

STATISTICS ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK

Legal basis

The regulation of the statistical activities in respect to the statistics on public health and health and safety at work has two aspects:

1. Legal regulation as a result of the Community legislation concerning statistics on public health. This includes Regulation (EC) N 1338/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on public health and health and safety at work and the engagement and the agreement of EU-countries to apply the general conditions in respect to the public health statistics domains.
2. National legislation, which applies the Community legislation as well as the developed methodologies and guidelines on practical implementation of the Regulations. The Bulgarian National Statistical Programme includes surveys carried out by NSI as well as by the other Bodies of Statistics.

Organization of statistical activities in the field of statistics on public health

The statistical activity in the field of public health is performed by the National Statistical Institute and the "National Health Care Data and e-Health" Directorate of National Center for Public Health and Analyses (NCPHA) at the Ministry of health which are Bodies of Statistics. The activity is performed through conducting statistical surveys by the two administrations as well as by their regional offices – RSO and "Medical Activities" Directorates of Regional Health Inspections. The activity is in accordance with the Law on Statistics, Law on Health, National Statistical Programme and Ordinance № 1/27.02.2013 of the Minister of Health on providing of medico-statistical information and information on health establishments' medical activities. Through the system of statistical surveys that are included in the National Statistical Programme and carried out by the NSI and NCPHA, annually statistical information on health network by type of health establishments is provided. Statistical surveys carried out by the NCPHA provide information on medical activities of health establishments, utilization of beds, surgical operations, dispensary attendance in specialized health establishments etc. The combined usage of data provided by the both institutions, Bodies of Statistics, gives an opportunity for a general description of the system of public health as well as the activity of health establishments in accordance with the legal basis.

In-patient, outpatient and other health establishments

Aim of survey: The aim of this statistical survey is to provide data on health network by type of health establishments, their regional distribution as well as on medical personnel by specialty and categories. The survey methodology is in accordance with the Eurostat methodological guidelines and definitions of the practicing medical specialists (physicians, dentists etc.). When analyzing the data the following has to be taken into consideration: the number of health establishments and the number of beds has changed not only as a result of opening or closure of establishments, but also because of the reorganization or merging of establishments. Some specific particularities on medical servicing have to be taken into consideration. The health establishments are not directly connected to the servicing of population of a given settlement or even of municipality. A great part of health establishments serve the population of a given region or a group of municipalities, and the specialized health care establishments – oncological, dermato-venereological, psychiatric, pulmonary and other service the population of 2 or 3 regions. The establishments under central administration, regardless of their location, serve the population from the whole country.

Object of survey are the health establishments in the country: in-patient, outpatient and other health establishments as well as the medical personnel – physicians, dentists, pharmacists, medical specialists on 'Health cares', who worked on a basic labour contract in health establishments.

Coverage: All in-patient (hospitals and centres with beds), outpatient health establishments – medical centres, dental centres, medical-dental centres, diagnostic and consulting centres, medical-diagnostic and medical-technical laboratories are covered. Data source for the individual and group practices for primary and specialized medical and dental care is the National Health Insurance Fund.

Other health establishments include centres for urgent medical aid, centres for transfusion haematology, hospices, medical universities and colleges, municipalities (for the medical personnel in schools), national centres without beds, regional health inspections, homes for medico-social care for children. The number of medical personnel includes medical specialists who worked in crèches as well as in groups in kindergartens. Data on beds in health establishments refer to the all de facto operating beds as well as beds temporary out of use for a period of less than six months. The number of beds for temporary use is excluded.

According to harmonized methodology applied by Eurostat, WHO and OECD until 2014, beds in in-patient health establishments (hospitals and medical centres with beds) are grouped in statistical grouping, as follow:

- Curative (acute) care beds,
- Psychiatric care beds,
- Long-term care beds (excl. psychiatric beds),
- Other hospital beds.

Detailed statistical data on the number of beds in hospitals by types from annual statistical surveys, conducted by the National Centre for Public Health and Analysis are provided as these surveys are included in the National Statistical Programme.

