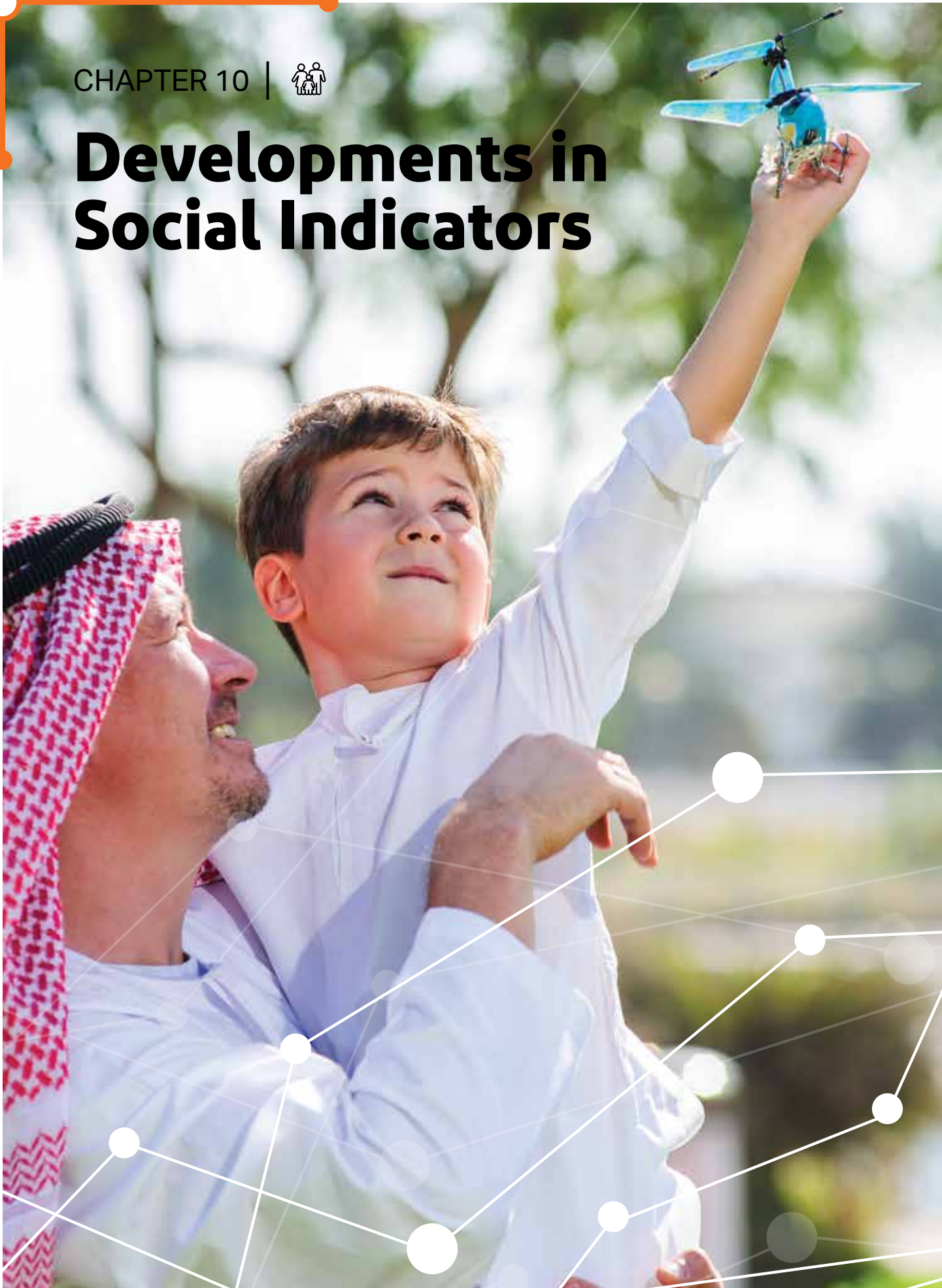
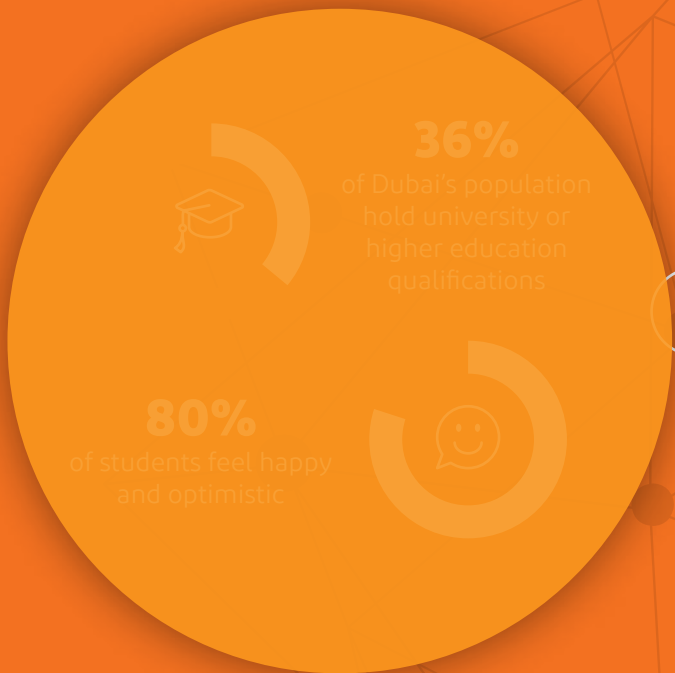


CHAPTER 10 | 

Developments in Social Indicators





1

Well-educated and happy

36% of Dubai's population now hold university or higher education qualifications, up from 17% in 2000. Over 80% of students report feeling happy and optimistic about their lives

