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Global Health Experience in Swaziland

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BIPAI Baylor International
Pediatric AIDS Initiative
at Texas Children's Hospital

Swaziland at a Glance

Capital: Mbabane
Official languages: Siswati, English
Area: 6704 sq miles
Population: 1,119,000 (2015)



Lowest life expectancy in world: 50.9 years (2015)

HIV/AIDS in Swaziland

- World's highest prevalence of HIV-infected adults (26% of people aged 15-49, 31% 18-49)
- Epidemic stabilizing, shifting to older patients

Tuberculosis in Swaziland

- Highest TB incidence in world
- 7-10% of new TB cases are MDR
- 80% co-infected with HIV

BIPAI

- Baylor Center of Excellence is located in Mbabane, with 3 satellites in Manzini, Hlatikhulu, Bulembu
- Operating since 2006
- TB Center of Excellence in Mbabane with Gene X-pert machine to improve diagnostic yield: TB screening, control, and treatment
- Provides HIV/AIDS diagnosis and treatment, prescribing nearly 40% of all pediatric HIV patients' ARVs in Swaziland
- Provides maternal health (including mother-baby pair program)
- Provides women's health (PAP smears, cervical cancer screenings)
- Provides adolescent care (including Teen Club)
- Performs malnutrition assessments & management

Take Home Points

- Learned about important determinants of health and the socio-political economic factors that impact health
- Appreciated the healthcare resources we have in the United States, especially our social workers and social welfare systems
- Learned how to perform procedures and manage diseases & conditions with limited resources
- Improved physical exam skills
- Better understood how policies are created and implemented by major governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as the obstacles that can hinder implementation

