

부산 누빈 의료버스, 올해 시민 1800명 만났다

市, 부산대병원 등 3곳과 협력 복지관 찾아 간단한 검진·진료 기존 3대서 내년 7대로 확대

올해 본격적인 운영을 시작한 '의료버스'를 이용한 시민이 1800명을 넘어선 것으로 집계됐다. 부산시는 급속한 고령화 진행에 따라 운영 대수를 현재 3대에 서 내년 7대로 늘릴 계획이다.

21일 시에 따르면 올해 부산대병원 부민병원 메리놀병원과 협력해 운영을 시작한 의료버스에서 의료서비스를 받은 시민은 지난 9월 말 기준 1822명이다. 누적 운행 실적은 107회, 순회기관은 62 곳이다.

의료버스는 시와 부산대병원이 협력해 지난해 처음으로 시범 도입했다. 부산 이대도시인 만큼 병원과 의원에 대한 접



지난 4월 부산종합노인복지관을 찾은 의료버스에서 시민이 의료서비스를 받고 있다. 부산시제공

근성이 뛰어난 반면 개인의 기대수명이 나 건강수명은 그에 미치지 못해 더욱적 극적이고 체계적인 의료 돌봄 서비스가 필요했기 때문이다. 지난해 9월 이후 65세 이상 노인인구가 20%를 넘는 초고령 사회에 진입하면서 의료접근성 개선이 절실해졌다. 2020년 기준 부산의 기대수

명은 82.7년으로 7대 특광역시 중 최하 위고, 전국 평균 기대수명인 83.5년을 밑돈다.

의료버스는 혈압 혈액 골밀도 및 악력 초음파 등 검사장비 기계를 탑재해 의사 간호사 방사선사 등 전문인력과 함께 주야간보호센터 사회복지관 등을 이용하는 노인을 대상으로 만성질환 예방에 나서고 있다. 지난 8월 만족도 조사 결과 긍정 답변이 93%로 높았고, 도움이 되었던 점으로는 '일대 일 의사 진료 (49%)' '다양한 기기로 건강상태 확인 (35%)' 등의 순으로 꼽혔다.

시는 현재 3대인 의료버스를 내년 7대로 늘리고 2026년 12대까지 확대할 계획이다. 시 관계자는 "관계 부서 및 기관과 TF팀을 구성해 찾아가는 의료버스를 부산형 웰스케어 브랜드로 만들겠다"고 말했다. 안세희기자 ahnsh@kookje.co.kr

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Busan's Medical Bus Benefits Over 1,800 Citizens Citywide this Year

The city plans to expand its fleet from the current three medical buses to seven next year, collaborating with three hospitals and welfare centers to offer basic check-ups and medical services

By Ahn Se-hee, Reporter | Email: ahnsh@kookje.co.kr

(Image) Citizens receiving medical services from a medical bus that visited the General Welfare Hall For The Aged in Busan Metropolitan City last April. *Provided by Busan Metropolitan City.*

This year, the number of citizens benefiting from the full-scale operation of the "medical bus" has surpassed 1,800. In response to the rapid aging of the city's population, Busan Metropolitan City intends to increase the number of buses from the current three to seven next year.

According to Busan City, as of the end of September, 1,822 citizens received medical services through these mobile health clinics on wheels, which began operating this year in partnership with Pusan National University Hospital, Bumjin Hospital, and Maryknoll Hospital. The cumulative operational record stands at 107 sessions, involving visits to 62 different institutions.

The introduction of the medical bus was pioneered last year through collaboration between the city and Pusan National University Hospital. Despite excellent medical facilities and healthcare professionals in Busan,

expectations for individual life expectancy and healthspan have not been met, necessitating more proactive and systematic healthcare services. Since September of last year, when the city's population aged 65 or older exceeded 20%, Busan transitioned into an ultra-aging society, highlighting the urgency to enhance medical accessibility. As of 2020, Busan's life expectancy was 82.7 years, the lowest among the seven major metropolitan areas, falling below the national average life expectancy of 83.5 years.

The medical buses are equipped with examination equipment for blood pressure checks, blood tests, bone density exams and ultrasounds, and are staffed with specialized personnel, including doctors, nurses, and radiology technicians. These professionals provide preventive care for chronic diseases among the elderly through visits to day and night protection centers and social welfare centers. A satisfaction survey conducted in August revealed a 93% positive response, with the most appreciated aspects being "one-on-one medical treatment (49%)" and "health status confirmation using various devices (35%)".

