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SYRIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON

REFERRAL CARE AT A GLANCE

JANUARY- DECEMBER 2016

UNHCR

OVERVIEW

Secondary and tertiary health care institutions in Lebanon are mostly private and cost is a significant barrier to access. UNHCR has put in place referral guidelines and standard operating procedures (SOP) to support access to life saving and obstetric care and manage costs. The costs covered by UNHCR vary according to the type of service provided and the vulnerability status of the refugee.

UNHCR contracts a third party administrator (TPA) to manage and audit referral care.

In September 2016, **1,017,433** Syrian refugees and **22,007** refugees from other countries were registered with UNHCR. However, the referral care programme also supports access to life saving and obstetric care for unregistered refugees.

- The total number of referrals increased from **61,820** in 2015 to **76,535** in 2016. This is an increase of **24%**.
- The number of referral requests covered financially by UNHCR has increased slightly from **95%** in 2015 to **97%** in 2016.
- In January 2016 the UNHCR network consisted of **56** hospitals. By the end of 2016 the number had been rationalized to **50**. The majority (**71%**) of accepted referrals were treated in **20** of these hospitals.
- The majority (**53.0%**) of referrals were for maternity care, **32%** of deliveries were by C-section compared to **34%** in 2015.
- Of the approved referrals there were **869** deaths of which **52%** were in children under one year of age, predominantly in the perinatal period.
- TPA financial audit of hospital invoices led to a **7.3%** deduction of the overall total cost invoiced by hospitals.
- **33.8%** of total expenditure was spent on maternity care compared to **40.1%** in 2015.
- The average cost per referral was **586 USD** compared to **544 USD** in 2015.

DATA

UNHCR, through its TPA, collected data on requests for coverage for hospital referral. The data for accepted referrals included the diagnosis, care received, outcome and cost of the service.

IN NUMBERS

73,951 out of **76,535** referrals were financially supported by UNHCR in 2016.

67,431 beneficiaries had one or more referrals supported by UNHCR,

7.5% of these were referred twice or more.

A monthly average of **6,163** referrals were supported by UNHCR and **215** declined.

71 % of accepted referrals were covered in 20 hospitals.

53.0 % of accepted referrals were pregnancy related.

43.3 Million USD

Total UNHCR expenditure on referral care in 2016.

SECTION 1: NUMBER OF REFERRALS (JAN-DEC 2016)

