



Argentina's recent economic crisis aggravated the already deficient health care system. There has been a deterioration in the funding of both private and public health care programs, a rise in the cost of imported medications as a result of currency devaluation, and an increase in the demand for public hospital services. Many could not afford medical care after the economic crash. Reports show that there has been a reduced frequency in which poorer Argentines take their children in for medical visits.

In addition, changes in the mental and emotional status of individuals are being observed with a higher percentage of surveyed households reporting that they feel discouraged or without hope for the future. Mental illnesses are already recording exponential growth in the number of emergency consultations, while suicide appears to be increasing among adolescents.

Since the quality of care and service provided by the public and private sector has worsened due to lack of funds, the need for alternative social health programs is in high demand. Community education and awareness, as well as the establishment of mental health support groups are essential steps in order to promote preventative healthcare, and to create a sane, healthy, and productive population. This demand for community social health programs is one in which FSD host organizations directly address by enacting local health initiatives that reach the people who are in greatest need.

Internship/Volunteer opportunities in Health in Argentina include:

- Assist in a variety of projects combating HIV/AIDS. These include: nutrition and dietary support for patients suffering from the virus; prevention and awareness through cultural activities for students and adults (concerts, etc); training of health care professionals; and assistance/moral support for children of AIDS sufferers.
- Work in a public health center offering basic health services to vulnerable populations.
- Support an organization that provides psychological and social services for victims of trauma related to major health issues, family deaths, and/or abuses. Activities include: medical and therapeutic assistance; training for people who are reintegrating into society; preparation before, during, and after surgery for patients suffering from cancer; and treatment for bipolar patients as well as their families.
- Support public campaigns for the prevention of addictions, HIV, and child malnourishment.
- Conduct public health surveys for a hospital that offers therapy, treatment, and rehabilitation services to individuals who suffer from drug-dependency and alcoholism. Offer outreach strategies that generate awareness of programs and get citizens into treatment.

For more opportunities in Health in Argentina, visit our website or contact us directly