

Table 2 Health – care use profile of the study participants (n = 6363)

Variable	No.	%
<i>Health-care providers attended (past 12 months)</i>		
Family doctor	848	13.6
Eye specialist	743	12.0
Nurse/pharmacist	317	5.1
Dentist/orthodontist	1280	20.6
Chiropractor/physiotherapist	76	1.2
Social worker/counsellor/psychologist	95	1.5
Nutritionist	247	4.0
<i>Type of health – care resource utilized</i>		
Private clinic/hospital	2911	49.6
Public clinic/hospital	2606	44.4
School clinic	207	3.5
Telephone consultation	44	0.7
Internet	106	1.8
Did not obtain needed health care	1224	22.6
<i>Reason for not obtaining needed care</i>		
None available in the area	172	10.0
Not available at the time required	151	8.8
Waiting time too long	265	15.5
Cost	211	12.3
Too busy	596	34.7
Didn't know where to go	197	11.6
Transport problems	197	11.6
Language problems	33	1.9
Dislike/fear of doctors	340	19.8
Had a routine physical check-up	1101	19.5
Travelled abroad for medication/treatment	307	5.0
<i>Top 5 locations for medication/treatment abroad</i>		
India	60	1.4
Thailand	37	0.8
Egypt	33	0.7
Germany	26	0.5
United States of America	19	0.4
<i>Medical condition/reason for travel abroad</i>		
Eye problem	22	0.4
Tonsillectomy	11	0.2
Allergy problem	10	0.2
Other operation	5	0.1
Had inpatient surgical operation	992	16.5
<i>Top 5 locations for Inpatient operation</i>		
United Arab Emirates	755	18.7
Egypt	34	0.7
India	25	0.5
Syrian Arab Republic	22	0.4
Jordan	19	0.3
<i>Top 5 conditions/reasons for Inpatient operation</i>		
Appendicitis	107	2.5
Tonsillitis	142	3.4
Broken bone	53	1.2
Ear problem	21	0.1
Stitches	21	0.4