FIGURE 1: NUMBER OF REFERRALS PER MONTH BY COVERAGE STATUS

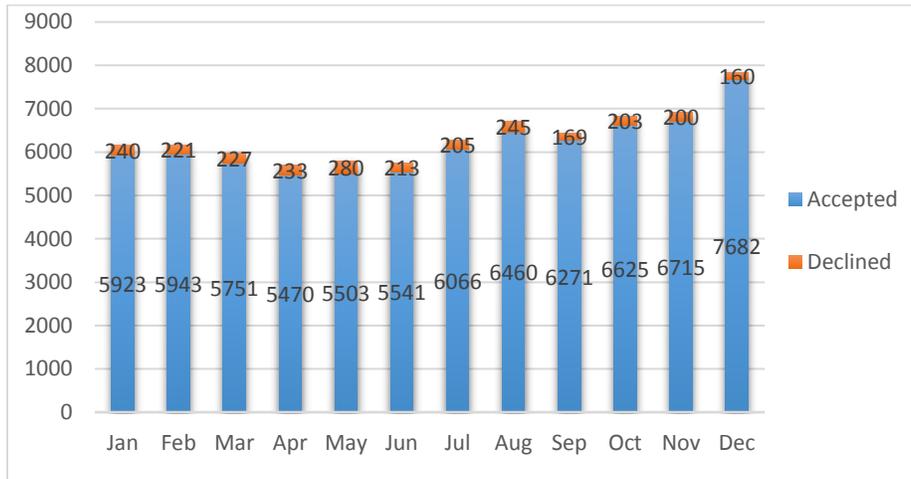


FIGURE 2: NUMBER OF REFUGEES SUPPORTED AND FREQUENCY OF ADMISSIONS PER REFUGEE

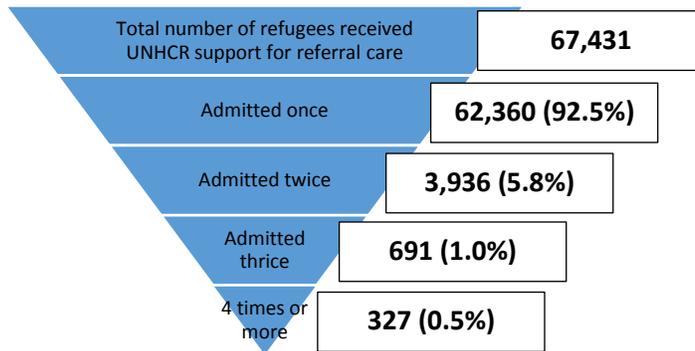
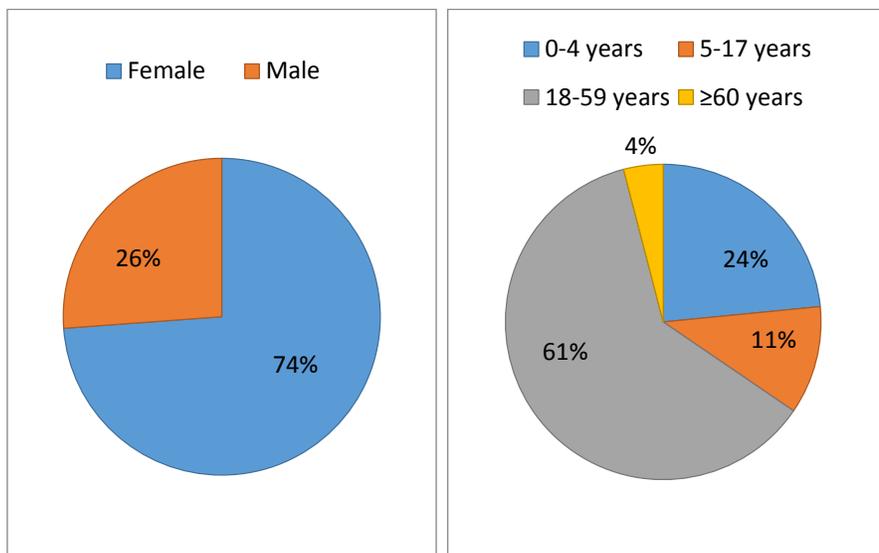


FIGURE 3: REFERRALS BY SEX AND AGE GROUP



Key findings

Increasing number of referrals overall in 2015 and 2016. A seasonal pattern of more referrals during the winter months mainly due to higher respiratory morbidity.

74%

Proportion of referrals of female patients, reflecting the high proportion of obstetric care (75% in 2015).

24%

Proportion of referrals of children <5 years of age (23% in 2015).

24.2 years

Mean age in years at admission for females (24.3 years in 2015).

16.2 years

Mean age in years at admission for males (15.8 years in 2015).

