

UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE in TURKEY:

CHALLENGES and OPPORTUNITIES



September 29, 2011

OUTLINE



- Universal Coverage
- Global Status
- Status in Turkey
 - Prior to 2003
 - Health Transformation Program / 2003-2011
- Achievements and Lessons from Turkish Experience
- What is next on the agenda?

UNIVERSAL COVERAGE



“**Universal Health Coverage (UHC)** is defined as **access** for all to appropriate promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative health care at an **affordable** cost in case of need.” *

* WHO

UNIVERSAL COVERAGE



Universal coverage



- better health status
- equity of access
- financial protection



GLOBAL STATUS

WHERE THE WORLD STANDS TODAY?



Commitment from the Member States (World Health Assembly, 2005)

- Access for all to health care services
- Financial protection

WHO

- Practical guidance on ways to finance health care.

WHERE THE WORLD STANDS TODAY?



So what happened?

Millions of people are still at risk of falling into a downward spiral of sickness and poverty.

WHERE THE WORLD STANDS TODAY?



Health expenditures

Severe financial burden: 150 million people / year *

Poverty: 25 million households / year *

*WHO estimates

WHERE THE WORLD STANDS TODAY?



It is time for action!



STATUS in TURKEY

PRIOR to 2003

STATUS in TURKEY / PRIOR to 2003



- Fragmented health financing system
- Disturbed actuarial balances
- Problems in risk pooling

STATUS in TURKEY / PRIOR to 2003



- No “national health accounts system”
- Insufficient budget allocated for preventive and primary health care

STATUS in TURKEY / PRIOR to 2003



- Problems in access to health care services (even for majority of insurees)
- 112 Emergency Health Services delivered as paid services for citizens - both insured and uninsured

