

# The development of health and health care in Tunisia

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**Abstract**  
Our study demonstrates the development of health and health care in Tunisia during the past two decades. This is reflected partly by improving health indicators and secondly by Evolution of health facilities in the public and private sectors with improving the quality of health care and performance of the bid. But despite the remarkable development of this area there are recommendations to provide for better reform of the health system.

**Introduction**  
The health sector is at the top of the priorities of the State, taking into account its paramount importance in terms of sustainable development and welfare. The sector has known, since the last two decades, a remarkable development which has embraced all areas in the public and private sectors. It has resulted in many achievements.

**Objectifs**  
Dectec The development of health and health care in Tunisia during the last two decade

**Materials and Methods**  
we have used for this study statistical series delivered by NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS and Ministry of Public Health, about Healthcare infrastructure and Health indicators. these data are spread over the last two decade and cover all governorates of Tunisia. We use simple statistical function aand graphical representations to detect the development of this sector. with a map showing the geographical distribution of this development in the liberal sector.

- Results**
1. Improvement of health indicators and Evolution of health structures in the public and private sectors
    - Improvement of health indicators
    - A life expectancy at the birth of 74,4 years currently against 67,4 years in 1987.
    - The infant mortality rate by 17‰ currently against 51,4‰ in 1985.
    - A maternal mortality rate of the order of 35,5 for 100 thousand live births, against 69 for 100 thousand live births in 1994.
    - A rate of access of pregnant women to a prenatal consultation of 96%, against 72% in 1987.
    - A rate of coverage of births in hospital who has reached 96%.
- The improvement of these indicators of health is essentially to the evolution of health structures in the public and private sectors and the increase of medical coverage at the level of human resources.

- Evolution of health structures in the public and private sectors
- In order to approximate the health benefits of all kind of society and to ensure the availability in all regions, the structures under the health sector have developed considerably during the twenty years.fig 1 et fig 2

