CHILDREN AND DISABILITY IN AZERBAIJAN

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CHILDREN and DISABILITY in AZERBAIJAN

Baku – 2002

*The ocean of social contradiction washes away majority of children as the soil and puts them down to the end of the society*
Introduction

Invalids in the Azerbaijan Republic have all free social and economic, political, personal rights and freedoms indicated in declaration on rights of invalids adopted by the United Nation’s General Assembly, Constitution of the Azerbaijan Republic, and in this Law and other legislative acts. It is prohibited that have a discrimination with respect to invalids and it is persecuted by the law.

INVALID is a person with limited life activity emerged in the result of mental or physical defects entailed by the result of congenital diseases or injuries and who is in need of social assistance and security.

Restriction of the life activity of an invalid person is reflected in difficulties on self-service, moving, control over communication and behavior, loosing completely or partly possibility to be engaged in labour activity.

A person is considered as disabled after being examined by the personal medical social expert commission and obtaining a relevant opinion.

Opinion of the medical-social expert commission is an official document confirming disability group and reasons, as well as personal rehabilitation program.

Invalid person is provided by the relevant card the example of which is confirmed by the appropriate executive authority of the Azerbaijan Republic.

Preventing the disability and state policy in the field of disabled persons’ rehabilitation is carried out by the state program, which provides creation and development of rehabilitation.

According to the state programs on preventing the disability and state policy in the field of disabled persons’ rehabilitation, the corresponding bodies of executive authority in the framework of their responsibility and with participation of representatives of invalids’ public organizations prepare and realize these programs through the system of actions to be taken.

For the purpose of earlier detection of mental development defects, disorder of sense organs and moving functions of children the health institutions provide examination and regular medical check-up of all children under 1 year in specialized child diagnostics centers and children’s polyclinics.

Necessary medical, pedagogical, psychological and other aid for children with mental and physical defects is rendered by the government. Methods, forms, volume and duration of such kind of aid is defined in private rehabilitation program.

Government guarantees creation of necessary conditions for receiving of education and professional training of disabled persons.

According to the Legislation of the Azerbaijan Republic and private rehabilitation program the corresponding bodies of executive authorities provide disabled children and teenagers with secondary, vocational, secondary specialized and higher education.

Education and vocational training of invalids is carried out by different forms, including training at home and private training plans.

Government also guarantees the preparation of pedagogical staff for vocational training of disabled persons.

For the purposes of creation of more advantageous opportunities on rendering of rehabilitation aid for preschool aged disabled children and their upbringing, there were established special groups in general preschool educational institutions by corresponding bodies of executive authority.

Special preschool training institutions for mentally and physically retarded children who couldn’t attend general preschool educational institutions are also organized.

Education of disabled children who do not have opportunities for training in general educational schools is organized at home by their and parents wish.

Corresponding bodies of executive authority create necessary conditions for training of disabled children at home.
According to the legislation of the Azerbaijan Republic compensation and benefits to parents of disabled children who involved in training at home are given. Time of service for such invalid is included in length of service.

Such kind of educational institutions render an assistance to parents in upbringing of children at home.

For the purpose of overall development of disabled children and involving of them in labour, science, techniques, art and sport the corresponding bodies of executive authority have to provide them with necessary conditions.

Secondary, vocational and higher education of disabled children is realized in educational institutions of general type or, if necessary, in specialized educational institutions.

There are organized specialized faculties or sections in vocational, technical and higher schools for disabled persons with the aim of providing of invalids with special condition for education.

Studies are also organized for disabled children, who had received treatment in stationary preventive or rehabilitation institutions.

Talented disabled children have a right for free of charge receiving of musical education, fine arts in general educational institutions or special out-off-school educational institutions.

Necessary conditions for taking examinations on admission to higher educational institution are created.

During the period of education the pensions and fellowships are fully paid.

Disabled students of first and second group receive addition to the fellowship and also compensation in the amount of 50% of fellowship.

Stationary institutions provide the continuous upbringing and training for disabled children who permanently reside there.

**Demographic situation**

Azerbaijan Republic is situated in eastern part of the South Caucuses on the coast of Caspian Sea. Territory of the country is 86,6 thousand. sq. m. Population size of Azerbaijan Republic to the end of the 2001 made 8 million 141 thousand person, of which 4 million 130 thousand or 51% - urban population and 4 million 11 thousand or 49% - rural population.

Average annual population increase during the last ten years made 82 thousand person against 102 thousand person at last decade.