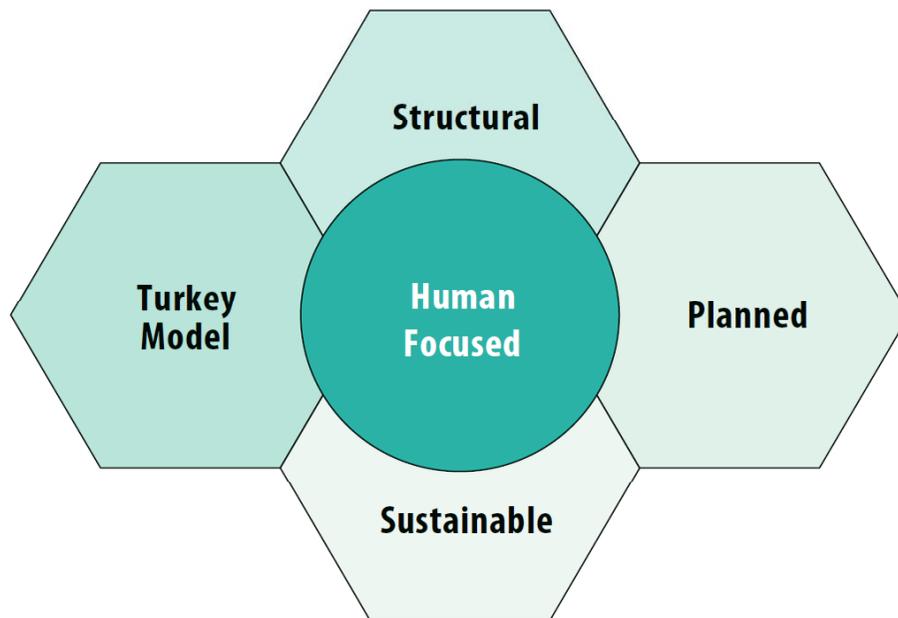


**Both the health service provider
and the receiver were the
victims of the system**



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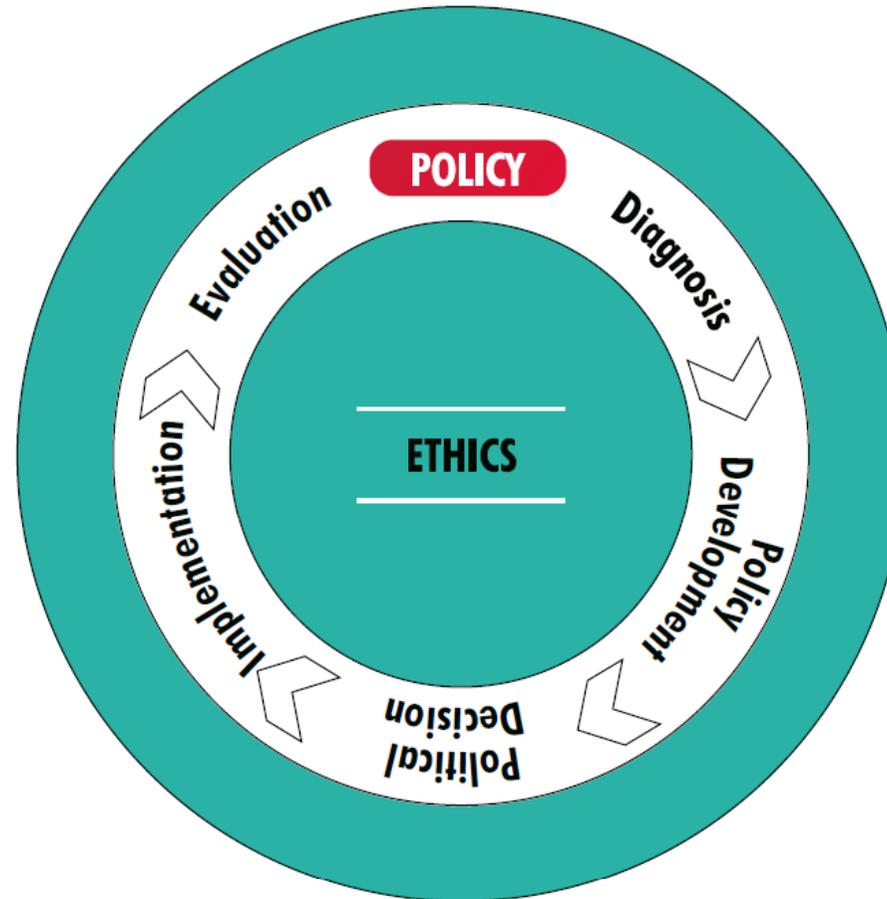
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Human-centered ethical understanding aiming at equal access by citizens to quality health services.

Structural, planned and sustainable system that is in conformity with the socio-economic realities of our country.

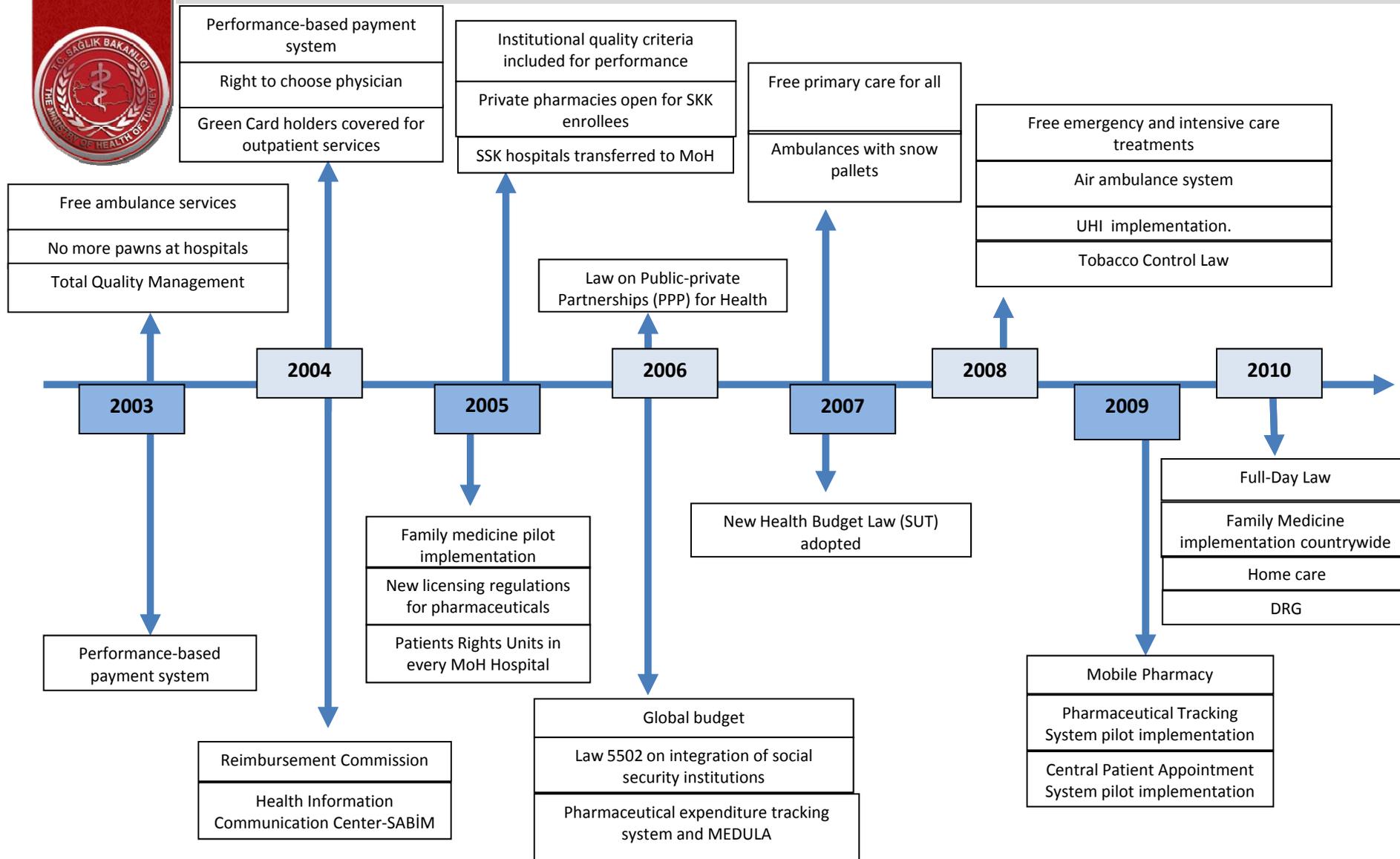
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Health Policy Cycle