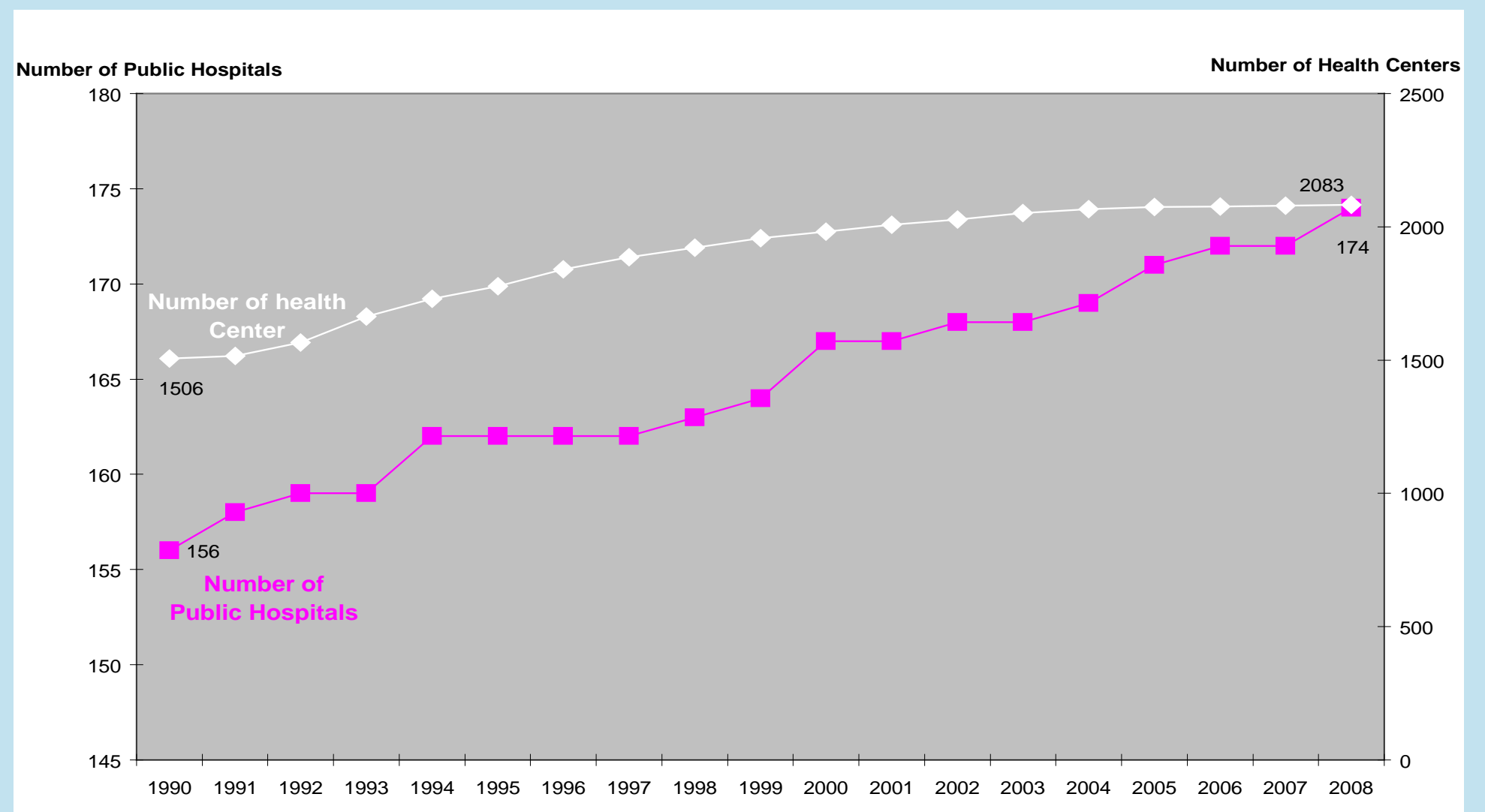


Fig 1: Number of Public hospitals and health centers 1990-2009 Source INS 2009

The number of hospitals is thus increased from 156 in 1990 to 174 in 2009 and the number of health centers from 1506 to 2083. Health Structures in the private sector have also expanded. fig 2

Dental offices also developed from 495 to 990, hemodialysis centers from 13 to 100 and radiologists from 60 in 1992 to 107 in 2008.

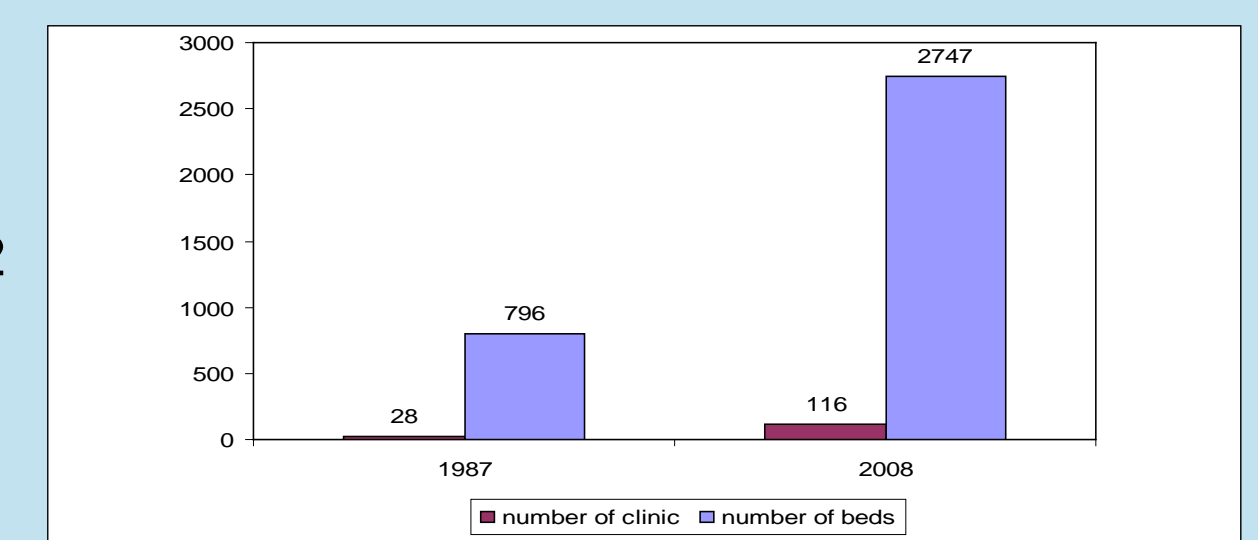


Fig 2: Number of clinic and beds in 1987 and in 2008 source INS 2008

2. The improvement of the quality of care and the performance of the offer.
    - Promotion of human resources.
- The number of doctors has develop almost 7 times in the two last decade , about 10 times for the dentist and