FIGURE 4: PROPORTION OF REFERRALS AT THE 20 MOST FREQUENTED CONTRACTED HOSPITALS

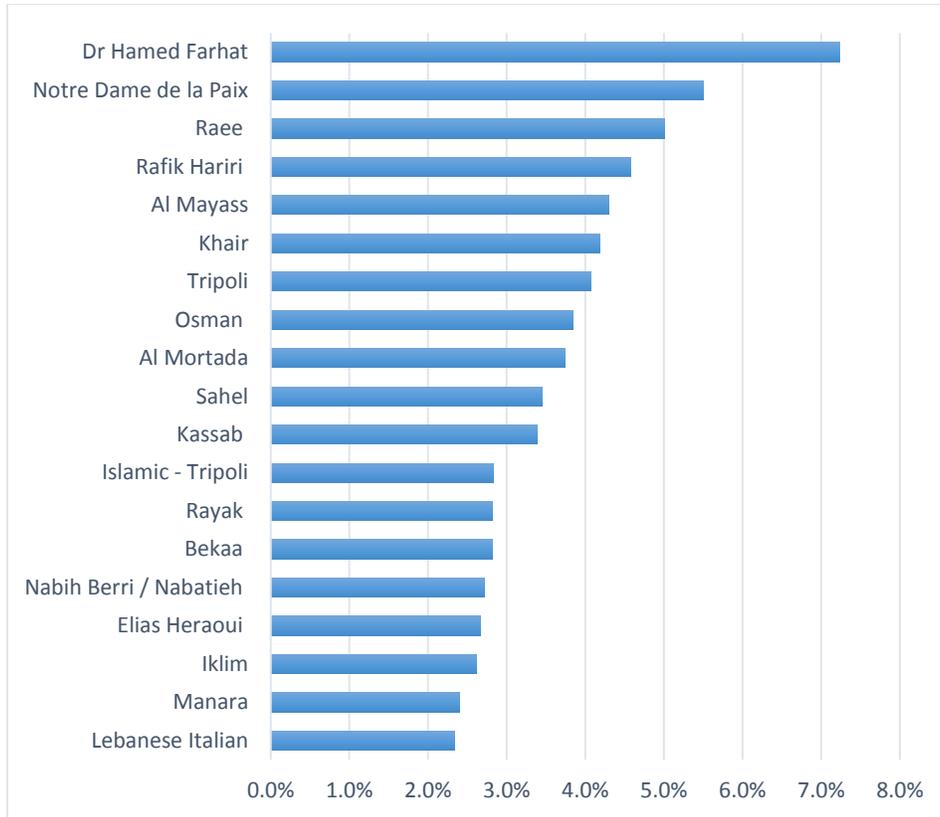
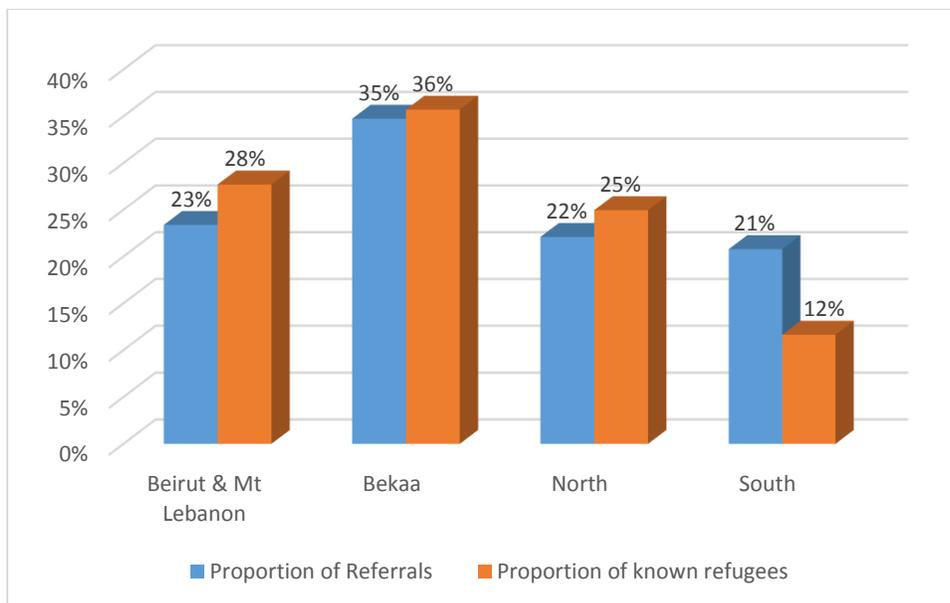


FIGURE 5: REFERRALS BY REGION



Key findings

71%

Proportion of referrals covered in **20** hospitals (70% in 2015), 29% of referrals covered at the remaining 30 contracted hospitals.

441

Number of referrals per month to Dr Hamed Farhat Hospital in the Bekaa.

