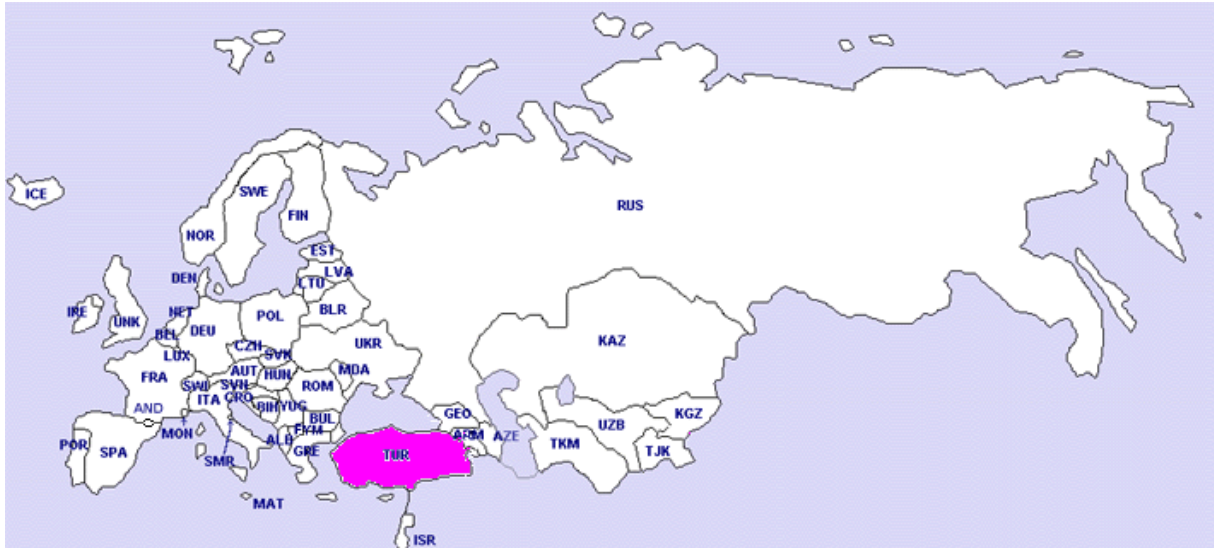




TURKEY (TUR)

Population: 62.9 million (1997 census)

Area: 780 580 km²



The designations and the presentation of material on this map of the Member States of the WHO European Region (as at 31 July 1997) do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

1. General information

Turkey is divided into 81 provinces, further subdivided into 850 districts, 2 263 subdistricts and some 35 117 villages.

According to the 1985 census, approximately 65.03% of the population live in urban areas, and 34.97 %, in rural areas.

1.1 The Health Services in Turkey

The Ministry of Health is responsible for all health services in Turkey. Communicable diseases fall under the responsibility of the Primary Health Care General Directorate of this Ministry. At provincial level, there are Health Directorates cooperating with the Ministry of Health and being responsible for the health services in the province.

The principle of a wide scope of services in a narrow area has been accepted as an organization model in the health services. According to the rules and regulations, it has been proposed that a health team consisting of a medical doctor, a health officer, a nurse, a midwife, a secretary, a driver and a worker be stationed at a health centre serving 5 - 10 thousand people in the rural areas, and 50 thousand in the urban areas. Health houses, associated with the health centres with only one midwife working serve 2 000 – 2 500 persons.

Primary duties of the health centres are:

- Preventive health services for the people and the environment

- First aid services
- Emergency care services
- Home ambulatory care and treatment services
- Referral and follow-up services
- Services related to forensic medicine
- Doctor's managerial services

At present, 5 614 health centres and 11 766 health houses exist in Turkey.

Secondary health services are provided by fully equipped provincial hospitals. Hospitals specialized in specific branches of medicine and medical faculty hospitals complement the health care services. In addition, there are private polyclinics, hospitals, and maternity homes in operation, which are also under the supervision of the Ministry of Health.

A Public Health Laboratory is established in each province. The 15 Regional Public Health Institutes have, among other things, the responsibility of reference laboratories in order to support the provincial Public Health Laboratories.

1.2 The current reporting system of communicable diseases

According to the General Hygiene Law, all community members have the responsibility to give warning to the nearest health authority when they have a doubt about a communicable disease in their neighbourhood. Similarly, all health workers are obliged to report all notifiable diseases.