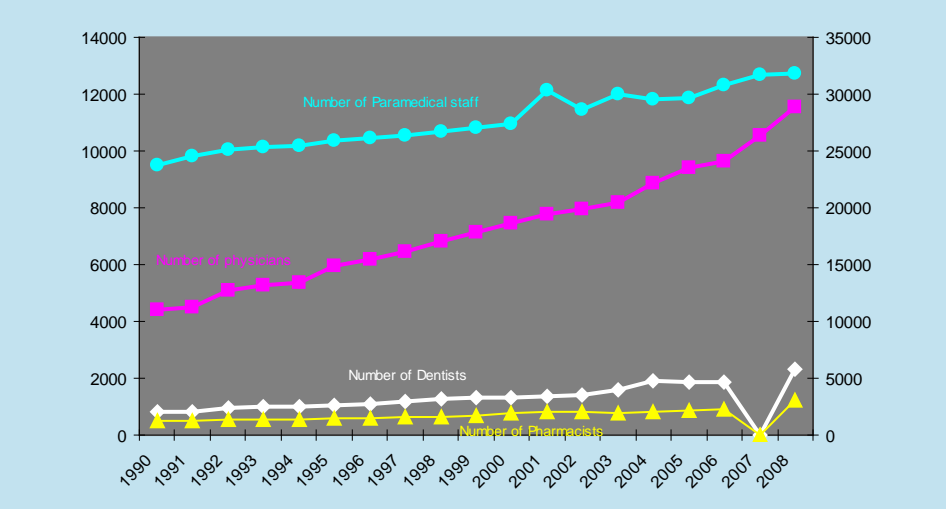


Fig 3: Evolution of health personnel between 1990-2009

The number of population per personnel health decreases also in this periode which shows the improved of health care fig4 but is it true for all regions of Tunisia ?