At present, the city operates three medical buses, with plans to expand to seven next year and a further increase to 12 by 2026. A city official expressed their commitment to establishing the medical bus as a distinct healthcare brand in Busan, with the creation of dedicated departments and teams.



지난 25일 부산 남구 감만종합사회복지관을 찾은 의료버스에서 시민이 무료 건강검진을 받고 있다. 이주연기자 yeon@kookje.co.kr

점심식사 시간 활용해 건강검진 의료버스, 질병예방 파수꾼 역할

부산 감만동 찾은 날 20명 방문 현장서 처방 등 요구 목소리도

"점심 먹으러 나온 김에 검진을 받았는데 친절하게 알려줘서 정말 고맙네요. 원래 고혈압과 고지혈증이 있는데 방문한 의료진이 잘 살펴봐주고, 평소 지켜야 할 점도 알려줘 많은 도움을 받았습니니다."

지난 25일 부산 남구 감만종합사회복지관에 방문한 의료버스에서 주민 유병삼(85) 씨는 무료 건강검진에 큰 만족감을 나타냈다. 유 씨는 이날 의료버스에서 30분에 걸쳐 혈당, 혈압, 콜레스테롤 수치 확인 등 기본 검사를 포함해 흉부 x-ray, 골밀도, 혈액검사를 받고 결과를 바탕으로 의사와 간단한 면담을 진행했다. 이날 의료버스엔 20명의 주민이 다녀갔다.

지역주민이 모이는 거점시설을 중심으로 올해 3대가 운영된 '의료버스'는 주민 만족도가 높아 내년부터 7대로 증차하고 2028년까지 12대로 늘어날 예정이다. 버스 대수가 확대되면 현재 부산 전역 주 10회에 그치는 방문 빈도도 개선될 전망이다.

의료버스역할의 핵심은 무엇보다 '예

방'이다. 이미 중증환자로 발전한 사람을 치료하는 것이 아니라 만성질환 증상을 완화시켜 예방하기 위한 꾸준한 검진을 통해 큰 병을 예방하자는 취지다. 동구보건소 김유정 소장은 "코로나19 발발 이후 건강검진 수검률이 낮아지는 가운데 찾아가는 서비스는 질병의 조기 발견에 큰 역할을 하고 있다"고 평가했다. 검진을 통해 질환을 확인한 사례도 있었다. 서비스를 위탁 운영 중인 온택트헬스워관용 매니저는 "한 시민은 단순 부종이 줄었던 증상이 검진을 통해 '요호성 부종'임을 확인했고, 심전도 간여검사 등으로 부정맥을 발견하기도 했다"며 "이용자들은 대체로 만족하고 있지만, 좀더 세밀한 검사나 의료기관과의 검사 결과 연계나 처방 등에 대한 현장 요구도 있다"고 전했다.

상급의료기관과 연계가 불가능한 점은 아쉬운 점으로 꼽힌다. 추가 검사나 처방이 필요하지만 병원에 가깝게 가려는 시민도 적지 않기 때문이다. 의료버스에선 현행 의료법상 병원에 갈 것을 권유하는 것 이상으로 할 수 있는 것이 없다. 시 관계자는 "대상자에 대한 병원 이용 여부 등 사후관리를 위한 마음건강센터와의 연계 방법을 검토하고 있다"고 말했다.

이주연기자

(Image) Citizens undergoing a complimentary health examination from a medical bus that visited the Gamman Social Welfare Center in Nam-gu, Busan, on the 25th of October.

Photo by Yeo Ju-yeon, Reporter

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Using Lunch Breaks for Health Checkups: Medical Buses Assume the Role of Disease Prevention

On the day the medical bus made its way to Gamman-dong in Busan, 20 individuals were seen visiting the site, making requests for various prescriptions, and more.

By Ahn Se-hee, Reporter

"I decided to take advantage of my lunch break to get a checkup, and I'm genuinely thankful for the kind assistance. Although I already had hypertension and high cholesterol, the medical team at the medical bus provided me with thorough care during my visit. They also offered valuable advice on maintaining my health."

Yu Byung-jam (85), a senior citizen, expressed his deep appreciation for the free health checkup he received on the 25th of October at the Gamman Social Welfare Center in Nam-gu, Busan, courtesy of the medical bus. On that day, Mr. Yu spent 30 minutes on the medical bus, where he underwent basic tests, including checking his blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol levels; getting chest X-rays; and doing bone density and blood tests. Based on the results, he had a brief consultation with a doctor. A total of 20 residents visited the medical bus that day.