Age and sex structure of country population is characterized as follows: 3 million 989 thousand or 49% - men and 4 million 152 thousand or 51% - women; specific gravity of persons at the age under 15 (0-14 years) made 29% (among men 30%, women – 27%), and at the age over 65 years – 6% (among men 5%, women – 7%).

Average population age makes 30 years.
Population size

For many years population increase of the country is realized at the expense of natural increase, namely birth. In 2001 in the country it were born 110,4 thousand infants, more 2/3 of which were born by mothers at the age of 20-29.

Number of born and fertility rate (per 1000 population)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>total</th>
<th>Number of born</th>
<th>Per 1000 population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>total</td>
<td>urban</td>
<td>rural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>183.0</td>
<td>86.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>190.3</td>
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<td>1992</td>
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<td>1993</td>
<td>174.6</td>
<td>81.8</td>
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<td>1994</td>
<td>159.8</td>
<td>74.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>143.3</td>
<td>65.0</td>
<td>78.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>129.2</td>
<td>55.6</td>
<td>73.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>132.0</td>
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<td>117.0</td>
<td>67.3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>110.4</td>
<td>49.7</td>
<td>60.7</td>
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</table>
Last years in connection with peculiarity of socio-demographic and economic situation there is observed the decline of birth level, which in comparison with 1990 was decreased for 46,7% (from 25,9% of born to 13,8% per 1000 population).

At present there are in average two born children per woman during her life (in 1958-1959 – five children). If ten years ago the specific gravity of children born as third and over, made 31%, that today only 23%.

Number of women at fertile age reaches to 2 million 362 thousand person.

Marital state also has an important influence on birth. In 2001 it was contracted 41.9 thousand marriages and dissolved 5,4 thousand marriages, i.e. there were 5,2 marriages and 0,7 divorces per 1000 population against respectively 10,4 and 2,0 in 1990. On the results of last population census about 1 million 746 thousand or 43% of women at the age of 16 and over are married.

In 2001 number of illegitimate children made 7,3 thousand against 4,8 thousand in 1990.

The data on number of illegitimate children by age of the mother are below indicated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2001</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4800</td>
<td>7318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Including by age</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 20</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>1183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-24</td>
<td>1577</td>
<td>2963</td>
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<tr>
<td>25-29</td>
<td>1303</td>
<td>1640</td>
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<tr>
<td>30-34</td>
<td>827</td>
<td>906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-39</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-44</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-49</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-54</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>55+</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2001 in the result of divorces about 3,3 thousand children lost one of their parents.
In republic the death is characterized by respectively low and stable level: in 1990 and 2001 it had died accordingly 42,8 thousand and 45,3 thousand person. Nevertheless, in 1993 it was registered 52,8 thousand cases of death, which made 7,2 in counting per 1000 population against 6,1 in 1990 and 5,7 in 2001.

Numerous human sacrifices registered 7 years ago, are the results of military aggression from the side of neighboring government influenced on death level.

As in many countries of the world, the main causes of death are diseases of circulatory system, neoplasm and respiratory system. In 2001 correspondingly 316,2; 68,3; 44,0 person in calculating per 100000 inhabitants had died of these diseases.

Death level is reflected on life expectancy indicator. In 2001 it made 71,9 years, including men – 68,6 and women – 75,2 against correspondingly 71,1; 67,0; 74,8 in 1990.

In formation of total death the significant role belongs to infant mortality.

### Infant mortality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Infant death under 1 year</th>
<th>Infant death under 1 year per 1000 birth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>total</td>
<td>urban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>4193</td>
<td>1656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>4749</td>
<td>1901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>4708</td>
<td>1669</td>
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<td>1996</td>
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<td>1998</td>
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<td>1999</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>1501</td>
<td>642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>1382</td>
<td>558</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
In 2001 infant mortality indicator was decreased to 12.5 against 23.0 in 1990. Sharp decrease of infant mortality level is partly explained by declining of birth level.

**Causes of infant mortality under 1 year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Causes of death</th>
<th>Infant death under 1 year</th>
<th>Death per 10 000 birth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant death under 1 year, total</td>
<td>1382</td>
<td>4193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Including death of:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of respiratory system</td>
<td>659</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infectious and parasitic diseases</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conditions originated in perinatal period</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congenital anomalies</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accidents, poisonings and injuries</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As before the main causes of infant mortality are diseases of respiratory system, infectious and parasitic diseases and also conditions originating in prenatal period, of which in 2001 it had dead infants under 1 year per 1000 births correspondingly 59.7 against 110.4; 13.5 against 49.5 and 26.3 against 35.3 in 1990.