SECTION 2: REASON FOR REFERRALS

FIGURE 6: ICD-10 DIAGNOSTIC CATEGORY ON DISCHARGE, AS PROPORTION OF APPROVED REFERRALS (N=73,951)

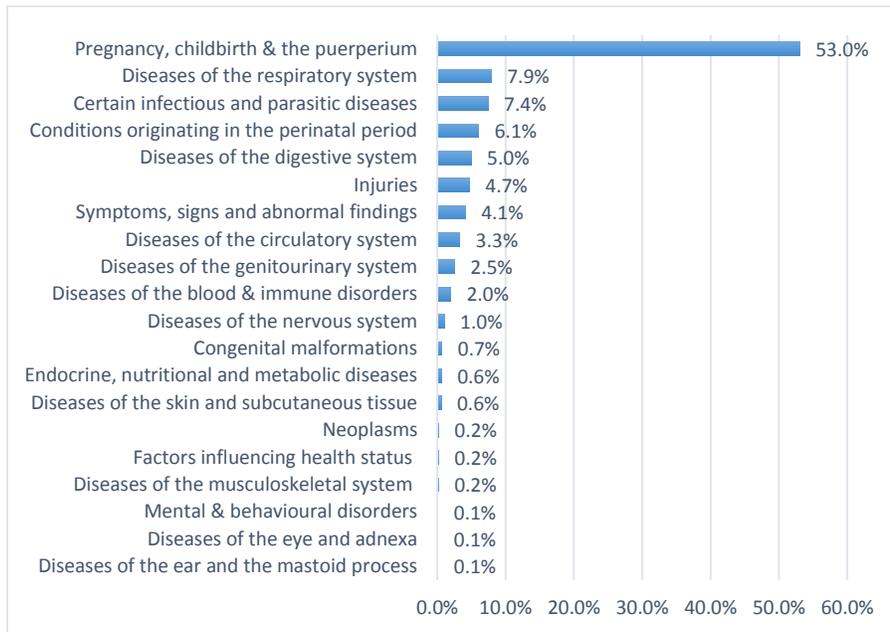
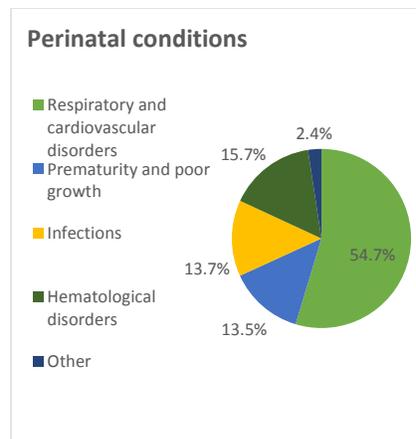
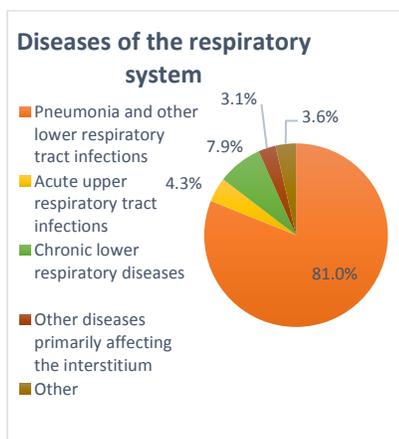
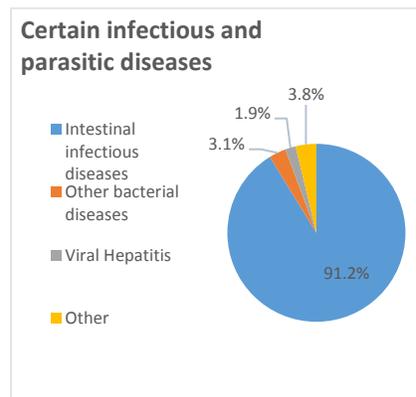
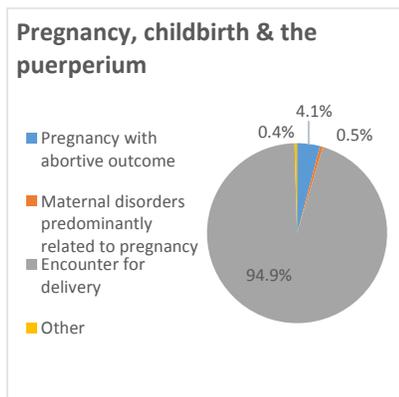


FIGURE 7: PROPORTION OF SPECIFIC DIAGNOSES WITHIN CATEGORIES



Key findings

39,223 (53.0%)

Number of accepted referrals requiring pregnancy related care (**56.9%** in 2015).

