

# Maharashtra spends 0.5% of its GDP on health, half the national average

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*Photo used for representational purpose only*

MUMBAI: Despite rising population and healthcare costs, the state government has failed to allocate more than 4% of its exhaustive budget in the last five years for public health. The Covid-19 [pandemic](#) has laid bare the grossly inadequate investment in [public health](#) that has led to an overt dependence on the private sector, which has been caught profiteering and even

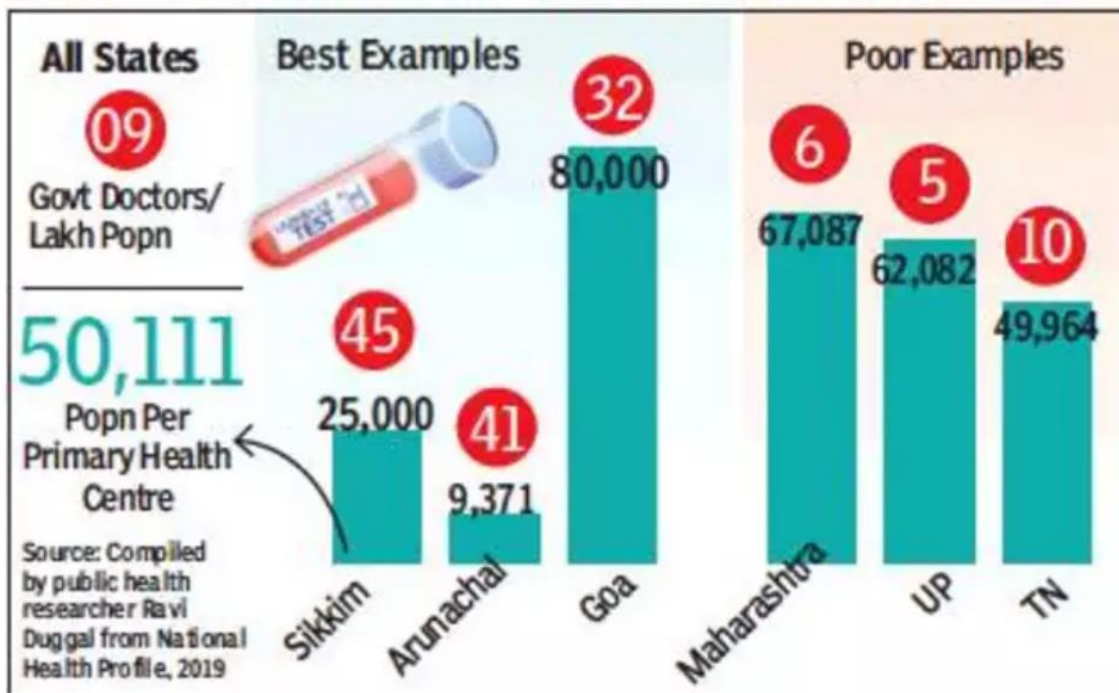
plainly denying care in many instances. Experts say that despite being among the country's richest states, the percentage of GDP Maharashtra spends on health (0.5%) is less than half the [national average](#) of 1.3%.

As of Sunday, Maharashtra accounted for 30% of the country's Covid-19 burden with Mumbai as the epicentre. A review of the state budget for the last five years by TOI shows that the allocation towards the public health and [family welfare department](#) has remained stagnant at 4%. Worse, senior officials say the department managed to spend about 60-65% of the allocation annually; also, a lion's share of the allocation goes towards paying salaries. The health allocation for the state was Rs 17,288 crore

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in 2020-21.

## LAGS IN NO. OF DOCTORS & PHCs



As per the economic survey 2019-20, as of 2018, there were a total of 1.27 lakh beds across [government health institutions](#), which is an average of 103 beds per 1 lakh people. In comparison, the state had 43,823 beds in government institutions in 1971, which worked out to 88 beds per 1 lakh people, highlighting how the pace of expansion of services has been painstakingly slow.

Link:- <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/maharashtra-spends-0-5-of-its-gdp-on-health-half-the-national-average/articleshow/76377425.cms>