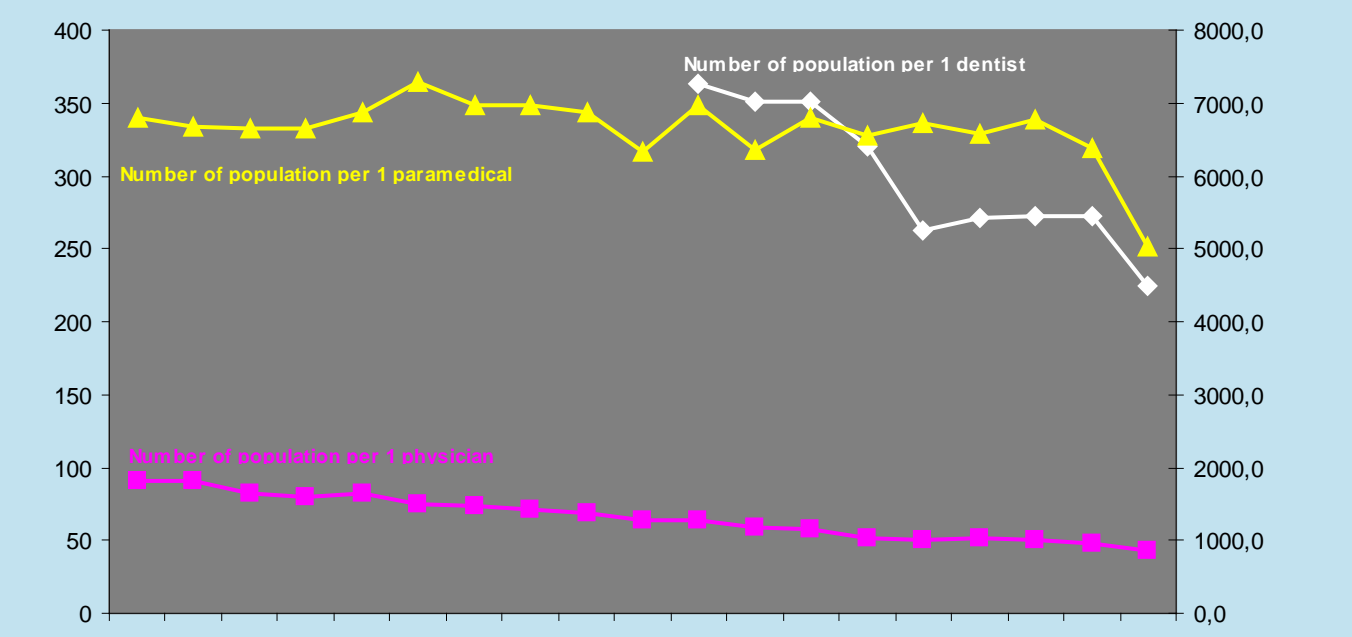


Fig 4: Number of population per health personnel 1990-2009

We can detect clearly the development of a health secteur in tunisia But is it true that tis development touch all regions of Tunisia in the same way ? we will take two years of number of liberal physician and the number of population per liberal physician to do the comparison between 1997 and 2009 fig 5 and fig6.