Continuing Growth in Education, Health and Happiness

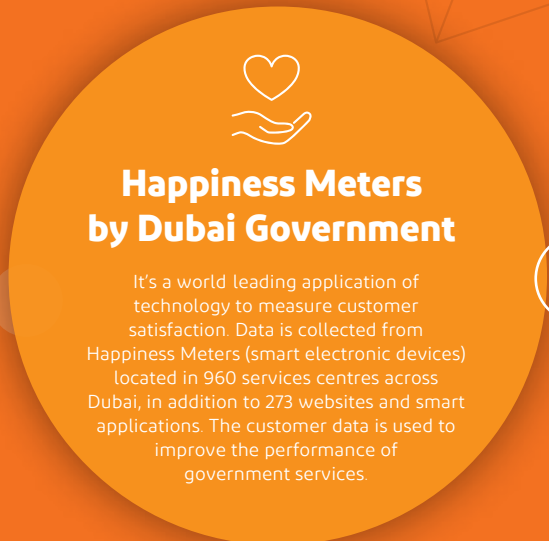
At the end of 2018, the population of Dubai reached about 3.19 million people. The welfare of Dubai's inhabitants has increased steadily along with its GDP.



2

Quality Healthcare Services

Life expectancy at birth in Dubai has risen to 80.7 years, the highest among the MENA countries, and the mortality rate for children has declined.



3

The Happiest Arab Country

The UAE ranks first among Arab countries in residents' health and wellbeing.

It's a world leading application of technology to measure customer satisfaction. Data is collected from Happiness Meters (smart electronic devices) located in 960 services centres across Dubai, in addition to 273 websites and smart applications. The customer data is used to improve the performance of government services.

Overview

The current developments in social indicators in Dubai reflect the welfare of its residents. At the end of 2018, the population of Dubai reached about 3.19 million people. The percentage of university educated people increased from 33 percent of the total population in 2017 to 36 percent in 2018. Average life expectancy at birth increased rapidly from 75 years in 2013 to 80.7 years in 2017.

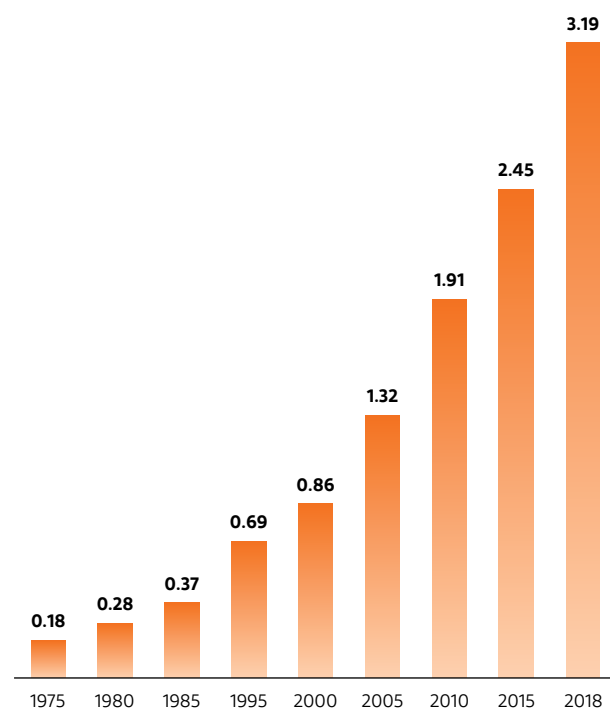
This increase in population and longevity necessitates developing additional education and health services, as these social areas are important for both quality of life and economic growth. The government has been keen to provide such services to the residents of the Emirate, and this effort contributed to the UAE maintaining its first place among Arab countries and the 21st place worldwide in the World Happiness Report 2018.

Population Developments

Population Growth

10.1 Dubai has seen rapid and continued population growth over the past years. Its population doubled several times during the period between 1975 and 2018. According to the estimates from the Dubai Statistics Center, the population of Dubai reached about 3.19 million people at the end of 2018. Dubai accounts for about one third of the population of the United Arab Emirates, which reached 9.12 million people at the end of 2017. The growth rate of Dubai’s population rose 7.7 per cent in the last ten years. This rapid population growth (of UAE citizens) reflects significant improvement in health services and living standards. In May 2019, in accordance to the directives of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, 3,354 children of UAE mothers were granted the Emirati nationality, and this will have a positive impact on the growth of the population of UAE nationals in Dubai. Regarding the growth of the expatriate population, it is mainly related to the level of demand in the labour market. Net migration rates tend to increase in periods of economic recovery, which entails recruiting labour from abroad, (Figure 10.1).

Figure 10.1: Dubai’s population



Source: Dubai Statistics Center

Demographics

10.2 Dubai has a unique demographic structure with citizens accounting for about 7.9 per cent of the total Emirate's population in 2018¹. The rest of the population is composed of expatriates and their families. The majority of the population in Dubai is of working age; therefore, the population of age groups below 19 years and over 60 years is low. In addition, some expatriates (unskilled workers) do not bring their families to Dubai, and as a result, the number of males exceeds that of females, (Figure 10.2).

In addition to residents residing in Dubai, there are also people who work in the Emirate but live elsewhere. Therefore, during working hours, Dubai's population reaches 4.3 million people. However, the growth in number of people working in Dubai and residing elsewhere has slowed down in 2018, (Figure 10.3).