Among children at the age under 5 years the death rate per 1000 births has decreased for 1.6 time (in 2001 25.4 against 40.5 – in 1990). For the analyzed period main causes of death among children at the age under 5 years are infectious and parasitic diseases, diseases of respiratory system and congenital anomalies.

In 2001 maternal mortality in calculating per 100 thousand births made 25 against 9 in 1990.

One of the factors prevented the population increase is migration. For 2001 7.3 thousand person had left and 2.6 thousand person had arrived.
Education level of population has considerably risen. On the data of 1999 population census there were 758 persons with high and complete secondary education per 1000 population at the age of 15 years and over.

During the population census it was also received data on number of illiterates at the age of 15 years and over, which were concentrated, in particular, on old ages and made 1.2% (i.e. literacy of population of country at the age of 15 years and over makes 98.8%, among men – 99.5%, among women – 98.2%).

On the results of last population census the national structure of population is characterized by following data: azerbaijanians – 90.6%, lezghins – 2.2%, russians – 1.8%, armenians – 1.5%, tallish – 1.0%, avars – 0.6%, turkish – 0.5%, tatars – 0.4%, ukrainians – 0.4%, chakhures – 0.2%, georgians – 0.2%, kürds – 0.2%, tats – 0.13%, jews – 0.1%, udins – 0.05% and other nationalities – 0.12%.

Specific gravity of population freely knowing native language as a whole by country made 99.2%. Among azerbaijanians this indicator makes 99.8%.

Events begun since 1988 had essential influence on demographic situation in Azerbaijan. Along with numerous human sacrifices and hostages the Armenian aggression had also brought to Azerbaijan more than 1 million of refugees and forced migrants, more than half of which are children and old peoples, and significant part of which lives in tents and uninhabitable places.

**Determinants of child disability and exclusion**

In market economy the social security of invalids and other disabled citizens, is one of the main problems settled by government of the country.

Disability is the limitation of possibilities based on physical, psychical, psychological, legislative and other barriers, which don’t allow disabled persons be integrated to the society on the same basis as other members of the society.

According to key international standards as Standard Rights of Providing of Equal Possibilities for Invalids (1993), Principles on Protection of Mentally Retarded Persons (1991), Declaration on Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons (1971) and Declaration on Rights of Invalids, disabled children have the equal rights for:

- corresponding medical care and physical therapy;
- education and training;
- protection from economic, sexual or other forms of exploitation, physical and other violence;
- rehabilitation and guardianship;
- economic security and good conditions of life;
- living in own family and participation in different kinds of public life;
- use of all civil, politic, economic, social and cultural rights,

which will permit disabled children to develop their abilities and maximum potential.

For adaptation of such children in the society it should be built *social model* of disability that would replace by medical. Social model is built on that the society should adopt the existing in them standards to the special needs of people having disability, in order to let them live independently, to take active participation in social life, to have rights of choice and to make decisions.

Legislative base on invalids is presented by the law “On preventing of disability, rehabilitation of invalids and their social security”, and also by two situations “On medical and social expert commission” and “On criteria of detection of disability”.

The law “On preventing of disability, rehabilitation of invalids and their social security” guarantees for invalids free of charge accommodation, car transport, means for prosthetic and orthopedic aid, provide facilities in sanatoria and health resorts.

In 1998 creation of parental association on mental health of child on the basis of day stationary of Baku City Child psychoneurologic dispensary was called by numerous reasons:
on the one hand – it is accumulation of social problems, for decision of which the government needs in
definite time, on the other hand it is the families having sick children in social and economic
circumstance that are ready to reject sick child as hard burden.

Parents despaired in waiting for implementing of governmental programs, decided to join, in order
to help themselves and to break through this exclusive circle of non-solved problems. It was established
the organization “Goncha”.

At average 150-200 families from all Baku city attend stationary of dispensary annually, which
gives an access to all population levels.

The creation of organization on the base of dispensary gives advantages in plan of statistical data
collection for 25 years and conducting of sociological poll with involving of parents of Baku city. So, it
was clarified that from 500000 children 9500 suffer from mental and neurological disorders, about 8000
children are social orphans and live in child’s home, boarding homes, nursing homes and 18% of all
invalids make disabled children, and because of mental disability, annually at average, 15 children are
rejected by families and delivered to nursing homes.

Moreover, on the basis of dispensary it was conducted social marketing on social problems and
clarified general social problems in plan of treatment, training, social adaptation and integration of
diseased and disabled children.

