alcohol & Tobacco Section

As a proxy measure to possible health related illnesses the expenditures for life style consumption of Alcohol and Tobacco usage is also considered. In theory the excessive use or consumption

of Alcohol and Tobacco will significantly impact individual health whereby households spending more on this goods are more likely of getting sick from non-communicable disease.

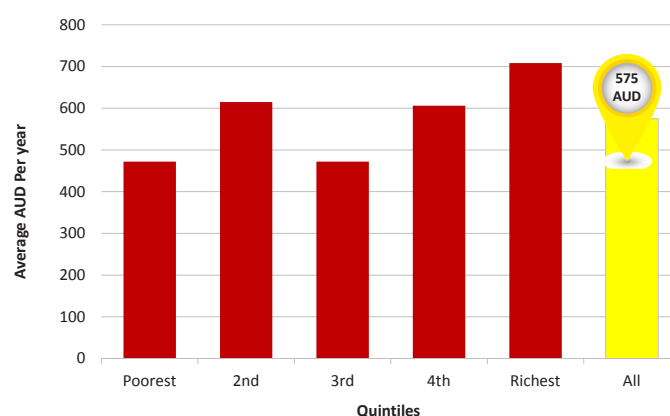
According to the HIES, a typical household spends around **\$86** on Alcohol annually and as expected the richest households spending around \$139 while the poorest at \$46. Apparently Tobacco usage in the 5 quintile levels is much higher and doesn't differ significantly with the typical household spending around **\$575** annually (Chart 4). The richest households spending about \$708 while the poorest around \$472 annually indicating a high prevalence of tobacco users despite their wealth status (Chart 5). These values are much smaller than expected due to the fact that households are adamant in reporting their expenditure on alcohol and tobacco.

Chart 4: Average Alcohol consumption by wealth quintiles



Note: Alcohol consumption is well under reported in the HIES diary due to household reluctant to fully record their expenditure.

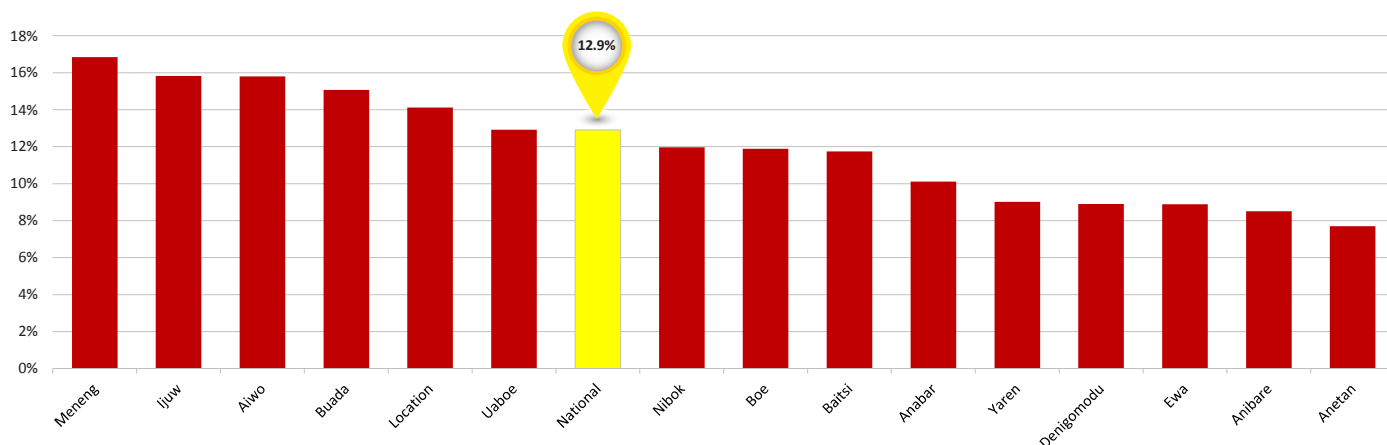
Chart 5: Average tobacco usage by income quintiles



