

The Role of the Korean Medical Association in Improving the  
Healthcare Systems of South and North Korea After Unification

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# Undernutrition/disability, below 5 years old, 27%



## **Unlike South Korea many diseases and health risks in North Korea**

- 1. Undernutrition/disability, below 5 years old, 27%**
- 2. Infectious diseases: tuberculosis, malaria, parasite**
- 3. Psychological trauma**
- 4. Drug abuse/dependence**
- 5. Venereal diseases, drugs**

# Comparison of health indicators with North Korean defectors

○ Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KCD)'s height and weight status of North Korean defector adults (more than 19 years old) (2005~2008, surveyed 6,967 people)

Classification	Male		Female	
	Height	North Korea	165.4cm	North Korea
South Korea		171.4cm	South Korea	158.4cm
Weight	North Korea	60.2kg	North Korea	52.8kg
	South Korea	72.0kg	South Korea	57.1kg

○ Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KCD)'s medical checkup results comparison with North Korean defector adolescents (under 18 years old) (2005~2008, surveyed 1,257 people)

Classification	Male		Female	
	Height	North Korea	155.7cm	North Korea
South Korea		169.2cm	South Korea	159.4cm
Weight	North Korea	47.3kg	North Korea	46.9kg
	South Korea	60.8kg	South Korea	52.3kg

# Health indicators of North Korean defectors according to the length of stay in Korea

Length of stay	Number of people		Average weight (kg)		Average height (cm)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Less than 1 year	2	4	53.5	54.4	157	151.9
1 year ~5 years	-	7	-	57.5	-	154.3
6 years ~10 years	2	4	60.8	59.9	160	158.8
More than 10 years	1	3	75	59.2	171	153.4

# Differences in disease between South and North Korea

South Korea

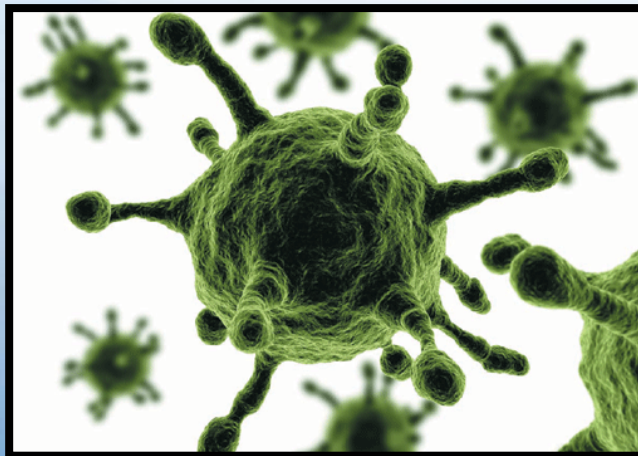
North Korea

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Viral  
diseases

Bacterial  
diseases



## Current situation of the Korean peninsula and the Republic of Korea's role

- ✓ North Korean resident's health problems are not simply healthcare issues, but it is necessary to recognize it as important national and social issues and establish relevant policies
- ✓ Medical aid that help with the restoration of health for North Korean defectors who have vulnerable health status, while also help with their early settlement in the Korean society, will play an important role in preparing for unification and achieve integration

# The role of the Korean Medical Association to be prepared after Korean unification

1. Conduct research on integrating medical license system and medical education
2. Promote exchanges of medical service personnel
3. Revise glossary of official medical terms for South and North Korea
4. Conduct systematic research on North Korean medicine and North Korea
5. Implement joint programs by the two Koreas to eradicate infectious diseases, etc.
6. Implement programs to establish medical infrastructure, including hospital in North Korea, etc.
7. Foster specialists in the field of unified healthcare industry



## **The role of the Korean Medical Association to be prepared after Korean unification**

**At a time when the role of medicine is more important in the new era, the Korean Medical Association will make every effort to improve the Healthcare Systems of South and North Korea After Unification.**

The role of the Korean Medical Association to be prepared after Korean unification

Thank you!