

The *IMSS* manages 68 percent of the total Health Care System budget. It operates 31 percent of the hospitals in the country and nearly 40 percent of the hospital beds. It is the largest single customer in Mexico's health care sector.

In addition to providing a health care network to members, the *Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social (IMSS)* is also responsible for the administration of social security and pension benefits. It has the responsibility for providing sports and recreation facilities, disability insurance, and funeral services for its members and their families.

IMSS is moving towards decentralization of administrative functions such as training, small supplies purchases, programming and maintenance. In 1993, it installed a major new telecommunications system for voice and data transfer in 150 of its medical units to facilitate the decentralization function and improve overall efficiency.

In 1992, the *IMSS* operated a total of 1,717 units in all 32 states. Included in its system are 1,457 clinics or primary care facilities along with 260 hospitals, 39 of which are specialized hospitals.

PREMIUM-BASED HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, 1992

	IMSS	ISSSTE	PEMEX	SDN	SM
People covered	37,400,000	8,600,000	800,000	800,000	100,000
Clinics - primary care facilities	1,457	1,093	168	217	95
General hospitals	221	77	15	26	27
Specialized hospitals	39	0	8	0	0
Total number of medical units	1,717	1180	191	243	122
Hospital beds (excluding day beds)	27,603	6,542	1,586	2,866	584
Medical doctors	43,754	14,002	3,051	1,422	555
Paramedics	88,860	18,789	4,425	2,096	1,004
Nursing staff	67,482	17,287	2,734	2,096	802

Source: Recursos y Servicios - Sistema Nacional de Salud, Boletín de Información Estadística, Número 12, 1992, p. 77.

- IMSS** - Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social, Mexican Institute for Social Security
- ISSSTE** - Instituto de Seguridad y Servicios Sociales de los Trabajadores del Estado, Institute for Security and Social Services for Public Sector Employees
- PEMEX** - Petróleos Mexicanos, the state-owned oil company
- SDN** - Secretaría de la Defensa Nacional, Secretariat of National Defence
- SM** - Secretaría de Marina, Secretariat of the Marine