The survey of 130 families with disabled children has shown that the general problems of these
families are followings:

Main problems of parents:
- difficulties with treatment and medicaments – 42%
- problems with education – 23%
- problems with rehabilitation – 15%
- problems with adaptation and integration of child to society – 20%;

Main problems of children:
- problems of mutual relation in family – 24%
- problems with education – 35%
- problems in mutual relation with coevals – 41%

In general, transition period negatively influenced on the health of society. Critical situation in the
social sphere and economics is reflected on life of disabled children.

Disabled children are most vulnerable on present cataclysms. In a number of cases, under the
influence of financial difficulties, parents are ready to recognize the ‘mental deficiency’ diagnosis, with
the purpose of further delivery of children to orphan's home and boarding schools. They realize that
education level of their child will be below than the standard norm. At present there is a “great army of
social orphans” in our republic.

Disintegration of previous education system and weakening of centralized social security brought
to isolation of mentally retarded children and reducing of their education level.

It is necessary to note, that not only physical or mental defects, but also the indifference is
reflected on progress of disabled children in education. There are not necessary educational and
stimulative materials based on special methodic, including teaching books, magazines, books and etc.

Attempts to help families having problems with the diseased children are possible only within the
framework of family therapy, when all family members are involved in change process. For this purpose,
it was organized trainings for parents, where were discussed medical, juridical and social problems at the
result of which parents became more competent and active.

The best protection and support for child creates maternal love and care, therefore, main purpose
of the organization is to keep the child in the family, persuade and convince of parents to bring back of
child to family. During this period 6 children were not delivered to nursing home. Moreover, the
organization through physicians of dispensary involves new parents in organization, and strengthens and broadens of parents committee. For the most active parents the work in organization is not only solving of problems of family and child but also the method of self-realization, which is an important method of psychological and social rehabilitation.

Disabled children are rejected by neglect and prejudice of the society. One of them is changing of negative opinion on disabled children by means of conducting of companies in mass media, involving of children in day-to-day activity and life.

The analysis of main results of researches has shown the necessity of establishment of special services, study, rehabilitation and integration of disabled children in life of society.

In accordance with that there is necessity of increasing of public status of disabled children since childhood, organization of social services and creation of social model of disability.

1. Early rehabilitation services.
2. Preschool education services.
3. School education services.
4. Services of regular prophylactic and medical attendance at home.
5. Family support services.

Main activity on public level.

- Encouragement in social involving of invalids: increasing of social awareness and change of negative attitude of society to disability, conducting of researches for defining of invalids, integration of handicapped children to general educational schools, creation of adaptations in local circle for invalids, support in employment assistance for invalids.
- Investing of structures: strengthening of public groups, selection and training of employees on social rehabilitation, mobilization of local resources and sources, stimulation of volunteer work.
- Strengthening of local communities role: support of their participation in making the decisions, organize of the dialog with local authorities, other NGOs and mass media, publication of materials for community, encouragement in development of community in whole.

What children could learn?
Each of children is a person and consequently should have individual program based on his abilities. Children will be learned:
- Ability to survive
- Social skills and assurance
- Contact with the assistance of associative technology, e. i. symbols, language of signs
- self-appraisal, self-esteem

*Straightening of social model of disability in society with approach to international standards, solving ways of social problems within and fully, cooperation with the state structures – is more effective way of social partnership.*

Since January 1, 2002 invalids of The Great Patriotic War, Karabagh’s war and the invalids equated to them receive additionally to pension the benefits at the rate of 19$, and the invalids Chernobyl and events of January 20 – 3$.

For prevention and decreasing of disability to minimum after detection of defect, the long-term rehabilitation programs are necessary, which are realized in our country (State Program “Prevention of disability and their rehabilitation from 1999 to 2002” confirmed by the decree of the President in 1999). These programs provide the invalids with appropriate professional training, technical subsidiary means
and prosthesis. Purpose of these programs is to give the opportunities for invalids and their families for achieving of self-providing, social integration with people, which are not the invalids.

So, by the results of 2001 it was rendered the treatment-and-reparative prosthetic and orthopedic aid as well as rehabilitation services for 8 thousand invalids. 420 wheel chairs were assigned by prosthetic and orthopedic reparative centers.

In the same year 578 invalids underwent the observation and received corresponding treatment in Republic rehabilitation center, 86,7% of which improved their health state and were discharged from hospital.

The fact that at present there are about 4 thousand sportsmen-invalids in Azerbaijan, is the evidence of the social integration of disabled with people, which are not the invalids. In 2001 in Sidney city 11-th summer par-Olympic was held where 8 sportsmen-invalids participated in, and it were gained one gold medal and one silver.