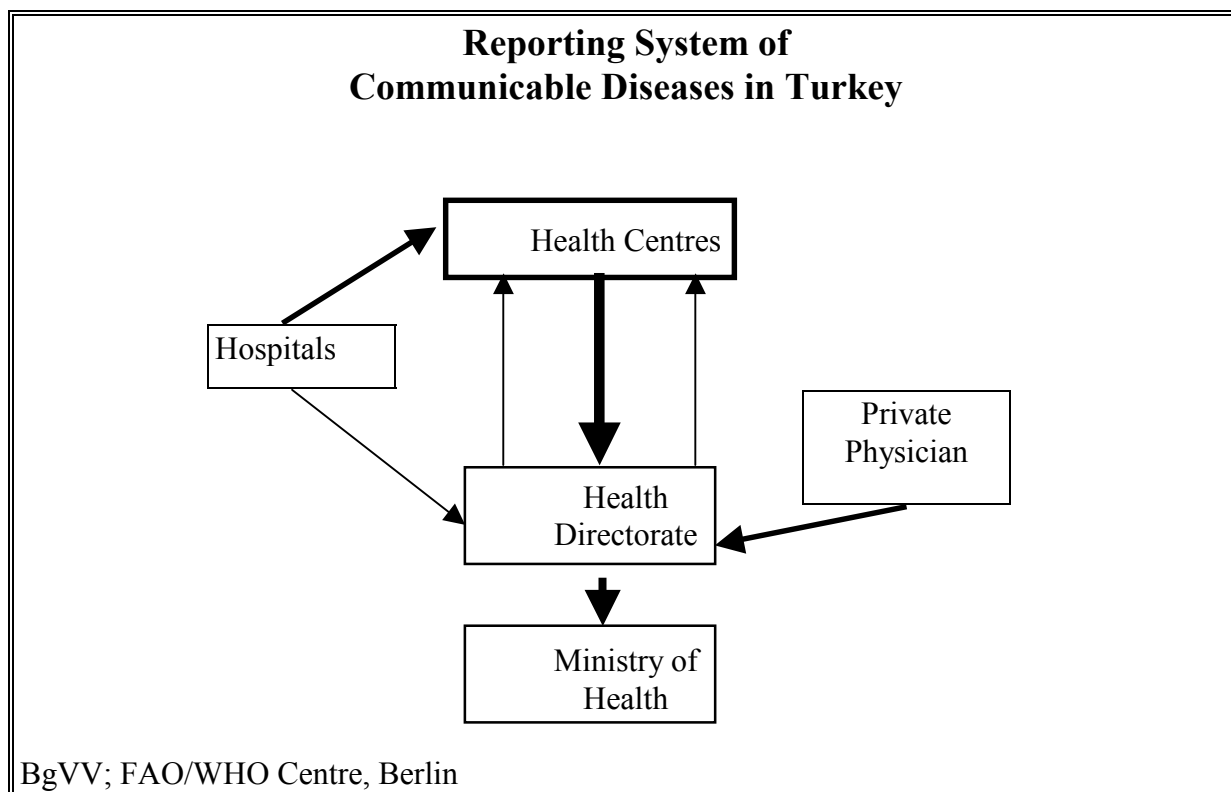
In the reporting system for communicable diseases, health centres are the leading units. All communicable disease data about the cases (age, sex, address, etc.) have to be registered on some special forms in the health centre. For this reason, all private doctors, hospitals, or any health worker who gives notice of the disease, is obliged to report it to the health centre of the place where the person lives, directly or through the Health Directorate according to the patient's address.

Health centre physicians with their teams conduct an epidemiologic investigation and report every notifiable disease. Health centre's physicians are supposed to send a report on each outbreak investigation to the Health Directorate. There is no standardized investigation report form. The Provincial Health Directorate and the Health Centre send their routine reports to the responsible authorities at monthly intervals. Reports include the number of cases according to age groups and sex.

At the national level, the Communicable Disease Department of the Primary Health Care (PHC) Directorate has the responsibility for collecting and monitoring the data about all notifiable diseases bimonthly.

The EPI INFO Programme (Version 5) is used to investigate outbreaks. To evaluate the notifiable diseases at the provincial level, a pilot study has been started in two provinces where the EPI INFO Programme (Version 5) is used.

Figure TR 1



The current communicable disease reporting system faces some problems. Underreporting from hospitals and especially from private physicians is one of these problems. Therefore, the data collected within our routine reporting system do not reflect the real situation. Since the 1980's, efforts have been focused on the strengthening of the routine reporting system. Therefore, the number of notified illnesses has increased steadily.