Educational Level of Dubai's Population

10.3 According to the Dubai Statistics Center, illiterate people (who cannot read nor write) account for a very small percentage of the population of Dubai. Around one third of Dubai's male population holds university degrees, and over half have high school diplomas. Female population fare better than males in terms of

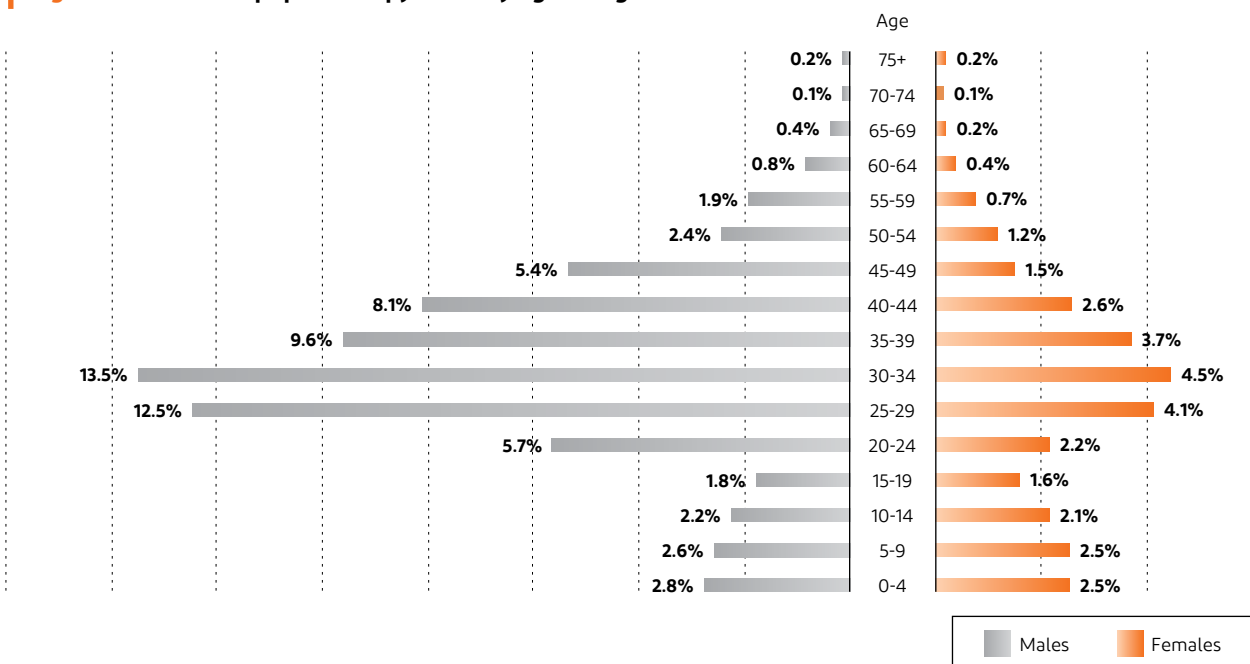
education, as half of the female population has completed university education, (Figure 10.4).

10.4 Population increases in Dubai have been accompanied by an increase in the number of individuals holding scientific qualifications. (Figure 10.5) demonstrates that the percentage of individuals with university qualifications or higher education has increased from 17 per cent in 2000 to 36 per cent of the population of Dubai in 2018.

Social Harmony and Happiness

10.5 The UAE has maintained its first place standing among Arab and African countries in the World Happiness Indicator 2018, and it was ranked as the 21st happiest country globally². The Dubai Statistics Center measures happiness levels of citizens every two years through a survey that is based on scientific methodology. In a survey that included 15 Arab countries and focused on the most important concerns of Arab young people, the UAE ranked first as the favourite country for living among Arab youth for the eighth consecutive year. It also ranked first among the list of countries that the survey participants would like their own countries to follow suit. The results of this survey are based on 3,300 personal interviews conducted by the global research company PSB

Figure 10.2: Dubai's population pyramid by age and gender in 2018



Source: Dubai Statistics Center

1 Dubai Statistics Center, Annual Estimates of Dubai Population, 2018

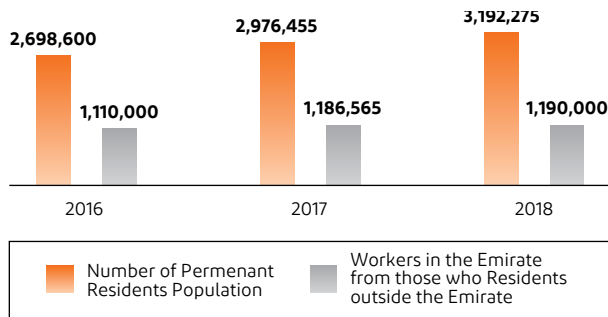
2 Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority

in 2019 with Arab young men and women (50% men and 50% women) between 18-24 years old in 15 countries in the MENA region, (Figure 10.6).

10.6 Dubai is keen to provide its people and residents with happiness, welfare and wellbeing. In order to achieve that goal, the government of Dubai launched Happiness Meters, a world-leading application of technology at customer centers and online platforms. They are designed to measure customer satisfaction with government services via smart electronic devices installed in government entities and connected to a central network that monitors data from the Meters. The devices send daily reports to decision makers in order to monitor happiness

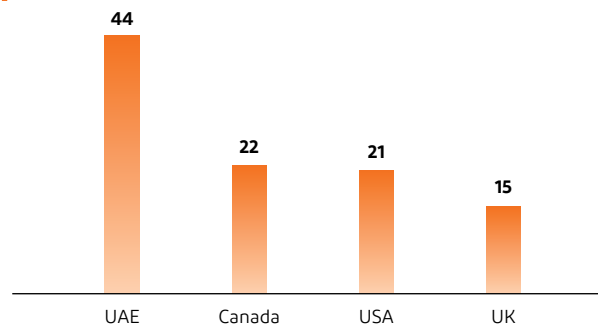
levels by geographical and government entities and people's satisfaction with government services. The aim is to identify how happy the public is with provided services and to make necessary improvements. Happiness Meters are located in 960 services centres across Dubai, in addition to 273 websites and smart applications. The Happiness Meters are an easy and smart way to track the performance of the Dubai Government in an effective manner. The collected data enables decision makers to create a happiness map in Dubai, based on geographic areas, to highlight the strengths and weaknesses in the performance of Dubai's government. It also facilitates on-going improvement in the performance of different entities within the Dubai government.