In 2001 in Poland there were participated 3 sportsmen-invalids in Europe championship on track and field athletics where the silver medal was gained. In 2002 it was also gained the silver medal in world championship in France.

On data of Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population by the results of 2001 there are 292,2 invalids in Azerbaijan received pensions in social security bodies. Of which 7% receive pensions by the age, three fifth – by disability, 31% receive the social pensions and 1% - cases lose of breadwinner and long service. At that, children-invalids under 16 years received social pensions, made 31460 person or 11% from total number of invalids. At present average size of assigned monthly pension of children-invalids – 13,4$.

From total number of invalids 75% makes invalids of first and second groups, more of which need in secondary aid and care. For permanent and temporary residence, the invalids and aged, especially lonely persons go to boarding homes and territorial center organized in the system of social security bodies. There are operated 7 boarding homes for aged and invalids in republic, where live 712 person and 1 center of social service, where permanently or temporary live 102 person. To the state of January 1, 2002 the workers of population social service center render aid at homes for more than 15 thousand lonely persons, aged citizens.

On data of pension fund, by government it is monthly paid the benefits in amount of 4$ for lonely old citizens of more than 70 years.
At present in republic it is also operated 2 children boarding homes for mentally and physically retarded children in which lived 348 person. Children lived in boarding homes are grouped by age and level of intellect, their rooms are provided with necessary furniture and inventory. For rendering of medical and rehabilitation services it is established the medical cabinets. Moreover, boarding homes are taken for guardianship by medical departments situated in the same region.

There are agricultural land areas in the territory of boarding homes, where children with doctor resolution join to the useful work in health aims. It is also paid great attention to training of the children.

Preventive examinations of population, including children, are the factor of prevention of disability development.

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>of which children (0-14 years)</td>
<td>3075.5</td>
<td>3045.1</td>
<td>3070.2</td>
<td>2798.4</td>
<td>2760.7</td>
<td>2976.9</td>
<td>2595.5</td>
<td>2851.6</td>
<td>2965.6</td>
<td>3152.8</td>
<td>3116.4</td>
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<td>teenagers (15-17 years)</td>
<td>1930.2</td>
<td>1986.6</td>
<td>1988.8</td>
<td>2066.6</td>
<td>2077.5</td>
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<td>2100.3</td>
<td>2080.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>adults (18 years and over)</td>
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<td>317.6</td>
<td>328.6</td>
<td>343.6</td>
<td>296.8</td>
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<td>299.7</td>
<td>291.7</td>
<td>302.0</td>
<td>323.3</td>
<td>341.9</td>
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In percent to observed:

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>of which children (0-14 years)</td>
<td>97.9</td>
<td>97.1</td>
<td>96.4</td>
<td>94.1</td>
<td>93.2</td>
<td>96.8</td>
<td>94.0</td>
<td>96.0</td>
<td>97.2</td>
<td>96.9</td>
<td>97.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>teenagers (15-17 years)</td>
<td>94.8</td>
<td>94.2</td>
<td>93.2</td>
<td>92.9</td>
<td>93.2</td>
<td>92.8</td>
<td>94.5</td>
<td>92.9</td>
<td>94.1</td>
<td>93.7</td>
<td>93.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>adults (18 years and over)</td>
<td>95.3</td>
<td>93.9</td>
<td>94.3</td>
<td>91.8</td>
<td>92.9</td>
<td>92.2</td>
<td>81.5</td>
<td>89.9</td>
<td>91.2</td>
<td>94.0</td>
<td>93.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2001 preventive examinations covered 2080.4 thousand children, the results of which showed the followings. Number of children with reduced hearing and vision acuity made 16.5 thousand or 0.8% from examined, with defects of speech – 6.2 thousand, or 0.3%, with scoliosis – 1.6 thousand or 0.1%, with damages of bearing – 5.5 thousand or 0.3%.
Taking of measures of common hygiene such as immunization of children (against poliomyelitis, German measles and other infections, which could bring to the long-term disability), sanitation, and antenatal assistance is useful for exposure of reasons of defects that it is possible to prevent.

In time taken measures on prevention of spread of infectious diseases are able to bring positive results for stopping of more scaled spread of infections.

