Port Louis, Mauritius
9 December 2024

# News release

## Mauritians see health services as improving, but many encounter problems and worry about being unable to obtain care

A majority of Mauritians see the government as doing a good job of improving basic health care services, reversing a decade-long decline in public assessments, a new Afrobarometer study reveals.

Improved ratings of the government's performance may be a response to increased government expenditures credited with the introduction of better medicines and other pharmaceuticals, improved clinical testing capacities, and a growing medical tourism industry.

Yet four in 10 Mauritians say they went without medical care at least once during the past year. Among citizens who had contact with a public clinic or hospital during the same period, majorities report encountering long waiting times, poor facilities, lack of medicines or supplies, and/or an absence of medical personnel.

Half of citizens say they worry about falling ill and being unable to obtain or afford the required medical care.

In order to protect children and the community, a majority of Mauritians say parents should be obligated to have their children vaccinated against infectious diseases such as measles and polio.

### Key findings

- More than six in 10 Mauritians (63%) say the government is performing "fairly well" or "very well" on improving basic health services, up from 47% since the last Afrobarometer survey in 2022, but still 22 percentage points below assessments recorded in 2012 (Figure 1).
- Four in 10 citizens (41%) report that they or someone in their family went without medical care at least once during the past year, including 14% who say this happened at least "several times" (Figure 2).
- Among respondents who had contact with a public health care facility during the previous year, majorities say they encountered long waiting times (92%), poor facilities (73%), lack of medicines or supplies (70%), and/or an absence of medical personnel (63%) (Figure 3).
- Half of citizens say they worry "somewhat" (29%) or "a lot" (20%) that they or someone in their family will get sick and will be unable to obtain or afford needed medical care, while another 25% say they worry about this "a little" (Figure 4).
- Seven in 10 Mauritians (71%) say parents should be required to have their children vaccinated against infectious diseases, while 28% believe children's vaccinations should be the parents' prerogative (Figure 5).

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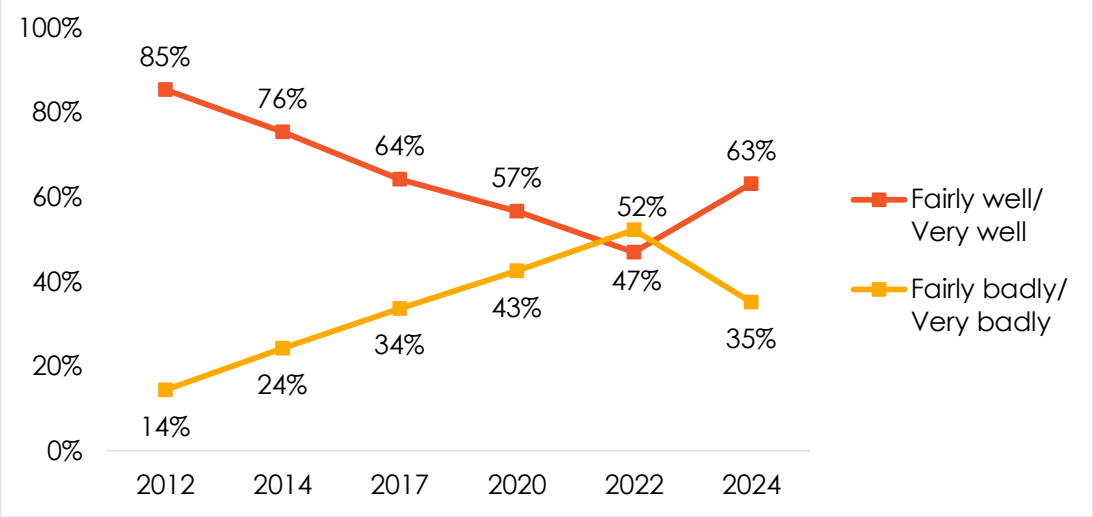
## Afrobarometer surveys

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Nine survey rounds in up to 42 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 10 surveys were launched in January 2024. Afrobarometer's national partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Mauritius, led by StraConsult, interviewed a nationally representative sample of 1,200 adult Mauritians between 24 April and 11 May 2024. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Mauritius in 2012, 2014, 2017, 2020, and 2022.