Figure 10.3: Dubai working population: distributed by residents and non-residents



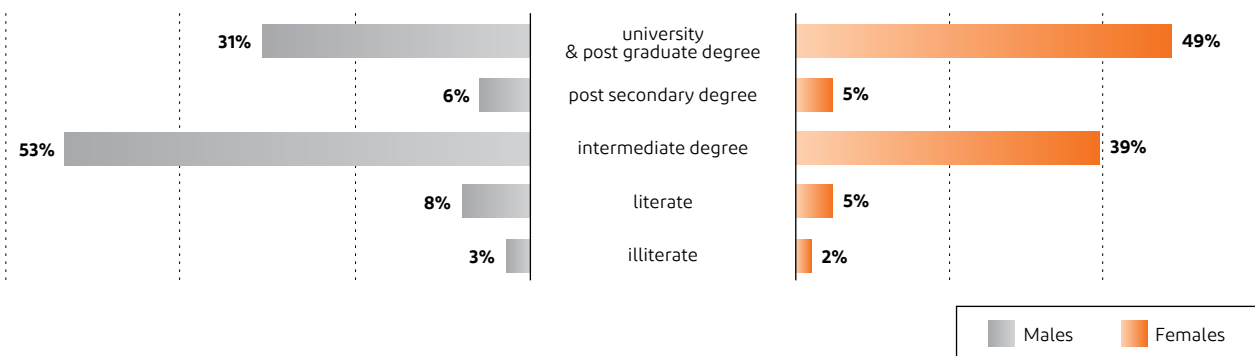
Source: Dubai Statistics Center

Figure 10.6: Ranking of the top countries where the Arab youth wish to live



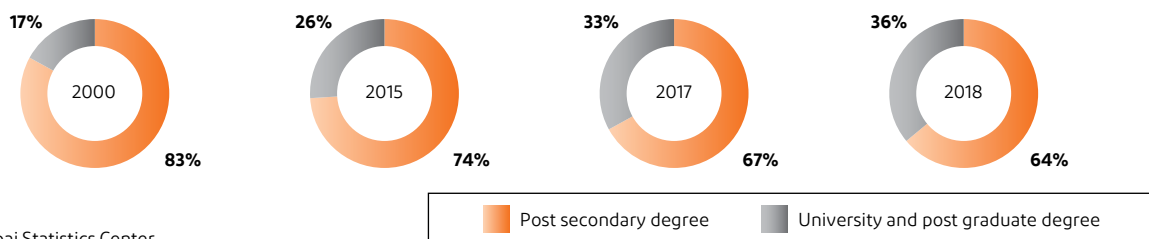
Source: Arab youth survey, ASDA BCW

Figure 10.4: Dubai's Population by Educational Status and Gender in 2018



Source: Dubai Statistics Center

Figure 10.5: The evolution of Dubai's population structure by educational Status



Source: Dubai Statistics Center



Dubai is keen to provide its people and residents with happiness, welfare and wellbeing; The Happiness meters help monitor happiness levels and people's satisfaction with government services.



Developments in Education

10.7 Education and health are the main cornerstones of development and people’s prosperity. They are also among the most important means for reducing poverty and promoting gender equality. The health and education sectors together have contributed to 1.8 per cent of Dubai’s GDP in 2018, with the health sector contributing 1.1 per cent and the education sector 0.7 per cent. The education and the health sectors are important in terms of employment in Dubai, as the number of workers reached about 28 thousand people in the education sector and 24 thousand workers in the health sector in 2018.

Private and Public Education

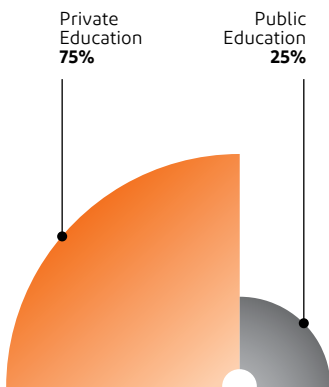
10.8 Population growth in the Emirate of Dubai was accompanied by a constant increase in demand for primary and secondary education. The number of school students increased from 100,000 in 2010 to 289,000 in 2018. The number of government education schools in Dubai equalled 71 schools during the academic year 2018-2019, while the number of private schools amounted to 209 in the same academic year. The private sector plays a key role in providing education in Dubai, as private schools represent 75 per cent of total schools in Dubai, and their number is estimated to increase in the future with the projected population growth in Dubai, (Figure 10.7).

10.9 Although public education is free, only 10 per cent of the total number of students in Dubai (29,597 students) are enrolled in public schools. There is a growing trend among Emirati students to choose private education as the majority of national students (56 per cent) are enrolled in private schools. The percentage of expatriate students enrolled in private schools is 98 per cent with only 2 per cent in public schools, (Figure 10.8).

Education Curricula at Dubai Schools

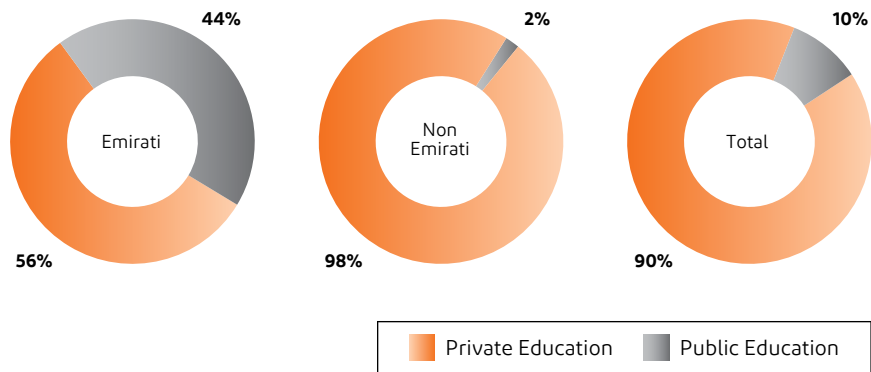
10.10 Dubai schools offer a number of different educational curricula to suit the needs of citizens and residents. These include the curriculum of the Ministry of Education, and British, Indian, French and German curricula. With regards to private schools, parents in Dubai prefer the British curriculum as 37 per cent of private school students in Dubai are enrolled in British schools. Resident students prefer the British curriculum because it is widely spread around the world and due to the ease of transferring students to British schools in their countries if they leave the UAE. On the other hand, data shows that the American curriculum attracts the largest number of Emirati students at 61 per cent, followed by the British curriculum and the International Baccalaureate, (Figure, 10.9).