In 2001 against to 1990 due to conduction of necessary measures it was achieved reducing of infections regulated means of specific prophylaxis (vaccination), in particular whooping cough, poliomyelitis, measles and etc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total vaccinated against:</th>
<th>Vaccination</th>
<th>Revaccination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>age</td>
<td>share vaccinated children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tuberculoses</td>
<td>Under 1 year</td>
<td>98.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus</td>
<td>Under 1 year</td>
<td>98.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poliomyelitis</td>
<td>Under 1 year</td>
<td>95.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>measles</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>98.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

High level of morbidity, especially chronic diseases, brings to losing of work capacity and disability.

By results of 2001 number of chronic diseased increased in comparison with 1995 for 2.5% and it made 1228 thousand person, of which 309 thousand or 25% were children at the age of 0-14 years.
Among chronic morbidity children have diseases of respiratory system, nervous system and organs of feeling, endocrine system, digestive disturbances, disturbance of metabolism and immunity.

Increasing of morbidity with active tuberculosis is mainly explained by untimely and incomplete exposure of diseased persons, especially bacterioexcretion among refugees and forced migrants. In 2001 comparing with 1990 level of morbidity with tuberculosis increased for 2 times and comparing with 1999 – for 11%. From 1324 diseased women with active tuberculosis, 95% suffered from tuberculosis of respiratory system. In 2001 from total number of diseased with tuberculosis, 10% are children under 15 years, in 1990 these children made 5%.

In 2001 comparing with 1990 number of persons newly recognized as invalids, was increased in calculation per 10 thousand population, from 26 to 37 person.

In report year number of persons newly recognized as invalids made 15261 person and has increased in comparison with 2000 for 15%. In particular, newly recognized disability was provoked by diseases of respiratory system and organs of feelings, psychical diseases, diseases of cardiovascular system.

Feeding is the main factor regulated the child health, their mental and physical development.

Economic situation in republic in 1992-1995 promoted the deterioration of republic population feeding, including children and teenagers. It was expressed as in decreasing of ration of protein especially animals, fats, especially butter and calcium and also mostly micronutrients.

At present by Ministry of Health jointly with UNICEF, Goskomstat and other ministries and authorities it were undertaken specific steps in direction of problems’ decision on micronutrient supply of population including children. From January 2003 input and usage of salt without iodine will be prohibited in republic.

It is successfully realized the program on breast-feeding promoted the constant increasing of number of children on exclusive breast-feeding and consequently full microelement supply.

For receiving of more detailed information about health state of mother and child by the State Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan Republic in December 2001 it was conducted one-time sample survey in 2500 households of the country.

The survey covered 2222 mothers at the age of 15-18 years – 1%, 19-24 years – 11%, 25-34 – 27%, 35-39 years – 27%, 40-49 years – 34% more three fifth of which were housewives, one-third – employees, 3% - students.

One of the main and generous destinations of women is the maternity. On results of survey 40% of women have 2 children, 26% -three, 18% - four and over, 16% -one child that testifies the prevalence of families with mean number of children in Azerbaijan.
Variety of factors, on influence of which mother and child health depends (social and economic, biological, economic, medical and organizational and others), shows the necessity of priority decision of problem of maternity and child protection, which at present is still topical.

79% of the interviewed women have finished the pregnancy by labor in hospital, 21% - at home, and only 6% of them with the subsequent hospitalization.

It is necessary to note that 59% of interviewed women considered that they fed sufficiently, but 41% of them indicated insufficiency of feeding. The survey showed that during pregnancy the majority of women suffered from various diseases, including connected with insufficiently qualitative feeding. So, 30% of respondents indicated that during the pregnancy they suffered from anemia, 21% - diseases of cardiovascular system, 12% - goiter and diseases of urogenital system, 11% - diseases of blood. At the same time 32% of respondents at the age of 25-34 and 28% - at the age of 40-49 complained of anemia, 41% of respondents at the age of 40-49 and 32% - at the age of 35-39 – diseases of cardiovascular system.

During the survey it was given the opportunity to respondents for estimation of their health state. Almost half of interviewed considered their health state as good, 26% - worse, 25% found difficulty to answer. The negative health-state was mainly explained by environmental pollution, working and housing conditions.

For last two years 60% of respondents from total number of interviewed women were ill: 38% of respondents at the age of 40-49, 28% - at the age of 35-39, 25% - at the age of 25-34, 8% - at the age of 19-24, 1% - at the age of 15-18.

Last two years 74% from number of sick respondents applied for medical institutions. At that, diseases of cardiovascular system (33%), teeth (21%), gastrointestinal diseases (20%), gynecological and respiratory system diseases (19%) were indicated by respondents as the basic diseases.

Number of applies by respondents for medical institutions are distributed between hospitals, polyclinics, private doctors and acute care as respects 31, 27, 12 and 11% correspondingly. Generally 19% did not apply for anywhere and as the basic reason it was indicated absence of means for treatment and also indifferent attitude to own health.