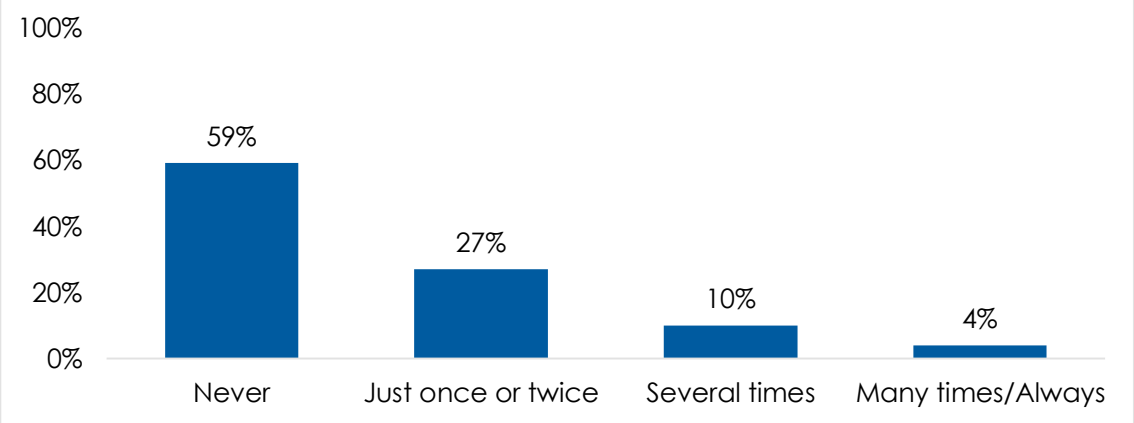
## Charts

**Figure 1: Government performance on improving basic health services** | Mauritius | 2012-2024




***Respondents were asked:*** *How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say: Improving basic health services?*

**Figure 2: Went without medical care** | Mauritius | 2024




***Respondents were asked:*** *Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family gone without medicines or medical treatment?*

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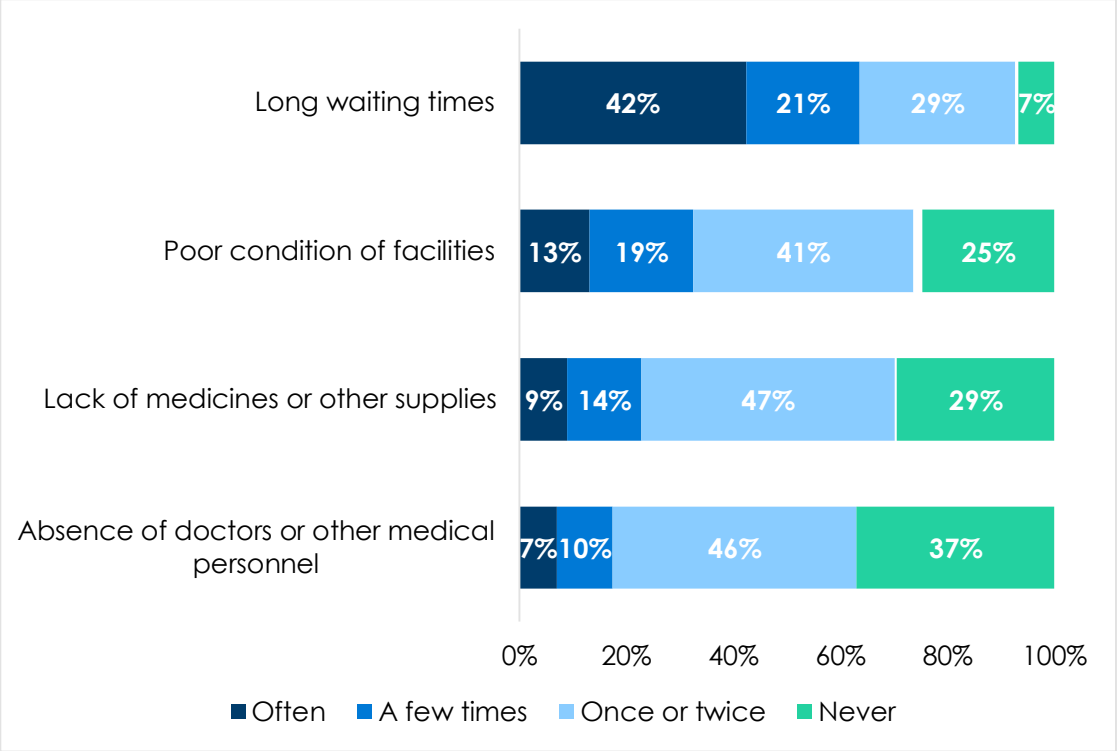
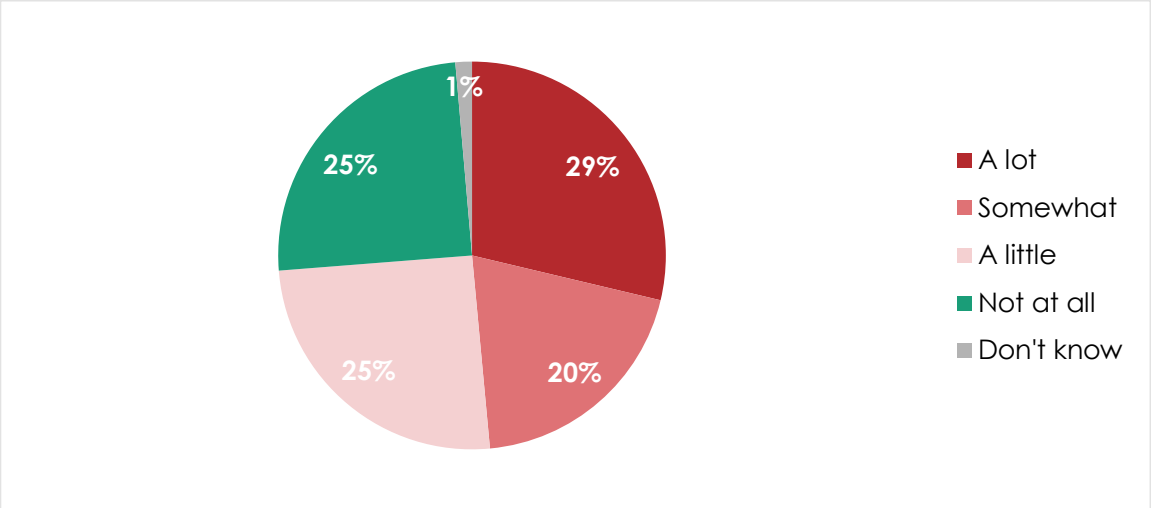
**Figure 3: Problems faced when accessing health care** | Mauritius | 2024