Health Status Section

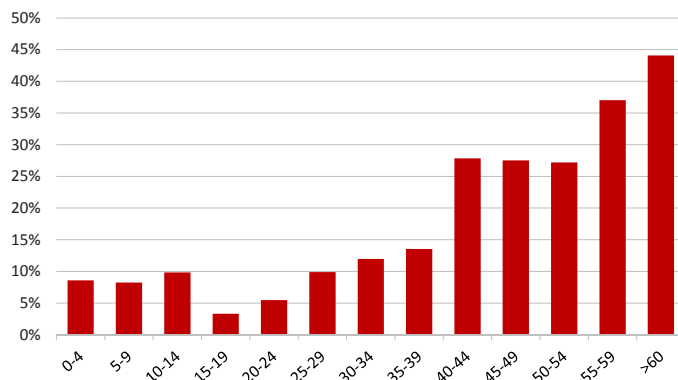
During the survey approximately **12.9 per cent** of individuals reported having ongoing health problems over the last 12 months prior to being interviewed to the survey. The people in Meneng district recorded the highest incidence with an estimated 241 people or 16.9 per cent. The people of Anetan reported the smallest incidence with an estimated 56 people having chronic illnesses or 7.7 per cent (Chart 7).

Chart 7: Percentage of individuals reporting having ongoing health problems by district



When the ongoing health problems is analysed by 5 year age group it is obvious that the oldest age group 60+ years reported the highest incidence with around 44.1 per cent or an estimated 135 individuals having any form of chronic illness (Chart 8). While the 15 – 19 year age group recorded the lowest incidence of 3.3 per cent or around 31 individuals.

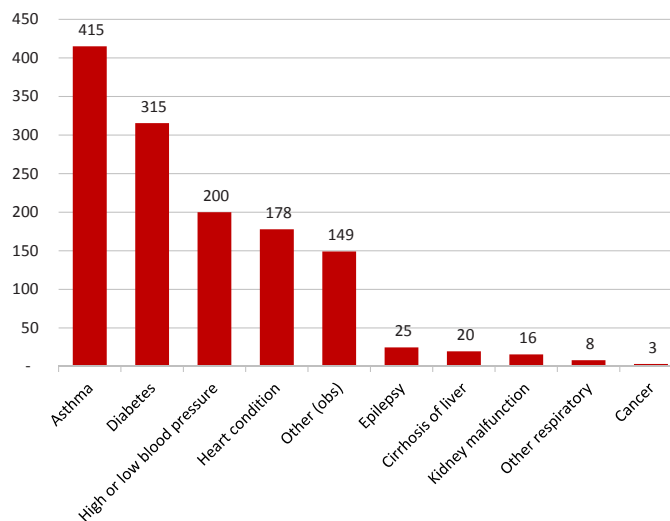
Chart 8: Percentage of individuals reporting having ongoing health problems by 5 year age group



According to the HIES the most common chronic illness in Nauru is Asthma with 31.2 per cent incidences or an estimated 415 sufferers while cancer reported the lowest incidence of 0.2 per cent. Asthma, diabetes and high or low blood pressure

are the top 3 chronic illnesses reported in the survey (Chart 9). Out of the people who have reported suffering from Asthma an estimated 186 individuals or 44.9 per cent have reported suffering for more than 5 years prior to being interviewed.

Chart 9: Percentage of individuals by chronic illness by 5 year age group



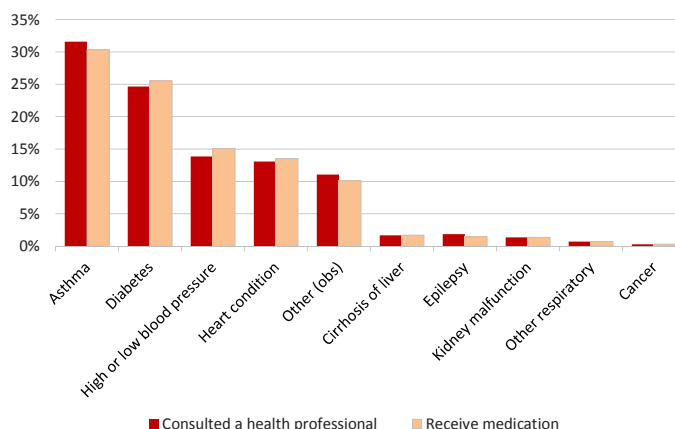
Similarly out of the 315 people with diabetes, 219 people or 69.4 percent have reported to having the chronic illness for more than 5 years (Table 2). Likewise to the people suffering from high or low blood pressure where a majority, 67.6 per cent have reported suffering for more than 5 years as well.

