

# Spatial Inequality of Healthcare Access in Türkiye

Number of healthcare facilities per 100,000 people

Data From: Humanitarian Data Exchange (2023)



A devastating 7.8-magnitude earthquake hit the Türkiye-Syria border in the early hours of Monday 6th Feb 2023. This was followed by another one nearly as strong shortly after. These earthquakes caused significant damage to both countries. Tens of thousands of people have been killed, and many more have been injured. Thousands of buildings have collapsed, leaving countless people exposed to unforgiving winter conditions. Schools and many healthcare facilities have also been destroyed.

In Türkiye, there is universal public health insurance, which means ensures that Turkish residents receive free healthcare when they need it. In 2020, the percentage of the Turkish population covered by government health insurance increased by over 28% since 2002. Today, 98.5% of the whole population are covered by the public health insurance.

However, a shortage of healthcare facilities and healthcare professionals have led to challenges for equitable access to healthcare. A 2021 national survey reports that 45% of the Turkish population have experienced long waiting times, and found it difficult to access healthcare when they needed it.

This map highlights the extent of spatial inequality in access to healthcare facilities in Türkiye. The areas with most healthcare facilities per 100,000 people tend to be large cities such as Istanbul and Antalya. However, rural areas and smaller towns and villages are clearly underserved.