Getting Health Reform Right: M. Roberts et al, 2004 (Referred after modification)

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At the beginning of the Transformation

- Well-aware of the situation
- Committed team
- Theoretical works
- Field Works

Country examples, discussions with managers and practitioners



So what did we do?

- Focus on human
- Political commitment

Support of the Prime Minister, the Cabinet and the National Assembly

- Public support by fast improvements

No more pawns at hospitals

Free 112 Emergency services



Extensive transformation process

- Free primary health care services for all
- Citizens able to receive service from private sector using their public health insurance
- Pooors able to benefit completely from public healthcare



Extensive transformation process

- Reorganising public hospitals under a single roof
- Family medicine implementation
- Free primary health care services for all
- Performance-based payment system
- Reference pricing system



**Many simultaneous
improvements**



Objections and opposition (political parties, professional associations, administrative courts...)

Interests and status quo

“To be or not to be. That is the question.

...

And thus the native hue of resolution

Is sicklied over with the pale cast of thought.”

W. Shakespeare



**Our resolution never
weakened in the face of
those oppositions**



How sustainable is the system?

- Increase in health expenditures parallel to economic growth



How sustainable is the system?

- Increased efficiency
 - Distribution of human resources
 - Incentives
 - Outsourcing
 - High-tech services with low costs (MR: 40 \$; CT: 35 \$)
 - Decrease in pharmaceutical prices up to 80% ...



How sustainable is the system?