From treated respondents in medical institutions each of second estimated the state of own health as positively, each of fifth - unsatisfactorily, 15% - found difficulty to answer.

By results of survey a fourth of respondents suffered from chronic diseases. So, each of second of them indicated cardiovascular system diseases, each of forth - gastrointestinal diseases and each of fifth – kidney.

More than a third of respondents applied for medical institutions estimated their work as good, 44% - satisfactorily and 22% - unsatisfactorily. The reason of negative estimation was based on expensiveness of treatment and unqualified personnel.

From total number of interviewed women, 2% indicated that they have disability, 1% - that they prepare the documents for registration of disability. 7% from received disability have I disability group, 78% - II group and 15% of women – III group.

In particular, at 92% of respondents last labor was finished by birth of full-term infant, meanwhile 6% indicated the birth of premature infant and 2% - found difficulty to answer.

The survey showed that 84% of respondents fed infants by breath. From number of women, who didn’t feed infant by breath, 76% referred to absence of milk, 15% - sickness of infant. The most part of this category of respondents fed infants by mixed feeding since the first days.

A priori, intimate contact between mother and child at once after labor and frequent breast-feeding of newborn are the best stimulus for lactation, nevertheless 22% of respondents fed infants by breast at once after labor, two fifth - in a few hours after labor, more thirds – in a few days after labor and 4% - found difficulty to answer.

By results of survey it was discovered that children of 32% of mothers were ill with infectious diseases for last two years. 45% of respondents indicated that their children were ill with measles, 26% - whooping cough, 14% - German measles, 9% - diphtheria, 4% - hepatitis and 2% - tuberculosis.
The chronic diseases of children were indicated by 10% of mothers. Among chronic diseases it was indicated rheumatism (indicated by 31% of mothers), bronchial asthma (22%), diseases of lungs (15%), diseases of blood (14%), mental disorder (10%).

On question how frequently their children catch a cold 77% of mothers indicated – sometimes, 18% - frequently and 5% - found difficulty to answer.

Morbidity and mortality of children at first year of life, especially first week mainly depends on health-state of mother. If in 1990 every 15-th woman finished labor, suffered from anemia, in 2001 – every sixth. During surveyed period number of women with bleeding related with detachment and placental presentation was increased for 11.2%.

During analyzed period it is indicated decreasing of birth of children with less weight (2500 grams) for 37%, however their level is still high. In 2001 about 6 thousand children were born with less weight that in total number of born made 6.7%. Number of born children with less weight of women at the age of 20-29 years was increased in comparison with 2000 for 5.4%.

**Education services**

In 2001 20 specialized general educational schools for children with the limited health were acted in Azerbaijan where 4789 children educated. Moreover, in special classes of day general educational schools 564 pupils with limited health were studied. Totally by specialized state education it were covered 5353 children with limited health or 25% of children at the age of 7-14 years registered on the book in government health authorities.

Changes of network and contingent of schools for children with limited health are indicated below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Schools for children with limited health</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pupils in schools, person</td>
<td>4123</td>
<td>3257</td>
<td>4589</td>
<td>4789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children with limited health in classes of day general educational schools</td>
<td>1127</td>
<td>908</td>
<td>547</td>
<td>564</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each of third pupils of specialized education is girl, 5% of pupils – orphans.

From total number of schools for children with limited health, 9 – are for mentally retarded children, in which studied 2085 pupils and one of them is a boarding school for orphans.

There are 3 schools for children with speech disturbance, where studied 508 pupils. It is functioned per one school for blind children, for children with weak hearing and later deafen and for children with disturbance of musculoskeletal system with total number of 660 pupils. There are also two schools for deaf children, where studied 616 pupils.

It is established two schools at home for diseased children, where studied 768 pupils. Teachers of these schools attend diseased children at home.

Because of specificity all schools are located in urban locality. 15 schools (75%) are in Baku city, 3 schools – in Sumgayit and per one in Gandja and Lenkoran. From total number of schools 13 are boarding schools, where children live and study.

From 5353 pupils of schools for children with limited health 1276 (24%) are handicapped children.

Moreover, 91 handicapped children are studied in day general educational schools.
At the end of the 2001 in the country it were acted 1794 preschool establishments with total number of 111 thousand children. Overwhelming majority of children (88%) attended preschool institutions were at the age of 3 years and over and almost the half (48%) – girls.

