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Epidemiologic Profile and Utilisation of Health Care in North Bengal¹

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ABSTRACT Infrastructure of health services is passing through a phase of transition in North Bengal. Private sources of care became the main crowd puller than the public ones. Does this change in infrastructure and preference for care correspond to the changes in epidemiologic profile of this region? The research question to be investigated in this paper is that – whether pattern of morbidity or epidemiological profile of this region has transformed leading to a change in the appeal towards a particular type of care or system of medicine. The present study thus applies simple statistical tools to examine the epidemiological profile of Cooch Behar and Jalpaiguri districts of North Bengal (West Bengal, India), and tries to find out its association with pattern of utilisation of health services with respect to type of care and system of medicine.