Figure 10.7: Percentage of schools in Dubai by type (2018-2019)



Source: Ministry of Education

Figure 10.8: Enrolled Students by education type and nationality (2018-2019)



Source: Dubai Statistics Center

10.11 Dubai has a special distribution of students whose educational level is related to the social status of expatriate workers. The majority of workers' families in Dubai have young children, so the largest concentration of enrolled students in Dubai are in the primary level of education. The number of students gradually decreases as they enroll in secondary or higher education. For example, the number of students in the first grade is about twice the number of students in the 12th grade. This can partly be explained by the fact that as children of expatriate workers get older they tend to return back to their countries of origin to study since high school and higher education may be free or that college tuitions are much cheaper at home, (Figure 10.10).

Performance and Quality of Education and Student Life in Dubai Schools

10.12 The Knowledge and Human Development Authority assesses private schools in order to provide information to parents. Their assessments are based on a number of standards, the most important of which are: students' achievements, results of international tests in mathematics, reading and sciences, in addition to the school's commitment to applying the educational curriculum. The rating of most schools (45 schools or 25.6 per cent of all 176 schools) assessed in the academic year 2018-2019 was between Excellent and Very Good. 126 schools, or 71.6 per cent, received a rating of Good or Acceptable and 5 schools, or 2.8 per cent, received a rating of Poor. A relatively significant increase can be noted in the number of private schools which received a Good rating (74) in the academic year 2017-2018, compared to only (68) schools in the academic year 2018-2019, (Figure 10.11).

Quality of Life of Students and School Staff in Dubai

10.13 In 2018, the Knowledge and Human Development Authority³ conducted a survey to help schools monitor and develop the quality of their students' lives and to support the vision of Dubai in becoming one of happiest five cities in the world by the year 2021. The survey measured the quality of students' life from several aspects including the quality life socially and emotionally, physical health, lifestyle, after-school activities, relationships, active participation and learning. 95,875 students from 182 schools participated in the survey. The results of the survey were considered positive as 81 per cent of the students felt happy, 85 per cent were optimistic,

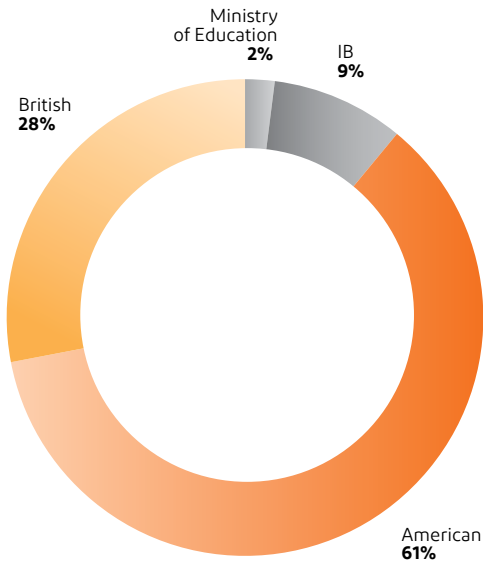
In 2018 KHDA's survey to determine the quality of life for private schools staff in Dubai indicated that 24 per cent of them were happy with their life, 28 per cent were living a good life despite hardships, 43 per cent did not feel bad but were living with hardships and 5 per cent were very unhappy.

and 81 per cent were satisfied with their lives. 76 per cent of students stated that they feel they have excellent relationships with close friends.

In addition to this comprehensive survey of the quality of students' life in Dubai, the Knowledge and Human Development Authority conducted a survey to determine the quality of life for private school staff in Dubai and to identify ways for them to improve it. 171 schools participated in the survey, and the 13,522 participants included school leaders, teachers, teaching assistants and administrative staff. The survey results indicated that 24 per cent of school staff were happy in life, 28 per cent were living a good life despite hardships (easily adapting), 43 per cent did not feel bad but were living with difficulties (doing their tasks only), and 5 per cent suffered a lot.

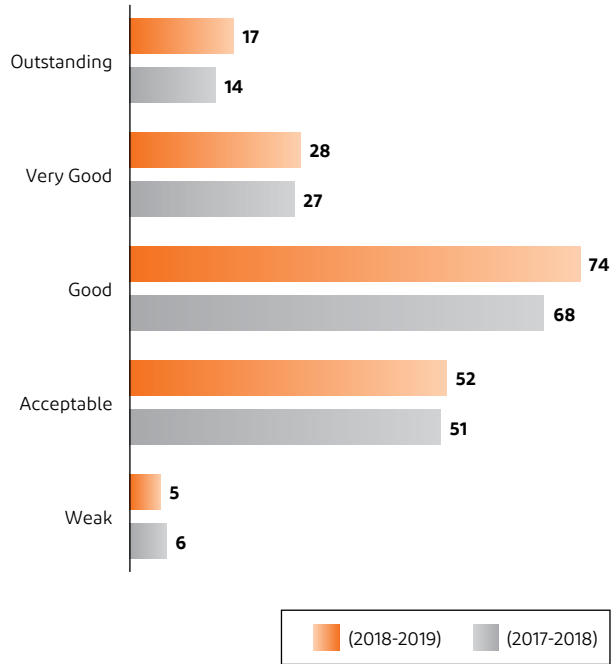
³ Survey of the quality of life of school staff in Dubai, Knowledge and Human Development Authority https://www.khda.gov.ae/Areas/Administration/Content/FileUploads/Publication/Documents/Arabic/20190204100959_Final_170_KHDA_Adults_Ar.pdf