The "medical bus" has been operational at three major facilities where local residents gather and due to an overwhelmingly positive response from residents, the city plans to increase the number of buses from the current three to seven next year and to expand it to 12 by 2026. As the number of buses increases, it is expected that the frequency of visits, which is currently limited to about ten visits per week throughout Busan, will also improve.

The primary role of the medical bus is "prevention" above all else. The primary goal is to prevent major diseases through regular check-ups, rather than treating individuals who have already developed severe illnesses. Kim Yu-jeong, director of the Busan Metropolitan City Dong-gu Health Center, stated: "As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the rate of health check-ups has decreased. However, the mobile health clinics on wheels play a significant role in the early detection of diseases." Many instances of diseases being identified early on through check-ups have been reported.

Wi Gwan-yong, manager of On-Tact Health, the entity entrusted with operating the service, stated: "One citizen initially thought he had simple edema, but through the check-up, he discovered that it was 'pitting edema,' and he also identified arrhythmia through a simple ECG test." He added: "Most users are generally satisfied, but there is a demand for more detailed tests, connecting test results with follow-ups at related medical institutions, prescriptions, and more."

One limitation is the service's inability to collaborate with tertiary medical institutions. Numerous citizens exhibit reluctance to seek hospital care even when further tests are recommended or prescriptions are necessary. Current medical regulations limit what can be done beyond encouraging hospital visits in medical buses. A city official stated that they are actively investigating post-care strategies, including potential collaborations with community health centers to enhance hospital access for targeted individuals.



Media Outlet: KBS-TV

Content: Mobile Hospitals on Wheels, Medical Buses (On the Scene)

Mobile Hospitals on Wheels, Medical Buses (On the Scene)

December 5, 2022, KBS-TV

(Narration)

Have you heard of a mobile hospital on wheels?

Meet Busan's innovative mobile hospital on wheels, a recent addition to the city's healthcare services.

Over 1,800 citizens have already benefited from this medical bus in the current year.

Learn more in our segment 'On the Scene.'

(Subtitle)

- Busan's mobile medical buses hit the road in April this year.
- Providing vital healthcare to vulnerable populations.
- Equipped with mobile ultrasound machines, X-rays, and expert medical teams.

[Lee Ji-hyeon, Rheumatology Department, Maryknoll Hospital]

Based on the ultrasound, there doesn't seem to be any major issues. If you're experiencing discomfort, applying a patch should suffice.

[Lee Ji-hyeon, Rheumatology Department, Maryknoll Hospital]

Some individuals can only receive medical attention by visiting the hospital, while others, like delivery drivers, lack the time. After seeing these patients in person, it seems like there are more individuals who are unable to receive proper care than initially expected.

(Subtitle)

- At present, there are 3 medical buses in operation.
- Vital in preventing chronic diseases among vulnerable populations, including seniors with mobility challenges.

[Go Bok-hee, Busan's Yeongdo-gu Resident]

I had no idea, but it turns out I have rheumatism. (It could have been a major issue if you hadn't come.) Exactly.

(Narration)

Busan officially entered an ultra-aging society last year.

However, with its many hilly areas, it's often challenging for the elderly to access medical services.

This medical bus aligns with Busan's larger vision of creating a '15-minute city' to enhance daily conveniences for the elderly.

(Subtitle)

- Busan with over 20% of its population aged 65 and older.
- Nearly 30% of elderly residents are living alone.
- Moreover, challenges in getting health checkups for older downtown residents in high-altitude areas.
- The medical bus is bridging the gap with essential health screenings.
- A welcoming medical bus stop for residents with limited access to welfare and medical services.

[Heo Suk-ja, Busan's Yeongdo-gu Resident]

It's convenient, and the comprehensive checkups they provide make it an excellent alternative.

[Kim Tae-seok, Welfare Policy Department at Busan Metropolitan City]

A satisfaction survey conducted in August 2022 indicated that about 93% of respondents expressed positive feedback about the medical bus service. Based on this feedback, we plan to gradually expand the medical bus service. Our aim is to close the service gap between different areas of Busan and provide healthcare services to every corner of the city.

(Subtitle)

- Dedicated medical bus for community well-being.
- Green light for health and mobility.

(Park Ji-min, News Anchor)