

capacity of around 97,000 in 1987, an indication that these hospitals are, on average, relatively bigger than their private counterparts.

Other health service units include dental clinics, industrial diagnostic centers, physical/medical examination clinics, rural health centers, barangay health stations, sanitarium, chest clinics, family planning clinics, lying-in clinics, social and mental hygiene clinics, EENT clinics, etc. To date, the government operates around 15,000 such units distributed all over the country, with dental clinics as the most numerous. The population of similar health service units owned and operated by the private sector is estimated to be twice as big.

The medical equipment and supplies segment is made up of importers, agents, distributors, manufacturers and small traders. Although small traders dominate in terms of total population, a significant proportion of medical equipment/supplies requirements of the health service industry is supplied by importers/distributors which comprise the second smallest group in the sector in actual numbers. Manufacturers constitute the smallest number providing mainly simple medical furniture, instruments and appliances.

Medical personnel consists of physicians, nurses, midwives, dentists, pharmacists, sanitary inspectors and medical technologists. As expected, nurses make up the largest component, followed by midwives. Total population of physicians in the country today is estimated at 20,000, half of whom are under the employ of government health service units.

The government, through its various implementing agencies, monitors the flow of goods and services within the local health care industry to make sure that prescribed standards are complied with.

Total Philippine population is currently estimated at over 57 million and is expected to grow by 2.4 per cent annually from 1988 to 1992. Majority belong to the younger age groups; more than 50 per cent are