- Very comprehensive services with 500-600

USD per capita

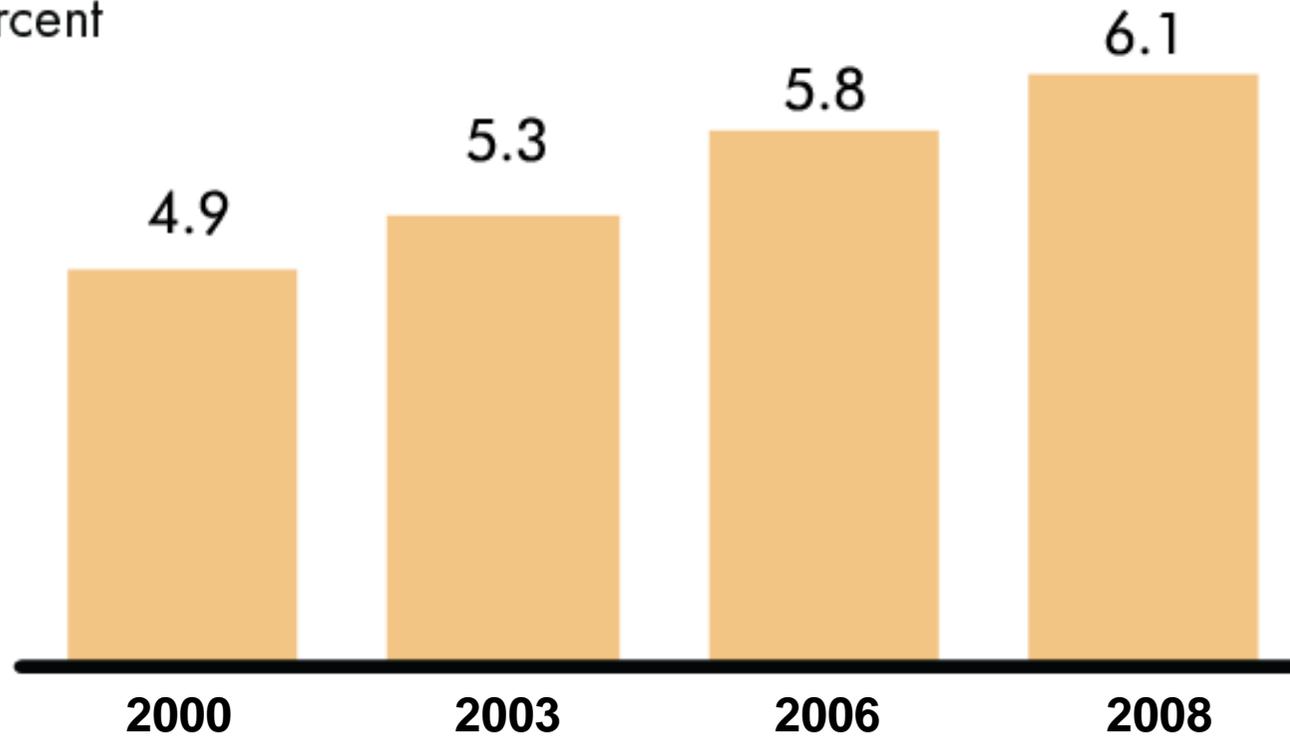
- Free vaccines (including the most recent ones)
- Free air ambulance services
- Free emergency and intensive care even in private sector...

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Total health expenditures as a percentage of GDP