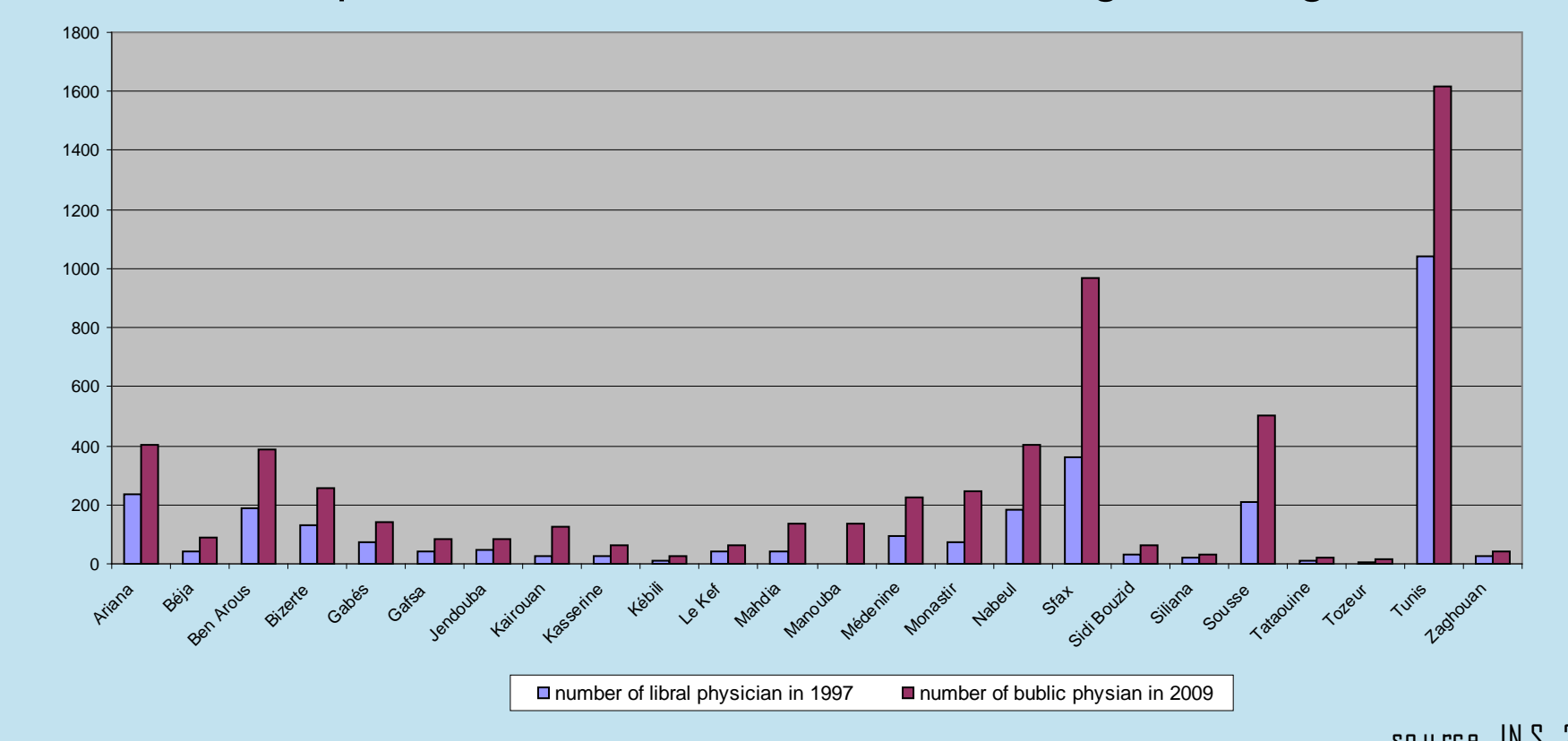


fig 5: Number of private physician in 1997 and 2009 source INS 2009

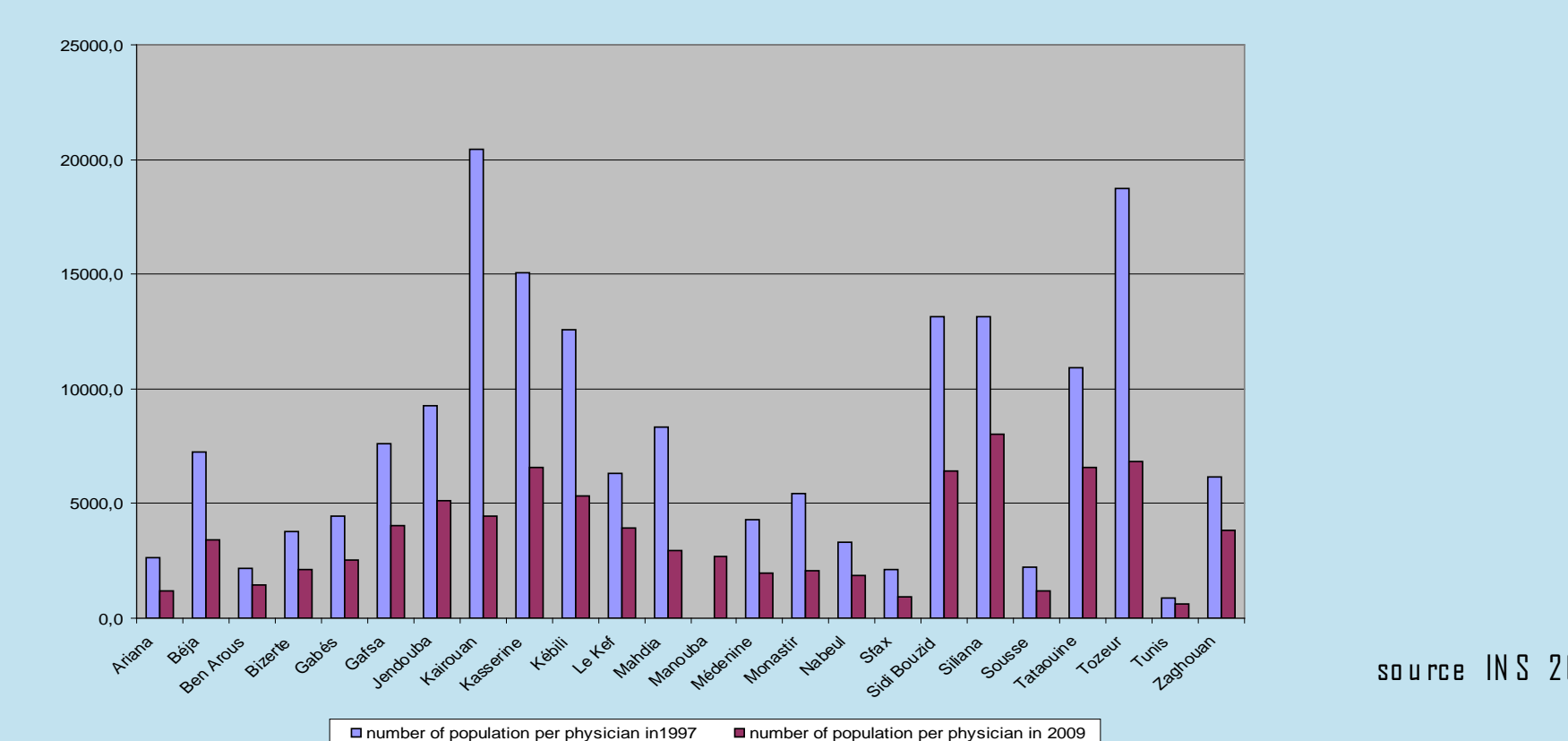


Fig 6: Number of population per private physician in 1997 and 2009 source INS 2009

we can clearly see the increase in number of private doctors between 1997 and 2009. The total number to increase is about the double. The number of population per medecin decreases but we should see if this evolution in the health offre is it same for all governorates Tunisia . Fig.7 Despite the programs established to bring services closer to citizens and to improve the regional balance as that of "Population and Family Health" and the project "to build support for reform of hospital management" and "Creation of inter -some regional specialty "the development of this sector is in favor coastal regions and the District of Tunis. Hence Tunis only has 26% of the number of doctor.