37,621 (50.9%)

Referrals for delivery.

32.3%

Proportion of deliveries by caesarean section (**33.7%** in 2015).

6.8%

Proportion of referrals for gastro-intestinal infections.

6.4%

Proportion of referrals for lower respiratory tract infections.

SECTION 3: MORTALITY

FIGURE 8: NUMBER OF DEATHS PER ICD-10 DIAGNOSTIC CATEGORY (N = 869)

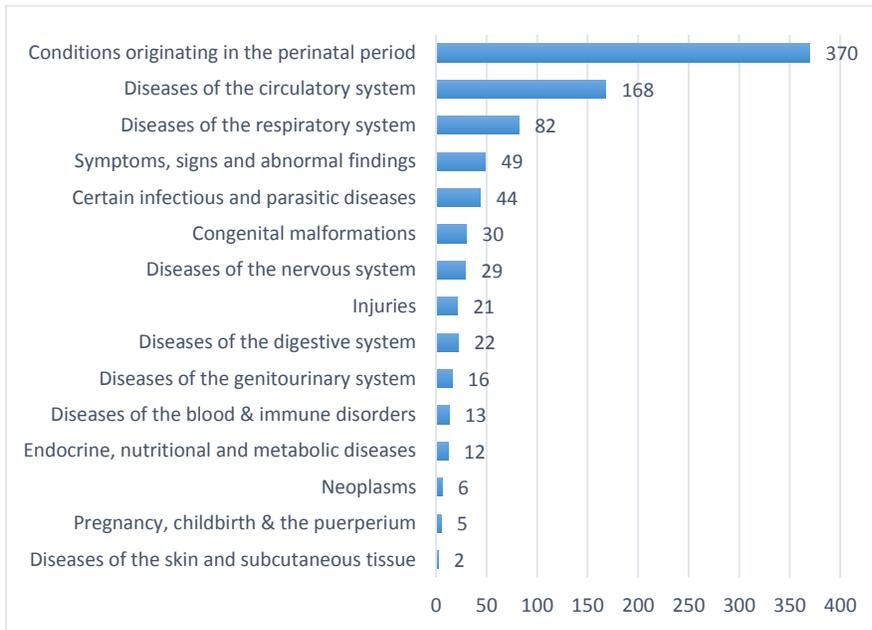


FIGURE 9: NUMBER OF DEATHS BY AGE AND SEX

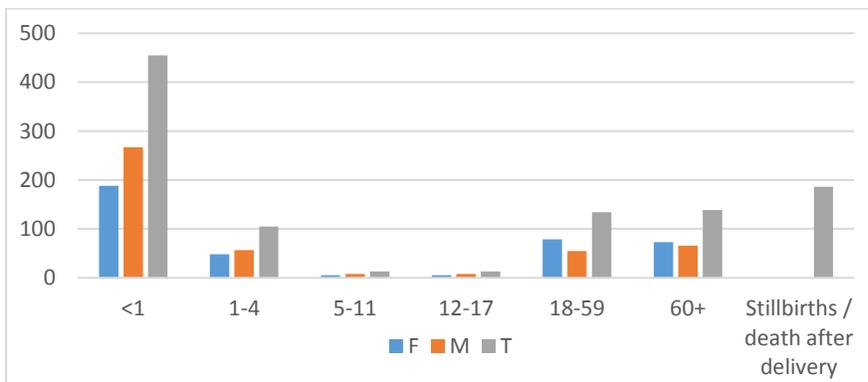
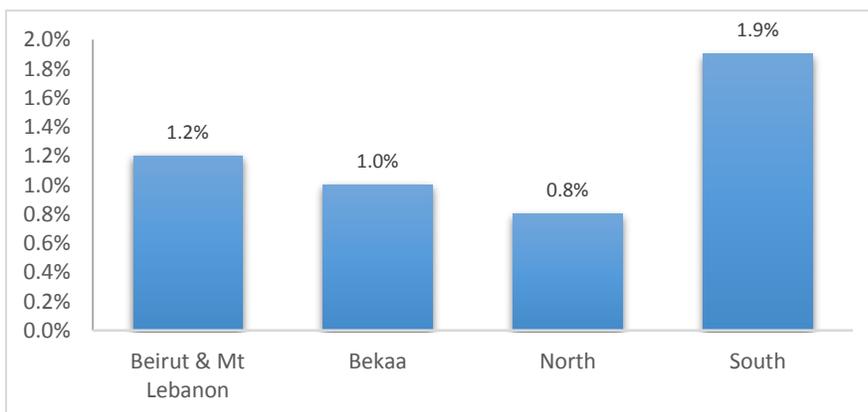


