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K E T S U M M A R Y — M E X I C O

Health Care Services

MEXICO'S HEALTH CARE CHALLENGE

The Mexican Health Care System faces unprecedented challenges, as health care providers struggle to serve a larger proportion of a rapidly growing population. Between 1970 and 1990, the proportion of the population covered by health care programs more than tripled, and by 1992, only seven percent of the population did not have access to full coverage.



INDUSTRY MARKET PROFILE

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade has prepared an extensive study of the **Mexican Market for Medical Equipment and Health Care Services**. This report, and summaries on each of the markets for Medical Devices and Equipment, and Health Care Services have been researched by Townsend Trade Strategies Inc. and published by Prospectus Inc. under the Access North America Program. Copies of these publications are available from:

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Mexico is faced with a growing incidence of "first-world" diseases, such as cardiovascular ailments, cancer, mental disabilities and addictions. At the same time, it must continue to cope with the diseases of underdevelopment, including infectious diseases, parasites and malnutrition as well as maternal and neonatal deaths.

The magnitude and the complexity of these challenges have been recognized in Mexico, and there is growing awareness that a broad restructuring of the health care system is needed. Among the proposed changes are the following:

- decentralization of health care delivery to each state;

HIGHLIGHTS

The use of specialized services to support the delivery of health care systems is new to Mexico, but this market is developing rapidly. There are particular opportunities in the following areas:

- new hospitals, including design, planning, construction management and turn-key operation;
- health care management systems;
- equipment services, including procurement, maintenance and training;
- information services, including computer and communications systems;
- training services for physicians, nurses, paramedics and first aid instructors; and
- waste management systems.

