



BIENESTAR
SECRETARÍA DE BIENESTAR



INAPAM
INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE LAS
PERSONAS ADULTAS MAYORES

Report that defines the cluster issues that will be examined at the thirteenth session of the General Assembly Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing for strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons

Right to health and access to health services

National Legal and Policy Framework

Article 5, Section III of the Rights of Older Persons Act (LDPAM, by its acronym in Spanish) describes the right to the protection of health, including the preferential access of older persons to health services in order to enjoy their right to sexuality and physical, mental and psychoemotional wellbeing; the right to food, including the access to the necessary satisfiers, considering food, goods, services and human or material conditions for their integral care; as well as the right to receive orientation and training in health, nutrition, hygienic and personal care. In addition, it describes the right of families to receive subsidiary support from public institutions for the care of older persons.

Article 4 of the Constitution seeks to guarantee that all persons have access to health care and services, and defines a health system for the welfare to ensure the progressive, quantitative and qualitative extension of the health services for integral and free attention of people who do not have social security.

Likewise, older persons have now the constitutional right to receive a non-contributive pension from the State with the purpose to enjoy a dignified and healthy aging.

On the other hand, the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI, by its acronym in Spanish) published the National Survey on Health and Aging in Mexico (ENASEM) that aims to update and follow up the statistical information collected through years 2001, 2003, 2012 and 2015 from the population aged 50 years and more in the country, with indicators that monitor the aging process, and the impact of diseases, mortality and disability on their activities.

In 2021, in the context of the International Day of Older Persons, INEGI published a special study in which it highlighted that 20% of older persons nationwide were not affiliated to any health service institution.

To provide appropriate training, the National Institute for the Older Persons (INAPAM, by its Spanish acronym) offers workshops, conferences and courses to the general public in the area of dignified aging, palliative care, nutrition, physical and mental health and awareness-raising through its social media.

Progressive realization and the use of maximum available resources



BIENESTAR
SECRETARÍA DE BIENESTAR



INAPAM
INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE LAS
PERSONAS ADULTAS MAYORES

In terms of health, a 5.7% increase in government spending was projected compared to 2022, according to the Federal Expenditure Budget Project of 2023; this is the biggest increase in the last decade. In addition, the Ministry of Health will get a 4.7% increase compared to last year's budget.

Equality and non-discrimination

One of the main challenges for older persons regarding the right to health and access to health services is the non-existence of a system of specific health care geared to their needs, and the health care provided by public health centers or family clinics is not efficient. Similarly, the lack of access to rural communities prevents prompt and necessary medical attention causing an evident discrimination and marginalization on these vulnerable groups. Therefore, it is necessary to develop specific programs and actions so that the entire elderly population can enjoy decent health care and preferential access to health services.

Furthermore, the Pension for the Welfare of Older Persons granted by the Ministry of Welfare (Secretaría de Bienestar) is a federal program that provides older persons of 65 years of age or more a non-contributory pension consisting of an economic support of \$ 4,812 Mexican pesos delivered every two months, providing economic support in order to reduce the social and economic divides.

The program "IMSS-BIENESTAR" provides free health services to people who do not have social security, including the provision of medical care focused on integral health and hospital services, as well as medicines and related supplies. It is present in 19 states of the country, with a population of 21 million beneficiaries and attends to more than 20 thousand localities in over 1000 towns.

Accountability

Regarding the measures to prompt remedies and redress when the right to health and health services of older persons are denied, the National Commission of Human Rights (CNDH, by its acronym in Spanish) issues recommendations to the respective institution.

If the public institution denies medical attention, it is possible to file a suit with the competent courts, including, when necessary, a criminal complaint against the violation of their rights. For these purposes, the Institute offers free legal advice in person, by phone or via e-mail.

Finally, INAPAM offers Clubs and the Citizen Committee as mechanisms to ensure the participation of older persons in the planning, design, implementation and elaboration of policies that protect their rights, at the same time they interact with other older persons.