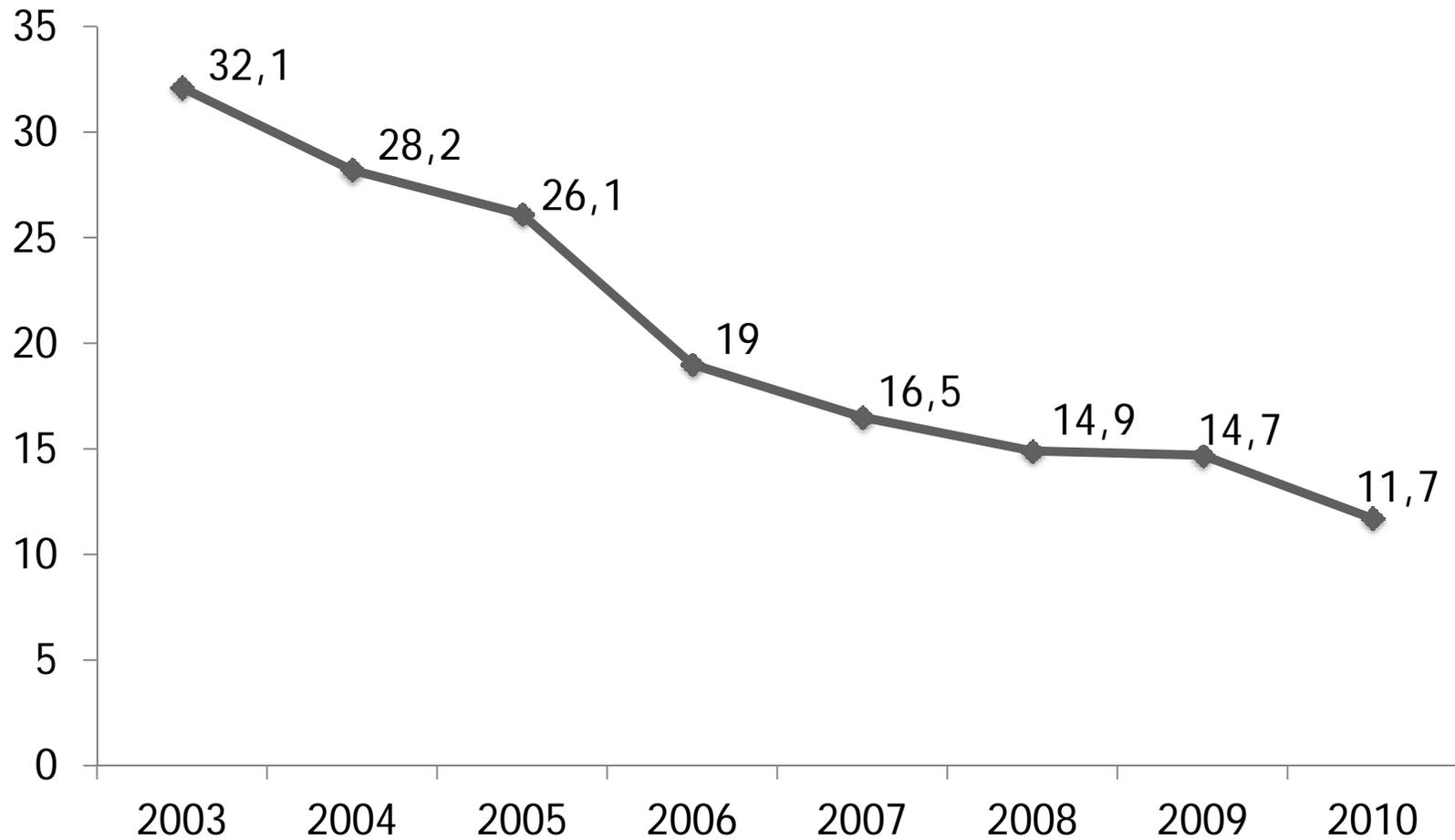
Percent



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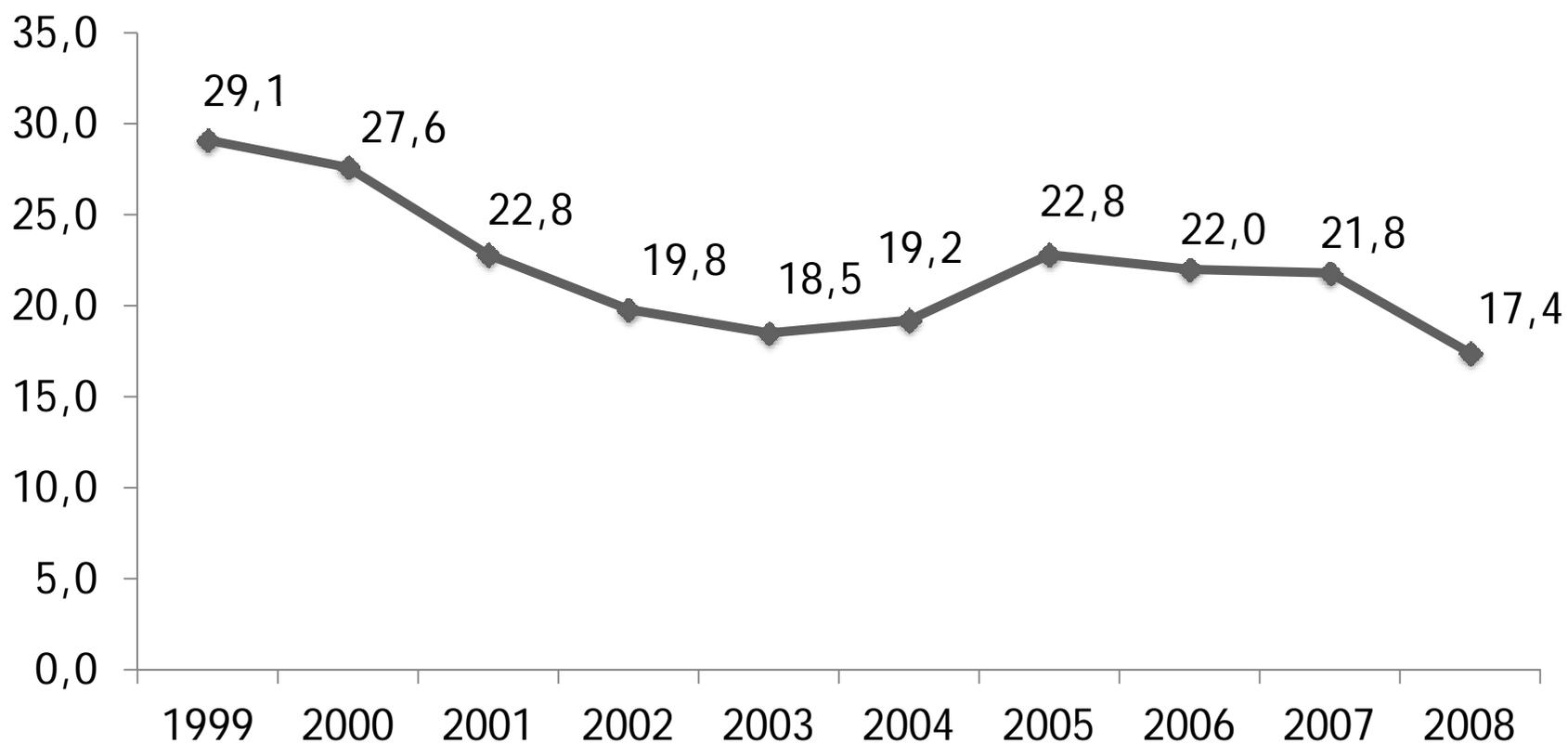
Rate of people paying for their own medicine and treatment costs (%)