In total number of preschool institutions there are also institutions of special and sanatorium purposes. Last year 5 preschool institutions of special purposes for children with limited health were acted. One of them with 60 seats is for children with disturbance of hearing and all of these places were completely filled by children. The other 4 preschool institutions calculated for 650 seats were intended for children with speech disturbance and 344 children attended them. From total number of children attended these institutions 17 – children at the age under 3 years.

Moreover, in 6 preschool institutions it were acted 11 groups (for 147 seats) for children with speech disturbance. 137 children at the age of 3 years and over attended these groups.

Furthermore, for children with limited health it is acted preschool institutions of sanatorium type. In 2001 it was 6 of such kind of institutions for 490 seats. 437 children have received services in these institutions, 416 of which are at the age of 3 years and over. Also, in 7 preschool institutions of a general type it were acted 26 groups of sanatorium type, which were calculated for 535 seats and by their services it were covered 483 children, the majority (462) of which children at the age of 3 years and over. All preschool institutions of special purposes, sanatoriums type and the groups of special purposes, sanatorium type is located in urban localities.
## ANNEX

### Schools for children with limited health
(for the beginning of the academic year)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number of schools</th>
<th>Pupils in them, person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of schools</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Including for children:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mentally retarded</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blind</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaf</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>weak hearing and later deafen</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disturbance of musculoskeletal system</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>speech disturbance</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moreover, classes for children with limited health in day general educational schools</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Preschool institutions of special purpose and sanatorium type

(without institutions in capital repair; to the end of the year)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pupils in them, person</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>180870</td>
<td>136796</td>
<td>111020</td>
<td>111352</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Including:**

- Preschool institutions of general type
  - 1990: 2160
  - 1995: 1958
  - 2000: 1776
  - 2001: 1782
  - 1990: 180170
  - 1995: 135995
  - 2000: 111282
  - 2001: 110511

- Preschool sanatorium institutions and preschool institutions having sanatorium groups
  - 1990: 9
  - 1995: 8
  - 2000: 6
  - 2001: 7
  - 1990: 402
  - 1995: 530
  - 2000: 404
  - 2001: 483

- Preschool institutions of special purpose and preschool institutions having groups of special purpose
  - 1990: 14
  - 1995: 22
  - 2000: 14
  - 2001: 11
  - 1990: 770
  - 1995: 807
  - 2000: 600
  - 2001: 541

  **Of which:**

  - for children with disturbance of hearing
    - 1990: 1
    - 1995: 1
    - 2000: 1
    - 2001: 1
    - 1990: 41
    - 1995: 40
    - 2000: 40
    - 2001: 60

  - for children with disturbance of speech
    - 1990: 11
    - 1995: 18
    - 2000: 12
    - 2001: 10
    - 1990: 641
    - 1995: 704
    - 2000: 559
    - 2001: 549

  - for children with visual impairment
    - 1990: 1
    - 1995: 1
    - 2000: 1
    - 2001: -
    - 1990: 45
    - 1995: 20
    - 2000: 14
    - 2001: -

  - For mentally retarded children
    - 1990: 1
    - 1995: 1
    - 2000: 1
    - 2001: -
    - 1990: 43
    - 1995: 43
    - 2000: 27
    - 2001: -
Distribution of children under 16 years newly recognized as disable by diseases, age and sex in 2001

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diseases</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Including by age and sex</th>
<th>0-3 years</th>
<th>4-7 years</th>
<th>8-14 years</th>
<th>15 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>male</td>
<td>female</td>
<td>male</td>
<td>female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7524</td>
<td></td>
<td>531</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>1401</td>
<td>828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of which:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
<td>44</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endocrine system diseases, digestive disturbances, disturbance of metabolism and immunity</td>
<td>125</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neoplasm</td>
<td>45</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental and behavioral disorders</td>
<td>1468</td>
<td></td>
<td>63</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the nervous system</td>
<td>1703</td>
<td></td>
<td>128</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the eye and adnexa</td>
<td>680</td>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the ear and mastoid process</td>
<td>255</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the circulatory system</td>
<td>240</td>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the respiratory system</td>
<td>426</td>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the digestive system</td>
<td>77</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the osteomuscular systems and connective tissues</td>
<td>586</td>
<td></td>
<td>43</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the urogenital system</td>
<td>125</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congenital anomalies</td>
<td>497</td>
<td></td>
<td>76</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certain conditions originating in perinatal period</td>
<td>281</td>
<td></td>
<td>38</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accidents, poisoning and injuries</td>
<td>441</td>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other diseases</td>
<td>531</td>
<td></td>
<td>60</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>