FIGURE 10: MORTALITY PER REGION



Key findings

1.2%

Mortality (unchanged from 2015).

869 of **73,951**

referrals died before discharge. Another **186** deaths were recorded related to deliveries, mainly attributed to stillbirths.

52% of the **869**

deaths were children under one, mainly in the perinatal period of which **26%** were attributed to prematurity.

19%

of deaths were due to cardiovascular disease.

5*

maternal deaths in UNHCR supported deliveries.

*The Vital Data Observatory of the Ministry of Public Health has recorded 13 maternal deaths of about 42,000 deliveries in Syrians

SECTION 4: FINANCE

FIGURE 11: TOTAL COST PER ICD-10 DIAGNOSIS CATEGORY (MILLION USD)

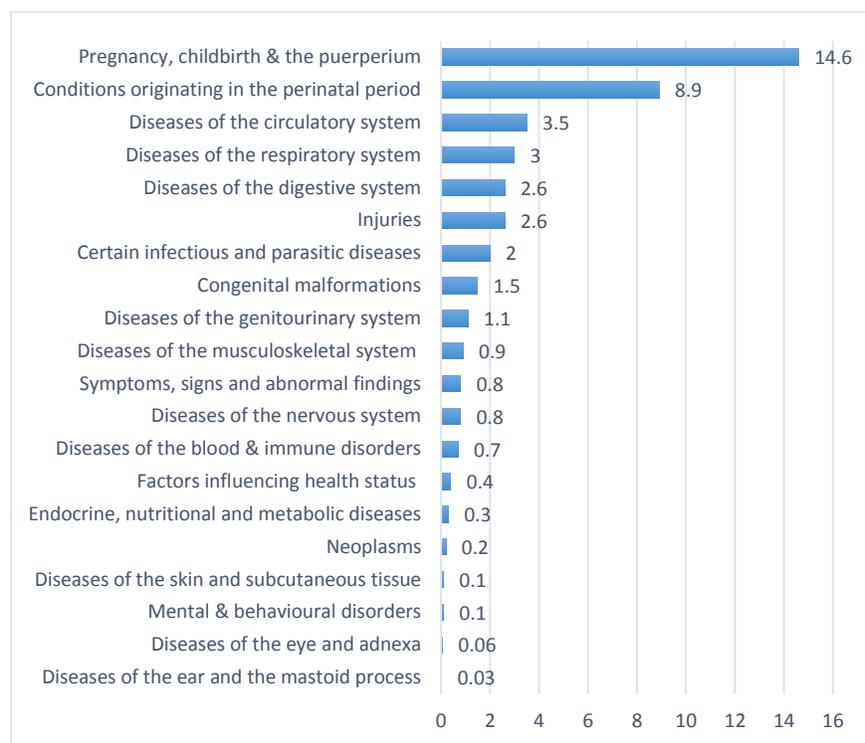


FIGURE 12: AVERAGE COST PER CASE PER ICD-10 DIAGNOSIS CATEGORIES (USD)

ICD-10 Diagnosis category	Average cost per case (USD)
Congenital malformations	2969
Conditions originating in the perinatal period	1989
Mental and behavioural disorders	1399
Diseases of the circulatory system	1141
Neoplasms	1121
Diseases of the nervous system	994
Factors influencing health status	835
Diseases of the eye and adnexa	797
Injuries	743
Diseases of the digestive system	709
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system	661
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	637
Diseases of the genitourinary system	569
Diseases of the respiratory system	522
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	504
Diseases of the blood & immune disorders	478
Pregnancy, childbirth & the puerperium	373
Diseases of the ear and the mastoid process	366
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases	363
Symptoms, signs and abnormal findings	326

Key findings

43.3 million USD

Amount paid by UNHCR to hospitals.