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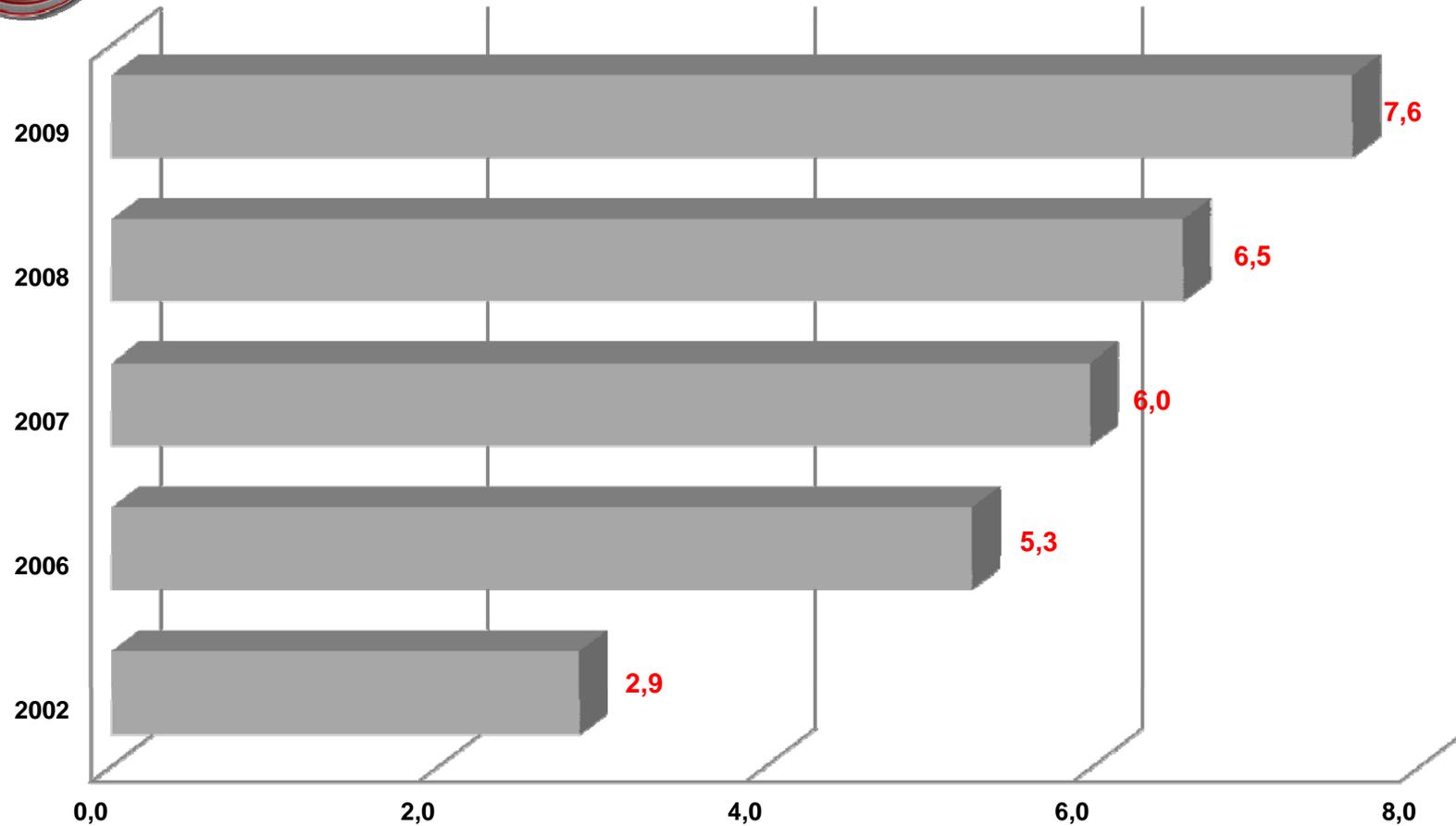
Share of out-of-pocket health expenditure in total health expenditure (%)



