

1 in 3 Russian Hospitals Lack Water Supply – Audit Chamber

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Conditions in Russian hospitals have barely changed since 2016, the Audit Chamber said. **Yevgeny Leonov / TASS**

Nearly one-third of Russia's medical facilities lack a water supply network and more than 40% lack central heating, the Russian government's public spending watchdog has [said](#) in its latest report on children's health.

Out of the almost 117,000 buildings inspected as of January 2019, Russia's Audit Chamber said 41.1% had no central heating and 30.5% had no water.

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The figures have barely changed since 2016, when Russia's previous chief auditor [said](#) central heating was absent in 40.5% of Russian hospitals and water was absent in 31%.

In 2019, 52.1% of hospitals had no hot water and 47% lacked accessibility for the physically disabled, the Audit Chamber said Friday. Sewer systems were absent in 35% of Russian hospitals.

Fourteen percent of the inspected buildings required major repairs.

The watchdog also criticized President Vladimir Putin's \$400 billion national spending program for earmarking a small fraction of the funds on children's healthcare through 2024.

"There's a lack of qualified pediatricians in the regions and the conditions of most buildings used for children's clinics can't provide patients the needed comfort," the Audit Chamber said.

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