Figure 10.9: Distribution of Emirati students in private schools by curricula



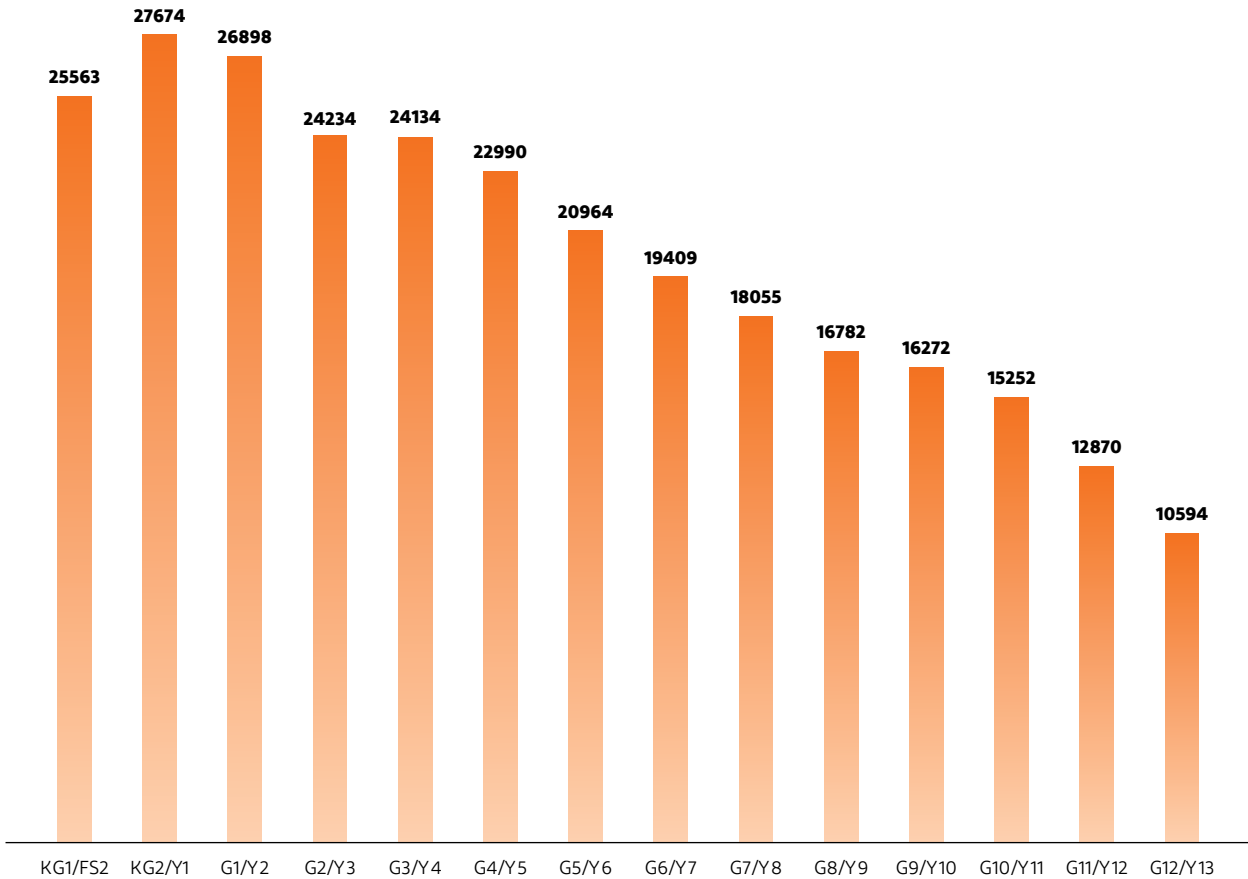
Source: Knowledge and Human Development Authority

Figure 10.11: Performance of Dubai's schools in (2018-2019)



Source: Knowledge and Human Development Authority

Figure 10.10: Enrolled students by level of education (2018-2019)



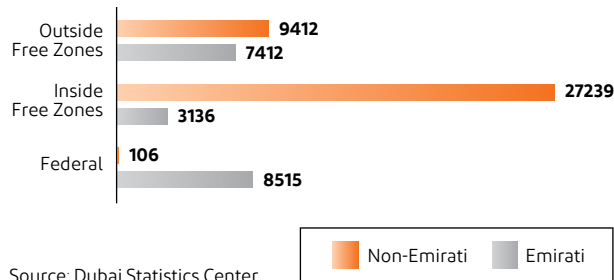
Source: Knowledge and Human Development Authority

Higher Education Indicators

10.14 The total number of higher education students in Dubai amounted to 56,867 students⁴ of which 19,895 are UAE nationals and 36,972 are foreigners. UAE national students represent 35 per cent of total students. Higher education institutions are divided into three categories:

- Federal universities funded by the Government (3 universities)
- Universities which are branches of foreign universities with headquarters in other countries (27 universities)
- Local universities accredited by the Commission for Academic Accreditation⁵ and funded by the Government of Dubai or by the private sector (29 universities).