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Number of Per Capita Visits



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Health system indicators before and after the HTP

	2002	2010
Immunization Ratio (%) (DaBT 3)	78	97
Hospital Births (%)	78	92
Per Capita Visits to Health Care Facilities	2,9	7,6

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Health system indicators before and after the HTP

	2002	2010
Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100.000 live births)	70 (1998)	16,4
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 population)	26,7	10,1
Life Expectancy at Birth	70,8	73,7

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Health system indicators before and after the HTP

	2002	2010
Measles Incidence (per 100.000 population)	11,09	0,009
Malaria Cases	10.224	0
Typhoid Fever Cases	24.390	51



ACHIEVEMENTS and LESSONS

ACHIEVEMENTS & LESSONS

OECD Reviews of Health Systems, Turkey



“ Health Transformation Program represents both an improvement in Turkey’s social welfare system and a **“good practice”** example for other countries struggling with the same issues.”

ACHIEVEMENTS & LESSONS

OECD Reviews of Health Systems, Turkey



- “The Turkish health system performs **quite well** in terms of **equity and financial protection**”

ACHIEVEMENTS & LESSONS

OECD Reviews of Health Systems, Turkey



“Turkey appears to be one of the few middle-income countries to be **implementing a “big bang” reform effectively.**”

ACHIEVEMENTS & LESSONS

OECD Reviews of Health Systems, Turkey



“There may be lessons for other OECD countries to learn from Turkey’s apparent success with using performance-related pay to raise doctor’s productivity”

ACHIEVEMENTS & LESSONS



ANALYSIS



Healthcare in Turkey: from laggard to leader

Enis Barış and colleagues observe that a political commitment to universal health coverage together with a significant investment in health has seen Turkey's health indicators catch up and surpass other middle income countries

[bmj.com/podcasts](https://www.bmj.com/podcasts) Turkey's health minister, Recep Akdağ (above), talks about the strides his country has made in providing healthcare

Less than a decade ago, the health system in Turkey was considered a laggard, not only relative to the rest of the Organisation for Economic

the table payments in public facilities or working part time in private. Rampant absenteeism and low productivity and technical quality, especially

as the redefining of the roles and responsibilities of the Ministry of Health towards "more steering and less rowing"; separation of the provision and

On 12 March 2011, an article was published in the BMJ which made an assessment of the HTP



The article / Underlying reasons of the success:

- political commitment
- leadership by MoH
- incentives to increase satisfaction



The article / Lessons from the Turkish experience:

- need to invest in health systems
- encouraging demand for essential health services
- importance of vision and leadership

ACHIEVEMENTS & LESSONS



Outcomes

Overall Satisfaction with Health Care Services (%)

	Satisfied	Moderate	Unsatisfied
2003	39,52	39,30	21,19
2010	73,04	13,83	13,13



WHAT is NEXT on the AGENDA?

WHAT is NEXT on the AGENDA?



- **Human resources for health**
 - Increase in the quotas of the faculties of medicine and other health schools
 - Foreign doctors

WHAT is NEXT on the AGENDA?



- **Public-Private Partnership**

- Construction of new city hospitals with the PPP model by the end of 2015
- Renewal of some old hospitals
- 34 projects will be started in 2011 and 2012

WHAT is NEXT on the AGENDA?



- **Health promotion programs**
 - Increasing physical activity
 - Prevention of obesity
 - Prevention of tobacco use

WHAT is NEXT on the AGENDA?



- **Community-based health services**
 - Community based mental health services, especially to patients with heavy mental disorders

WHAT is NEXT on the AGENDA?



- **More attention on patient and health care professionals' rights and safety**
 - Health Information Communication Center (SABİM)
 - Meeting Point for Health Care Professionals (SBN)

WHAT is NEXT on the AGENDA?



Sustainability!