586 USD

Average cost to UNHCR / case (**544** in 2015).

33.8%

of expenditure was for maternity care which constitutes

53.0 % of referrals.

(Corresponding figures in 2015 were **40.1%** and **56.9%** respectively).

20.5%

of expenditure was for neonatal care which constitutes **6.1%** of the referrals.

(Corresponding figures in 2015 were **16.6%** and **5.6%** respectively).

FIGURE 13: PROPORTION OF COST BY HOSPITAL (TOP 20 HOSPITALS)

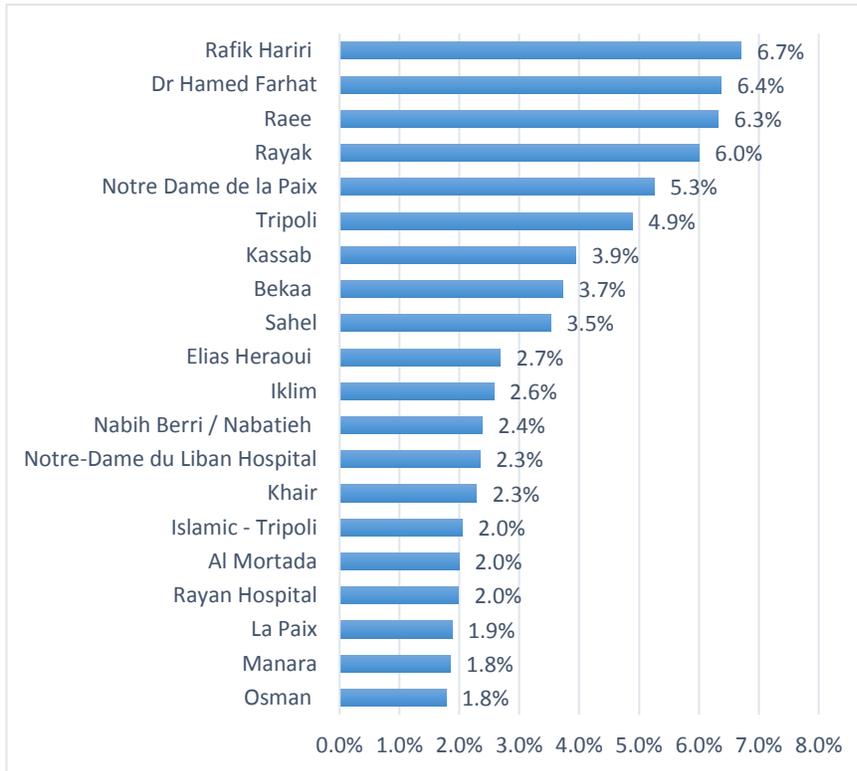


FIGURE 14: AVERAGE COST PER CASE IN 20 HOSPITALS WITH THE HIGHEST TOTAL COST

Hospital	Average Cost / Case (USD)
La Paix	2587
Rayak	1261
Notre-Dame du Liban	941
Rafik Hariri	809
Bekaa	786
Raee	725
Kassab	688
Tripoli	679
Elias Heraoui	595
Sahel	585
Iklm	581
Rayan Hospital	570
Notre Dame de la Paix	548
Dr Hamed Farhat	523
Nabih Berri / Nabatieh	507
Manara	461
Islamic - Tripoli	429
Khair	323
Al Mortada	315
Osman	270

Key findings

70.5 %

Of expenditure was at **20** hospitals. Corresponding figure in 2015 was **85%**.

2,587 USD

Average cost of admission at Hopital de la Paix, Tripoli, which is contracted specifically to treat severe burns.