WHO Surveillance Programme for Control of Foodborne Infections and Intoxications in Europe
7th Report

Country Reports: *TURKEY 1993 – 1998*

2. Statutory notification

2.1 Statutory notified cases

Table TR 1

Foodborne diseases - Statutory reported cases and incidence rate
TURKEY 1993 - 1998

Disease	1993		1994		1995		1996		1997		1998	
	C*	D**	C*	D**	C*	D**	C*	D**	C*	D**	C*	D**
Typhoid fever	14347	9	17498	17	21516	4	27040	3	32016	3	30269	2
<i>Incidence rate</i>	22.8		27.8		34.2		43.0		50.9		48.1	
Paratyphoid fever	551	2	810	0	477	0	582	3	1278	0	712	1
<i>Incidence rate</i>	0.9		1.3		0.8		0.9		2.0		1.1	
Brucellosis	6795	2	8383	0	8506	9	9480	0	11812	1	12330	1
<i>Incidence rate</i>	10.8		13.3		13.5		15.1		18.8		19.6	
Amoebic dysentery	10862	11	16587	8	19818	14	18585	5	20602	2	23248	25
<i>Incidence rate</i>	17.3		26.4		31.5		29.5		32.8		37.0	
Shigellosis	1557	3	2203	7	2753	1	1479	2	1708	1	1457	1
<i>Incidence rate</i>	2.5		3.5		4.4		2.4		2.7		2.3	
Hepatitis A	14395	26	28248	42	25812	39	14289	19	15419	10	14000	8
<i>Incidence rate</i>	22.9		44.9		41.0		22.7		24.5		22.3	

* cases
** deaths

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2.2 Food Poisoning

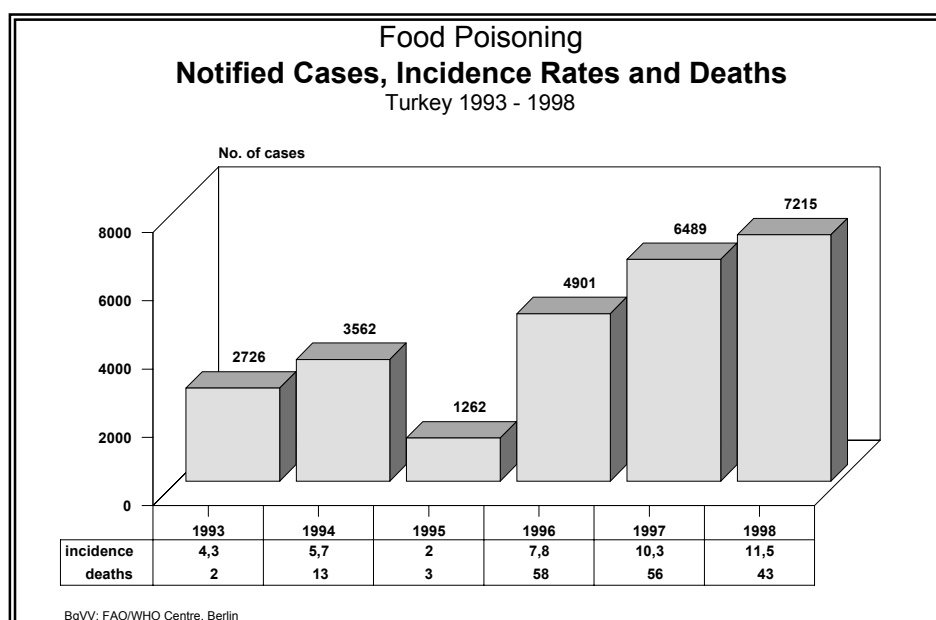
Table TR 2

Food poisoning - Cases and deaths
TURKEY 1993 - 1998*

	1993		1994		1995		1996		1997		1998		Total 1993-1998	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Intoxi. by mushrooms							98	8	1041	16	756	5	1895	29
Botulism							14	8	89	10	120	0	223	18
Other food poisoning							4789	42	5359	30	6339	38	16487	110
Total	2726	2	3562	13	1262	3	4901	58	6489	56	7215	43	26155	175

* From 1993 - 1995 only totals were reported

Figure TR 2



2.3 Brucellosis

The annual totals of notified cases and the incidence rate of brucellosis for the years 1993 to 1998 are shown in Figure TR 3.

Figure TR 3

