

# Primary Health Care Performance in Uganda

*Preliminary Findings from a 2019 National Survey*

## The current state of primary health care in Uganda

Over two-thirds of people sought care in the previous six months, mostly for acute problems.

Nearly no one has health insurance while people report significant financial barriers to accessing health care.

Most patients lack continuous relationships with a care provider while providers lack access to patient information.

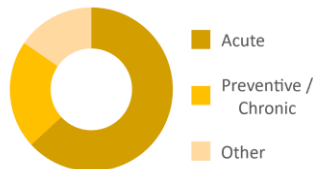
Many Ugandans were satisfied with their care but felt that facility resources were lacking.

### How do Ugandans seek care?

**68%** sought care in the past 6 months

#### Top 3 reasons for seeking care:

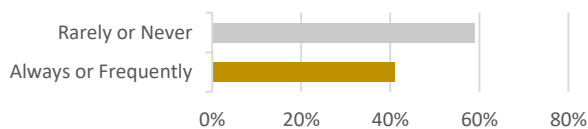
1. Fever
2. Feeling generally sick
3. Abdominal pain



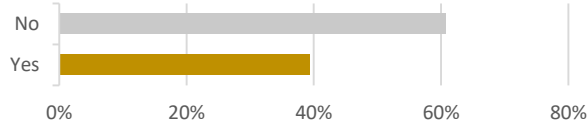
59% went to a public facility  
27% went to a private facility

### Do people have continuous relationships with health care providers?

How often do you see the same health care provider?



Did the provider have your information from prior visits?



### Individual Survey

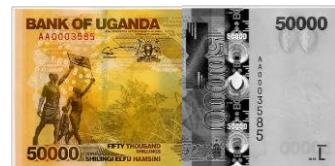
4,373 respondents  
76% under age 45 (surveyed ages 15+)  
60% female  
68% with primary or no education  
80% living in rural areas  
60% married or living with a partner

*Primary health care is the bedrock of universal health coverage, and must be the focus of action in all our countries.*

Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus  
WHO Director-General

### Is primary health care financially accessible to everyone?

**99%** of Ugandans report not having health insurance



51% found it difficult to pay for their visit

44% had to borrow money or sell something in order to afford their visit, particularly in rural regions