Table 2 Period when chronic illness started

	< 1 year	1 - 5 years	more than 5 years	Not stated	Grand Total
Asthma	99	130	186		415
Cancer		3			3
Cirrhosis of liver	3		17		20
Diabetes	53	44	219		315
Epilepsy			25		25
Heart condition	28	20	130		178
High or low blood pressure	7	58	135		200
Kidney malfunction		2	13		16
Other (obs)	20	32	97		149
Other respiratory	6		2		8
Not stated				8,965	8,965
Grand Total	216	290	823	8,965	10,293

When people consult medical professional for their chronic illnesses they tend to get medication as well from their consultation (Chart10). This is slightly different with people with asthma, other chronic illnesses and epilepsy where small proportions tend to only consult with medical professionals and not get any medication. This is evident to 1.3 per cent of asthmatic patients, 1.0 per cent for other chronic patients and 0.4 per cent of epileptic patients who didn't receive medications.

Chart 10: Percentage of health professional consulted whether receive medication



In the survey household were also asked if they had any other health complaints in the last 3 months at the time when they were interviewed. As expected, children from the 0 – 4 age group reported the highest incidence with a third of the

population or 28.1 per cent. The most commonly reported symptom is cold and flu with 50.1 per cent then followed by fever with 16.0 per cent.

Within the 3 months recall period, respondents were also asked what reason why they didn't go to a public health facility to get medical attention (Chart 11, 12 and 13). A majority reported other as the main reason with 2.7 per cent. As anticipated, long waiting queues is the second highest with 0.53 per cent followed by relative works at facility at 0.34 per cent.

Chart 11: Percentage of other health complaints over last 3 months by 5 year age group

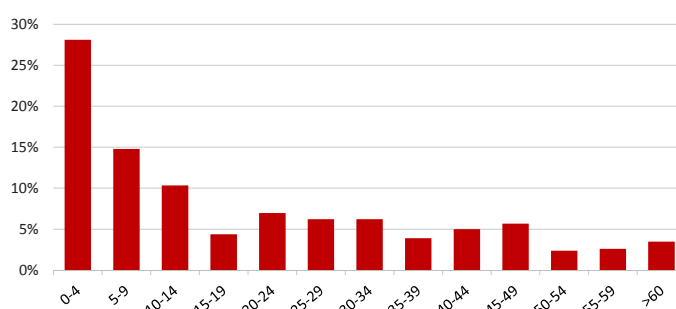


Chart 12: Main health complaints over last 3 months

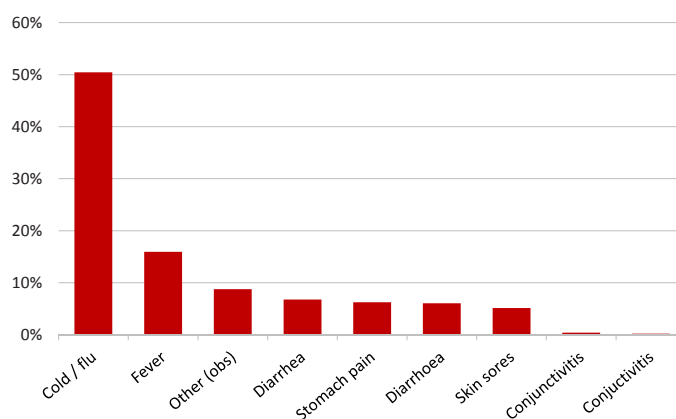


Chart 13: Percentage that didn't go to a public health facility by main reason