Psychiatric care beds- All disclosed beds in Mental health hospitals and Mental health centres are included.

The number of beds in hospital facilities for long-term treatment in all health establishments, including these in specialized hospitals for further and long-term medical treatment and Specialized hospitals for further and long-term medical treatment and rehabilitation, are included in the number of *Beds for long-term care*.

The group *Other beds* covers beds for physiotherapy and rehabilitation, beds for day care and home care.

Since 2015, a revised statistical grouping is applied:

- Curative care beds,
- Rehabilitative care beds,
- Long term care beds,
- Other hospital beds.

Psychiatric care beds are included in the distribution by type of beds.

The application of statistical methodology with respect to statistical grouping of types of beds in hospitals is validated by Eurostat for all member states.

Indicators on hospital beds per 10 000 of the population are calculated with the number of the population at the end of the year.

The number of medical personnel (head count) include all specialists as of 31.12. who practice in health establishments regardless of their ownership and subordination.

Practising physicians¹ provide services directly to patients. Practising physicians' tasks include: conducting medical examination and making diagnosis, prescribing medication and giving treatment for diagnosed illnesses, disorders or injuries, giving specialized medical or surgical treatment for particular types of illnesses, disorders or injuries, giving advice on and applying preventive medicine methods and treatments. Inclusion: persons who have completed studies in medicine at university level (granted by adequate diploma) and who are licensed to practice; interns and resident physicians (with adequate diploma and providing services under supervision of other medical doctors during their postgraduate internship in a health care facility); salaried and self-employed physicians delivering services irrespectively of the place of service provision; foreign physicians licensed to practice and actively practising in the country.

Practising dentists provide services directly to patients. Practising dentists' tasks include: making diagnosis, advising on and giving necessary dental treatment, giving surgical, medical and other forms of treatment for particular types of dental and oral diseases and disorders. Inclusion: persons who have completed studies in dentistry / stomatology at university level (granted by an adequate diploma) and who are licensed to practice; interns (with an adequate diploma and providing services under supervision of other dentists or dental specialists during their postgraduate internship in a health care facility); salaried and self-employed dentists delivering services irrespectively of the place of service provision; foreign dentists licensed to practice and actively practicing in the country.

Data on students who have not yet graduated; physicians and dentists working in administration, research and in other posts that exclude direct contact with the patients; unemployed physicians and retired physicians as well as on physicians working abroad are excluded from the number of practicing physicians and dentists.

The distribution of the physicians by specialties is based on the national nomenclature in accordance with the Ordinance № 1 of 22 January 2015 the Ministry of Health. The distribution by specialties is assign to the physicians practicing specialty.

Since 2018, there is a break in time series in respect to:

- the territorial distribution of physicians and dentists, working in practices under a contract with the NHIF. Medical practitioners working in practices that serve more than one municipality or district are included in the total number but not distributed by municipalities or by district.

- physicians working in specialized practices under a contract with the NHIF are allocated to the specialty they are practice. Those who practice more than one specialty are included in the total but not allocated by specialty.

The methodological amendments has been made in order to avoid double counting.

Indicators on the population per one physician and per one dentist are calculated based on the number of the population at the end of the year.

Publicity

More health information can be found in the annual publication 'Health services', issued by NSI and the National Centre for Public Health and Analysis at the Ministry of Health. The data

¹ Definitions and data collection specifications on health care statistics (non-expenditure data) - Eurostat.

sources are the statistical surveys carried out by the both institutions. Main methodological explanations are also included.

Health data are included in "Statistical Reference Book" and publication "Bulgaria - Statistical Panorama" (preliminary data) as well as in "Statistical yearbook".

Main health indicators are disseminated via press releases on the NSI's website. Data are disseminated on request to users following the established in NSI rules.

Data users on health information are the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Government and other public administration bodies, National Health Insurance Fund as well as European and international organizations – Eurostat, World Health Organization, OECD, UNESCO, UNICEF etc.

Main data on causes of death statistics, health network etc. are presented on the NSI's website (www.nsi.bg).