### How satisfied are people with their care?

#### Most ratings of "good" or better:

1. Provider's knowledge (92%)
2. Provider listened to patient's concerns (90%)
3. Provider's ability to explain (88%)

#### Least ratings of "good" or better:

1. Wait time (60%)
2. Patient's input into medical decisions (70%)
3. Choice of provider (72%)

Most important areas for improvement

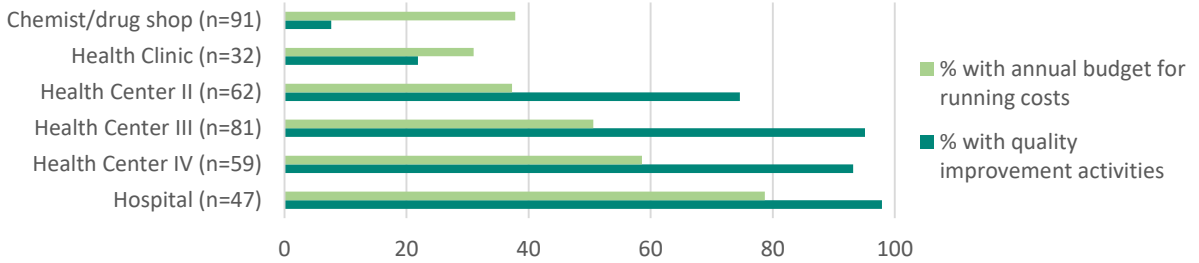


# Primary Health Care Facilities in Uganda

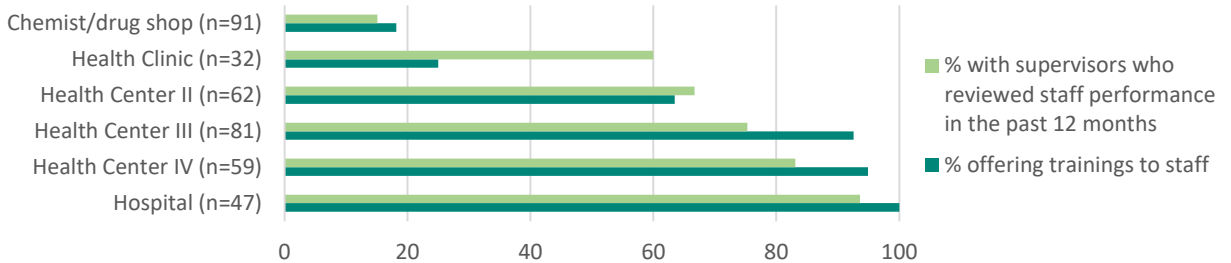
398 facilities surveyed | 57% public, 36% private facilities | 12% hospitals, 26% chemists or drug shops



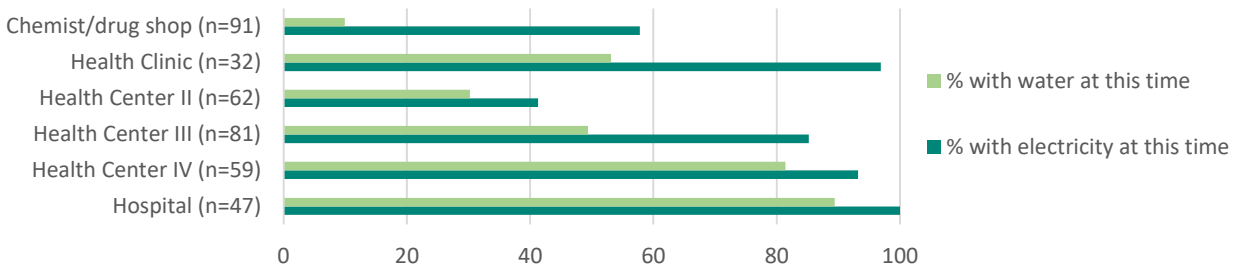
## How many facilities have systems for quality and budgeting?



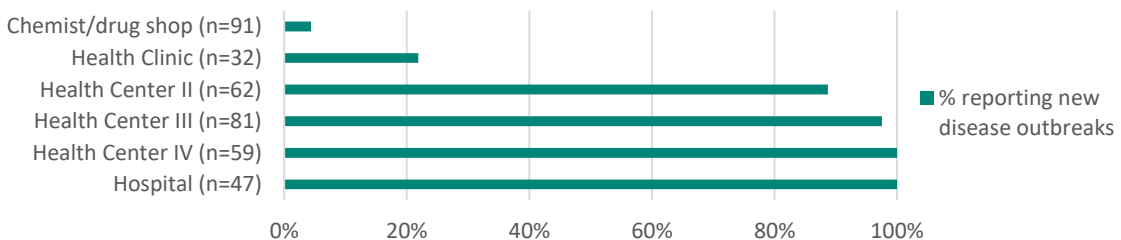
## What is the level of supervision and training for staff?



## What is the state of basic infrastructure at facilities?



## How much surveillance exists at primary health care facilities?



### About the Survey

PMA-PHC Uganda collected information on primary health care performance at the individual and facility level in 110 enumeration areas to produce nationally representative data. Data were collected from March to May 2019. The survey was led by the Makerere University School of Public Health in Kampala, Uganda with support from Ariadne Labs at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and the Bill & Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Funding was provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Performance Monitoring for Action (PMA) uses mobile technology and data collectors to support low-cost, rapid-turnaround surveys to monitor key family planning and health indicators in Africa and Asia. The project is implemented by local universities and research organizations. For sampling information and full data sets, visit [www.pmadata.org](http://www.pmadata.org)