***Respondents who had contact with a public health facility in the past 12 months were asked:*** *And have you encountered any of these problems with a public clinic or hospital during the past 12 months? (Respondents who did not have contact with a public clinic or hospital in the past 12 months are excluded.)*

**Figure 4: How much do you worry about not getting medical care?** | Mauritius | 2024




***Respondents were asked:*** *How much do you personally worry that you or someone in your family will get sick and will be unable to obtain or afford needed medical care?*

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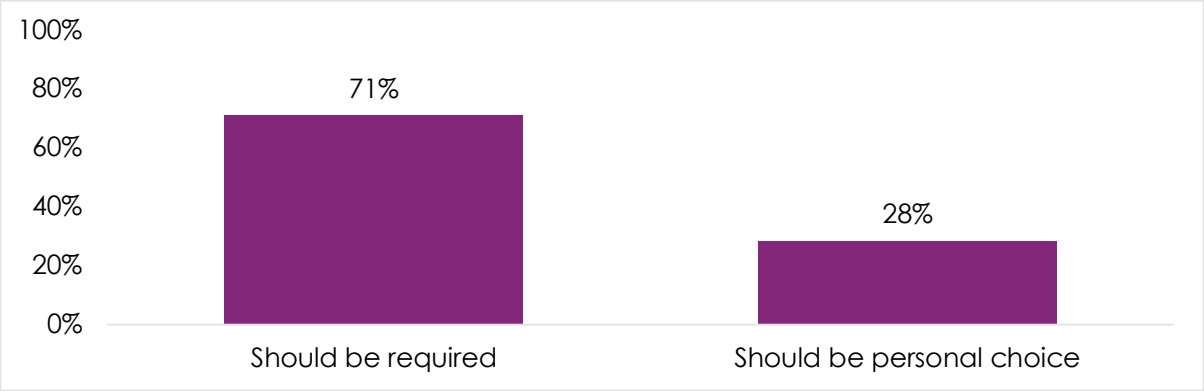
**Figure 5: Vaccination: Obligation or personal choice?** | Mauritius | 2024




***Respondents were asked:*** *Which of the following statements is closest to your view?*
*Statement 1: In order to protect children and the community, parents should be required to have their children vaccinated against infectious diseases such as measles and polio.*
*Statement 2: Having your child vaccinated against infectious diseases is a parent's personal choice and should not be mandatory.*

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