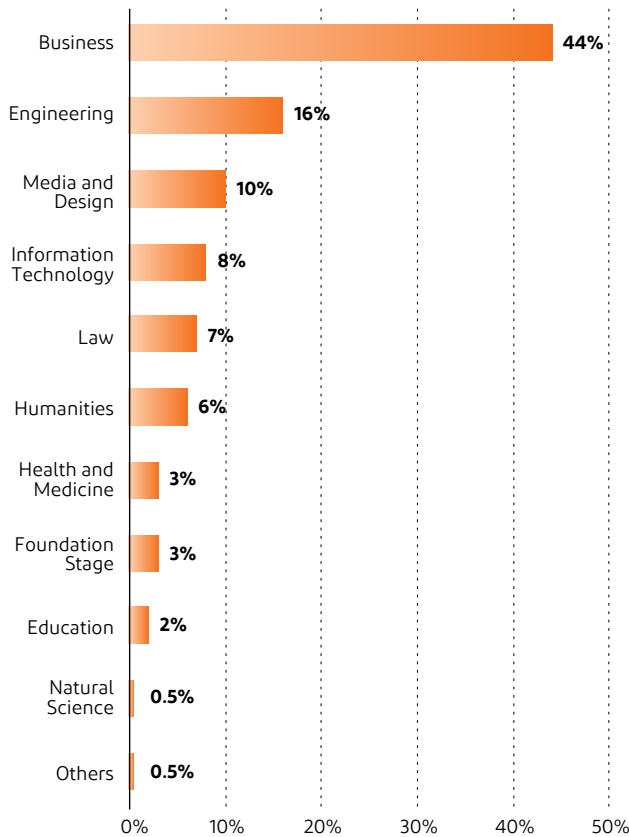
Figure 10.12: Placement of Students by area in Dubai in (2018-2019)



Source: Dubai Statistics Center

UAE national students are concentrated in federal universities and universities located outside free zones, while foreign students are mostly in universities located in free zones, and to a lesser extent outside free zones, (Figure 10.12).

Figure 10.13: Student Enrolment by field (%) (2018-2019)



Source: Knowledge and Human Development Authority

10.15 With regards to scientific disciplines, the great majority of students in Dubai universities are enrolled at business administration colleges at a percentage of about 44 per cent while 16 per cent study engineering. The percentage of students studying medicine and health sciences is very small, and this leads to a permanent shortage in these disciplines in the Dubai labour market with a continued reliance on foreign professionals in those disciplines, (Figure 10.13).

Universities as economic and innovative free zones

The higher education sector is of great importance to Dubai's efforts to achieve economic diversification as it prepares manpower to support the process of transformation into a knowledge economy that is based on innovation, creativity and problem solving. In this context, the 50-Year Charter that was launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum stresses the important role that education plays in Dubai's future. Article Six of this charter calls for transforming Dubai universities into integrated economic zones in order to encourage youth to enter the world of entrepreneurship at a young age and to encourage students to innovate and establish companies. In addition, this would boost the attractiveness of education in Dubai as a city of the future and the best place to gain education and experience in entrepreneurship. There is no doubt that this initiative will boost Dubai's economy in many ways, including the formation of new companies in Dubai's economy, attracting ambitious students from abroad to learn and gain experience, and to enrich the labour market with professional capacities.

⁴ Dubai Statistics Center

⁵ A federal commission responsible for guaranteeing quality and promoting educational excellence in higher education institutions in the country, in accordance with international standards.

Developments in Health Indicators

Primary Health

10.16 Dubai has made clear progress in primary health indicators and health-related indicators in recent years. Life expectancy at birth (in years) has risen rapidly from 75 years in 2013 to 80.7 years in 2017, which is the highest among MENA countries. Dubai has also been able to reduce the gap in life expectancy at birth between UAE nationals in Dubai and citizens of OECD countries at a very rapid pace, (Figure 10.14).

