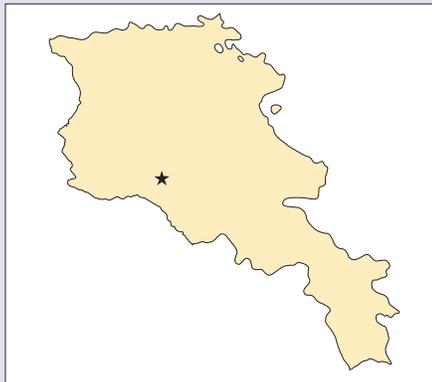


# Armenia



- **Capital:** Yerevan
- **Area:** 29,743 sq km
- **Population:** 2,970,495 (July 2012 est.)
- **Age Structure:** 0-14 years: 17.6% (male 279,304/female 242,621); 15-64 years: 72.4% (male 1,006,312/female 1,141,430); 65 years and over: 10.1% (male 112,947/ female 185,361) (2011 est.)
- **Life Expectancy at Birth:** Total population: 73.49 years; male: 69.85 years/female: 77.56 years (2012 est.)
- **Infant Mortality Rate:** Total: 18.21 deaths/1,000 live births; male: 22.63 deaths/1,000 live births; female: 13.28 deaths/1,000 live births (2012 est.)
- **Literacy Rate:** Total population: 99.4%; male: 99.7%; female: 99.2% (2001 census)
- **GDP:** \$17.95 billion (2011 est.)
- **GDP per Capita:** \$5,400 (2011 est.)

## Highlights

- Developed software for an influenza reporting and recording system based on criteria defined by local experts.
- Conducted an assessment of the influenza sentinel surveillance system with support from the State Hygiene and Anti-Epidemic Inspectorate (SHAED), PCR laboratories and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

## U.S. CDC Direct Country Support

Fiscal Year 2011 marks the fifth and last year for Armenia under the cooperative agreement titled *Surveillance and Response to Pandemic and Avian Influenza*. Armenia has attained appropriate laboratory and diagnostic capacity to rapidly detect suspected cases of avian influenza, to run sentinel surveillance of seasonal influenza, and to pilot laboratory testing according to the developed influenza sentinel surveillance scheme, including appropriate specimen sampling and testing methods during the influenza season. Armenia has also enhanced their epidemiological surveillance capacity with a particular focus on avian and human influenza, including strengthening human resources capacity by updating a small operational library/training room with relevant scientific documents, and participating at international/regional conferences, meetings, and workshops.

## Surveillance

The sentinel surveillance system in Armenia is integrated into the infectious diseases surveillance system. Influenza-like illness (ILI) sentinel surveillance includes four polyclinics: two in the capitol city of Yerevan, one in the city of Vanadzor in the Northern Province of Lori Marz, and one in the city of Kapan in the Southern Province of Syunik Marz. Severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) sentinel surveillance includes nine hospitals: seven in Yerevan, one in Vanadzor of Lori Marz, and one in Kapan of Syunik Marz.

Each hospital has doctors in key departments designated as surveillance doctors. The sentinel sites include one pediatric hospital (Yerevan), one maternity hospital (Yerevan), two adult hospitals (Yerevan) and five general hospitals (Yerevan, Vanadzor and Kapan). The selected sentinel sites provide a representative sample of age groups, gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status and risk factors/medical conditions for the region. Protocols, ILI and SARI forms, specimen collection supplies, and training were provided by the Ministry of Health (MOH)/SHAEL staff to all sites.

### **Surveillance Activities**

- Supervision was established for each sentinel site.
- Internet connectivity was established for all sentinel sites, stakeholders, and sanitary-quarantine border posts.
- Subscriptions to relevant periodicals and scientific magazines were maintained for the library/training room at SHAEL.

### **Laboratory**

The Yerevan PCR laboratory and Lori Marz PCR laboratories have been an active part of the influenza sentinel surveillance system. Although the Syunik Marz laboratory is not completely functional, the site has begun to operate by collecting samples and sending them to the Yerevan virological laboratory for testing. Data is being uploaded to the EuroFlu site regularly.

### **Laboratory Activities**

- Tested 352 influenza specimens from nine hospitals and seven polyclinics.
- Procured laboratory reagents and supplies.

### **Training**

- Fifteen data specialists were trained to work with the influenza reporting and recording database software.



*Biosafety cabinet for PCR set-up at a hospital laboratory in Vanadzor, Armenia which serves as an influenza sentinel site.*

## Contacts

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*A modern church in Yerevan.*