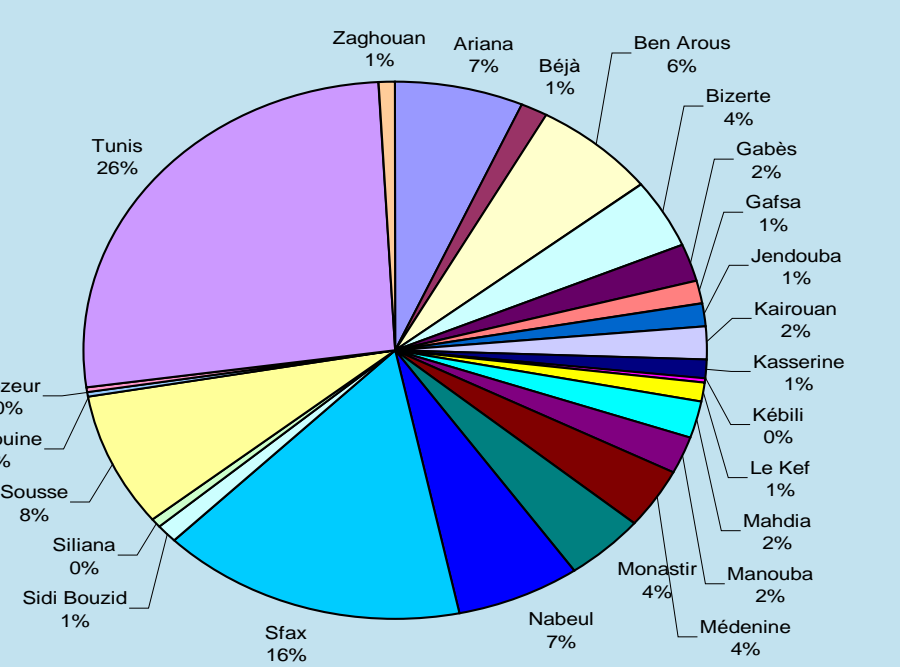


Fig 7: Distribution of doctor's portion of serving governorate in 2009

We also tried the rate of increase of number of doctors for different parts of the country to see if these programs were successful in improving the regional balance. Map 1 We see that this evolution is not the same for all of the governorate we distinct 4 types

- 1/ very imortant evolution Tunis and Sfax. The two biggest town in Tunisia
  - 2/ imortant evolution who are interested to third town Sousse and also Nabeul
  - 3/ medium evolution interessed the rest of coastal gouvernerate
  - 4/ low evolution for the rest remains governorates.
- We can say even with these programs the coastal areas is the most evolved and includes the majority of health services and offers.



Map 1: The rate of aug mentation of number of population per physician between 1997-2009

- Development of the advanced medicine
- The creation of several facilities and services like the National Centre for Promotion of organ transplants, the National Center for bone marrow, the Centre for Emergency Medicine and Trauma Burn Ben Arous , Center for neonatology in Monastir, the National Blood Transfusion Centre, National Laboratory for Drug Control, the Department of Thoracic Surgery Ariana, Department of Cardiovascular Surgery at Rabta, in addition to neonatal care in Tunis Sousse and Sfax, services carcinology in Sousse and Sfax and service of hereditary diseases and genetic Charles Nicolle hospital in Tunis .
- The development of the activity of organ transplantation in an evolutionary manner (cornea, kidneys, heart , liver, bone marrow, members.
- The introduction of new medical technologies and advanced technology skills through the National Medical and effective cooperation with foreign medical teams
- The development of the local production of medicines on the plan quantitative and qualitative, which has enabled cover 49% of the needs of the country in drugs against 7% only in 1987.

**Conclusion**

The Health Sector in Tunisia has indeed many advantages. It is diverse, ranging from basic health care to more sophisticated through the heavy conditions. But it must improve advantage on several routes, including the financing of the health and health insurance, the offer of care, the quality of care and the information systems..

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