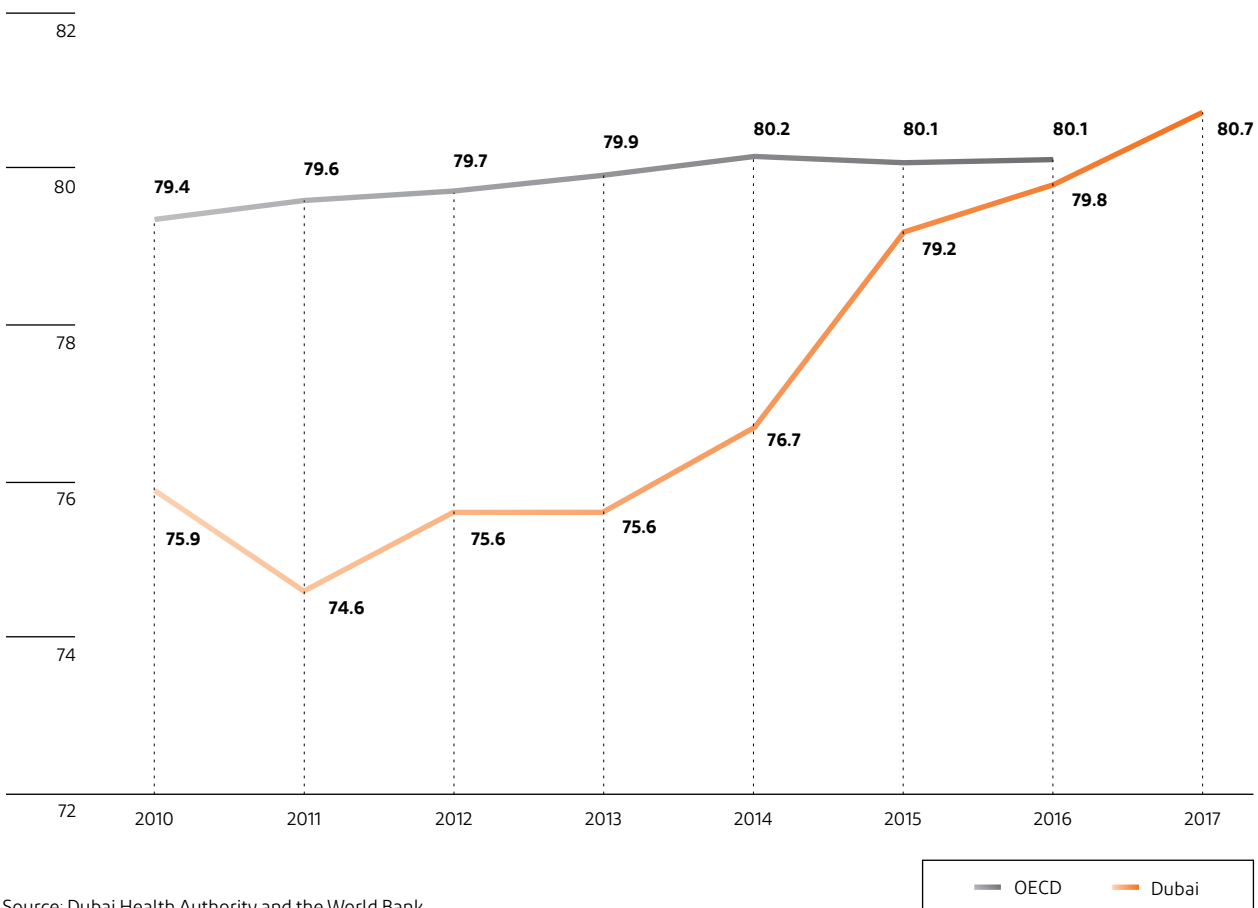
Mortality Rate of Children Under Five

10.17 Dubai has also made significant progress in reducing the mortality rate of children under five years old, which is one of the key indicators of public health and one of the United Nations sustainable development indicators. The mortality rate of children

under five amounted to 6.07 per one thousand children, which is lower than that of OECD countries in which children mortality rate exceeds 6.8 per 1,000 children. Dubai has also set an ambitious plan to provide high quality healthcare services as part of Dubai Vision 2021.

10.18 Most of the other primary health indicators continued to improve. The maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births, which is one of the United Nations indicators for sustained development, dropped from 7.68 in 2010 to 3.47 in 2013. However, the maternal mortality rate has recently reversed and rose to 9.41 in 2016. The reasons for this increase shall be addressed and the matter may require intensifying awareness campaigns for UAE mothers.

Figure 10.14: Life expectancy in Dubai and OECD countries



Source: Dubai Health Authority and the World Bank

Spending on Healthcare

10.19 The health sector contributed to 11 per cent of the Dubai GDP in 2018. The contribution of the Government of Dubai in current expenditure on healthcare reached 32 per cent, while households covered, from their own income, around 8 per cent of expenditure on healthcare. In terms of wellness, the rapid change in the lifestyle and diet of Dubai residents lead to an increase in non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and heart disease. One of the contributing factors is the region's high temperature that limits physical activities. The increase in the number of elderly people (over 64 years) among UAE nationals is one of the key demographic changes that are expected to affect the health sector in the future. An increase in the number of elderly people will lead to an increased spending and investment in healthcare. In 2017, Dubai's government spending on overseas treatment reached about AED 426 million. The average cost of overseas treatment is estimated at AED 269,000 per patient. With the gradual rise in the number of elderly people, and with the continued rise in life expectancy at birth, the government of Dubai will need larger financial allowances to support treatment programmes of UAE nationals, such as receiving overseas treatment, and to support the pensions and social welfare programme. Also, the number of patients will increase, necessitating an increase in the number of hospitals, doctors and nurses in the future and the provision of healthcare programmes for elderly people.

Health Services Infrastructure

10.20 Dubai has a well-developed healthcare infrastructure as shown by healthcare services indicators, and it is progressively growing in terms of the density of doctors and nurses and the ratio of hospital beds to population. For example, in 2013 the ratio was 3 doctors per 1,000 residents in Dubai, while the ratio was 2.86 in OECD countries. On the other hand, Dubai suffers from shortage of professional capacities in some medical disciplines such as oncology and occupational medicine⁶. There are a total number of six government hospitals in Dubai, four of which are local hospitals, and the other two are regulated by the Federal Government. There are 35 private sector hospitals regulated by the Dubai Health Authority and four private sector hospitals regulated by the Dubai Healthcare City.

Health Insurance

10.21 Dubai's health insurance system was established in 2013 under Law No. (11) which calls for employers to purchase mandatory coverage for their workers to comply with the new rules implemented in 2014. The aim is to ensure that UAE nationals and expatriate workers and employees in Dubai do not face financial difficulties in obtaining health services. The law also stipulates that health insurance is mandatory for workers in Dubai mainland and the free zones. The law requires that employers/sponsors bear the cost of workers' health insurance, while workers bear the cost of their families' health insurance. The law also allows each UAE national and resident in Dubai to receive basic health coverage of at least AED 150,000 per year. This health coverage is suitable for visits to general practitioners, treatment in emergency cases, visits to specialist doctors, surgical operations, diagnostic treatment and delivery of babies.

Regulatory Aspects of Healthcare Services

10.22 Healthcare in Dubai is overseen by two regulatory entities. The first is the Ministry of Health, which represents the Federal Government. The Ministry of Health delegates part of its tasks to the Dubai Health Authority, which represents the local government. The Dubai Health Authority plays a dual role as regulator and as a healthcare services provider in Dubai as it is responsible for overseeing the healthcare sector in Dubai and operating a number of hospitals in Dubai. The Ministry of Health, Dubai Health Authority and the private sector altogether provide healthcare to individuals.

10.23 The private sector provides most of the health services in Dubai in line with the Dubai government's vision regarding the private sector as a strategic partner. About 77.6 per cent of patients visit private sector outpatient clinics to receive health services, while 72.7 per cent of inpatients receive healthcare services from private hospitals. In addition, Dubai Healthcare City, which consists of around 160 health facilities in the free zone, is developing healthcare quality standards according to international health best practices. Medical services providers in Dubai Healthcare City must meet the standards of the Dubai Health Authority.

⁶ The Economist Intelligence Unit, *Investing in quality healthcare in the UAE*. 2015.